1946
DIGITIZED

JUL 1946

UNITED STATES FOOD MISSION IN INDIA

Visit to Scarcity Areas

AN unofficial Mission from the United States of America to acquire first-hand knowledge of the food position in India and the condition of the people in the affected areas and to report to the American people, arrived in New Delhi on June 25. The Mission has been sponsored by the Indian Famine Emergency Committee, of which Mrs. Pearl Buck is the chairman.

The members of the Mission are: Dr. Theodore W. Schultz, Chairman, Department of Economics, University of Chicago; Dr. Benjamin Mays, Vice-President of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; Miss Lilian Smith, author and journalist; Mr. John K. Jessup, Active Editor, *Life*; Mr. Glenn H. Craig; U. S. Executive Officer of the Combined Food Board; Mr. Joseph Willen, Vice-President of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York; Mr. Sidney Hertzberg, former Editor, *Common Sense*; Mr. Louis Fischer, author and journalist; Miss Mary Jean Kempner, Representative of Newspapers Enterprise Association; Mrs. Dorothy Dunbar Bromley of New York *Herald Tribune*; and Mrs. Bradley Smith, Photographer.

Change in Programme

While in Delhi, members of the Mission met officials of the Food Department, Government of India, and on June 28 left on a tour of the affected areas. They left Delhi by a special 'plane on the morning of June 28 for Poona, but were held up *en route* at Bhopal owing to monsoon conditions over the ghat valley. The prospects of reaching Poona the following day dwindled owing to continued bad weather and, therefore, the Mission made a sudden change in its programme and arrived in Lucknow the same night by air.

After a two-day stay at Lucknow, during which period it held discussions with Provincial Government officials, the Mission left for Calcutta on July 1 to tour in Bengal. In Calcutta, Dr. Schultz and other members of the Mission held discussions with Bengal Government officials on price control, procurement and distribution of foodgrains within the province.

Journalist members of the Mission saw Calcutta's vast rationing organisation in operation when they went round the city's rationing offices, retail depots and ration shops on July 2. In the afternoon the Mission visited destitute relief centres in the city and was much impressed with the work done by voluntary organisations. Later, in the evening, a party was given in the Mission's honour by prominent non-officials and editors of newspapers.

The Mission visited Dacca by air on July 3 and, returning the same evening, left for Madras by air the following morning.



SOME MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN FOOD MISSION PHOTOGRAPHED WITH SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA (RIGHT) IN NEW DELHI.

ARMY DRIVE TO GROW MORE FOOD

UNIQUE in the history of the Indian Army is the battle now being fought in every corner of India against an invisible foe—the threatened famine. Details are now available of the further achievements of the Army in combating this enemy.

Spending 10,000 man-hours during April, troops in Bombay area brought under cultivation 320 acres of land, the main cereals produced being maize, jawar, bajri, and gram. A further 150 acres are being prepared for cultivation.

Vegetable Production

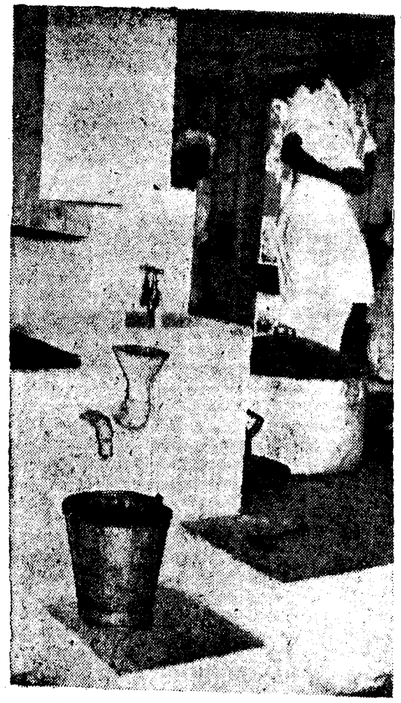
In return for better seeds and manure supplied on payment by the Army and technical advice provided by Army experts civilians in Sind, using their own labour and capital, are growing vegetables on 2,500 acres of land to meet Service needs. As a result of this co-operation about 254,000 lbs. of vegetables were purchased by Army units stationed at Karachi in March, 1946, the total for the year ending the same month being nearly 2,000,000 lbs. The introduction of this novel scheme curtails to great extent the vegetable demand for military consumption on local markets.

In Bombay and Karachi area more than 50,000 lbs. of vegetables were produced by the Army in April for its own consumption.

Tractors, bulldozers, and motor transport have also been loaned by the Army to the Bombay Government. Expert Army engineering assistance has been provided for district land improvement officers and a bridge across the river Tapti, as well as sheds and huts for grain storage have been constructed.

As another measure to conserve essential foodgrains for civil needs, poultry in Army poultry farms will no longer be fed on cereals purchased in the civil market. Their diet will come from by-products obtained in the production of *atta* and bran.

As the Army's annual requirements of cereal for chicken feed are estimated to be about 24,000 maunds, this scheme will result in a very considerable saving in foodgrains fit for human consumption.

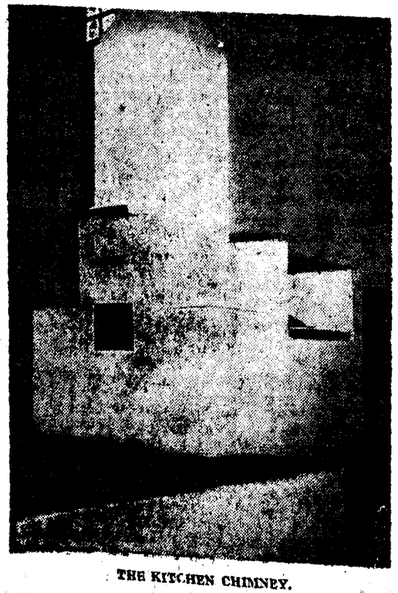


THE SAMPLE KITCHEN USES CHIMNEY HEAT TO MAINTAIN PERMANENT SUPPLY OF HOT WATER.



THE KITCHEN.

SAMPLE KITCHEN AT G. H. Q. CATERING SERVICE



THE KITCHEN CHIMNEY.



JEM. PEREIRA MAKES CHAPATIS.

WAVELL-JINNAH CORRESPONDENCE

THE following correspondence passed between H.E. Lord Wavell and Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President, All-India Muslim League in connection with the British Cabinet Mission's proposals for India's future constitution.

Letter from Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President All-India Muslim League, to H. E. the Viceroy.

19, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi, June 19th, 1946.

Dear Lord Wavell,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 16th June, 1946, together with an advance copy of the statement by the Cabinet Delegation and yourself of the same date.

In my interview with you at Simla prior to the announcement of the Cabinet Delegation's proposals, you had informed me that you were going to form the Interim Government consisting of 12 members on the basis of five Muslim League, five Congress, one Sikh and one Indian Christian or Anglo-Indian. As regards the portfolios, you had indicated that the important ones would be equally divided between the Muslim League and the Congress but details of actual allotment were to be left open for discussion. After the statement of the Cabinet Delegation and yourself, dated the 16th of May, 1946, you again on the 3rd of June at New Delhi gave me to understand that the formula for the formation of the Interim Government disclosed to me at Simla would be followed. On both the occasions I sought your permission to communicate this information to my Working Committee which you kindly gave. Accordingly I gave a full account of the talks I had with you and the decision of the Working Committee in regard to the acceptance of the long-term proposals was largely influenced by the faith which they reposed in the scheme for the formation of the Interim Government disclosed by you to me on the two occasions.

Congress-League Parity

Further, as I have already pointed out in my letter to you of 8th June, 1946, I made the statement before the Council of the All-India Muslim League that that was the formula, which, I was assured by you, would be the basis on which you would proceed to form your Interim Government, and, therefore, this formed an integral part of the Plan embodied in the statement of the Cabinet Delegation. This was one of the most important considerations which weighed with the Council of the All-India Muslim League also in arriving at their decision, although even then there was a section that was opposed to the Plan being accepted.

When the Congress Press started a sinister agitation against Congress-League parity, with a view to inform you of the Muslim League stand, I wrote to you on the 8th June that "any departure from this formula, directly or indirectly, will lead to serious consequences and will not secure the co-operation of the Muslim League.

Subsequently, in my interview with you on the 13th June you informed me that you wanted to alter the basis and proceed on the formula of five Congress, five Muslim League, and three others, namely, one Sikh, one Scheduled Caste, and one Indian Christian. I told you then that if any change was proposed to be made I would have to place the matter before the Working Committee and may have to call another meeting of the Council of the All-India Muslim League. I also informed you that when the Congress finally agreed to your new formula I would then place it before my Working Committee for them to take such action as they deem necessary.

After discussion with the Congress representatives you wrote to me on the 15th June informing me that you had failed to negotiate an agreement on the composition of the Interim Government on the basis of 5:5:3 and that the Cabinet Delegation and yourself would issue a statement on the 16th of June on the action that you proposed to take and that you would let me have a copy of it before publication.

Statement of June 16

Accordingly you sent me a copy of the statement by the Cabinet Delegation and yourself issued on the 16th June with a covering letter of the same date which I placed before my Working Committee and who after careful consideration of the matter have authorised me to state as follows:—

(A) That the Working Committee are surprised that invitations have been issued to five Muslim Leaguers to join the Interim Government without calling for a list from the Leader of the Muslim League.

(B) That your latest proposal on the basis of which you now desire to form your Interim Government shows that you have abandoned parity between the Congress and the Muslim League, the two major parties, and have substituted parity between the Muslim League and Caste Hindus, and have added a fourth representative of the minorities, namely, a Parsi. One of the minority representatives nominated by you, *i.e.* Mr. Jagjivan Ram is a Congressman and has been selected, it appears, not to give real representation to the Scheduled Castes but to give an additional seat to the Congress in the Interim Government.

(C) That the modifications which have been made in the original formula for the Interim Government have adversely affected the proportion of the Muslims in the Interim Government as a whole and as against the Congress as a single group.

(D) That in view of the serious changes which have, from time to time been made to satisfy the Congress it is not possible for the Working Committee to arrive at any decision in the matter of the formation of the Interim Government so long as the Congress does not finally convey its decision on the proposals to you, and

(E) that the question of distribution of portfolios should also be finally decided so that there may be no further hitch created by the Congress in this regard and the Working Committee may have a complete picture before them when they meet to consider the proposals.

Clarification of Points

Further, I shall be grateful if you will please make the following points clear with reference to your letter and statement of the 16th June:—

1. Whether the proposals contained in the statement for the setting up of an Interim Government are now final or whether they are still open to any further change or modification at the instance of any of the parties or persons concerned.

2. Whether the total number of 14 members of the Government as proposed in the statement would remain unchanged during the interim period;

3. If any person or persons invited as representatives of the four minorities, *viz.*, the Scheduled Castes, the Sikhs, the Indian Christians and Parsis, is, or are, unable to accept the invitation to join the Interim Government for personal or other reasons, how will the vacancy or vacancies thus created, be filled by the Viceroy: and whether in filling up the vacancy or vacancies the Leader of the Muslim League will be consulted and his consent obtained;

4. (a) Whether during the interim period for which the coalition government is being set up the proportion of members of the Government, communitywise, as provided in the proposals, will be maintained;

(b) Whether the present representation given to four minorities, *viz.*, the Scheduled Castes, the Sikhs, the Indian Christians and the Parsis will be adhered to without any change or modification; and

5. In view of the substitution of 14 now proposed for the original of 12, and the change made in the original formula, whether there will be a provision in order to safeguard Muslim interests, that the Executive Council shall not take any decision on any major communal issue if the majority of the Muslim members are opposed to it.

I trust that you will kindly favour me with your reply as early as possible.

Yours sincerely,

M. A. JINNAH.

Viceroy's Reply

Letter from H.E. the Viceroy to Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President, All-India Muslim League, dated June 20.

The Viceroy's House, New Delhi, June 20th, 1946.

Dear Mr. Jinnah,

I thank you for your letter of the 19th June which I have shown to the Cabinet Mission.

I do not think it is necessary for me to comment on the first part of your letter. I am sure you will appreciate that negotiations designed to secure acceptance by two parties with conflicting interests may not always end on the same basis as that on which they began: and, as you know, I never gave you any guarantee that they would necessarily be concluded on any particular basis.

I note the views of the Muslim League set out in paragraphs (A) to (E) of your letter.

The intention in the Statement of June 16 was that the discussion of portfolios with leaders of the two main parties should follow the acceptance by both parties of the scheme. This intention still holds, since until the names are known, it is difficult to decide on the distribution of portfolios.

Points Cleared

On the points which you desire to be made clear in connection with the Government to be formed under our Statement of June 16, I give you the following reply after consultation with the Delegation:—

(1) Until I have received acceptance from those invited to take office in the Interim Government, the names in the Statement cannot be regarded as final. But no change in principle will be made in the Statement without the consent of the two major parties.

(2) No change in the number of 14 members of the Interim Government will be made without the agreement of the two major parties.

(3) If any vacancy occurs among the seats at present allotted to representatives of minorities, I shall naturally consult both the main parties before filling it.

(4)-(a) and (b). The proportion of members by communities will not be changed without the agreement of the two major parties.

(5) No decision on a major communal issue could be taken by the Interim Government if the majority of either of the main parties were opposed to it. I pointed this out to the Congress President and he agreed that the Congress appreciated this point.

If you agree, I will send copies of the questions in your letter and of paragraphs 4 and 5 of this letter to the President of the Congress.

Yours sincerely,
WAVELL.

Letter from H. E. the Viceroy to Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President, All-India Muslim League.

The Viceroy's House, New Delhi,
June 28th, 1946.

Dear Mr. Jinnah,

The Cabinet Mission and I feel that there are certain points in your statement released yesterday which it would be wrong to leave unanswered.

You will remember that at an interview which the Cabinet Mission and I had with you on the evening of the 25th June, before the meeting of your Working Committee at which you accepted the proposals in the Statement of the 16th June, we explained to you that as Congress had accepted the Statement of 16th May while refusing to take part in the Interim Government proposed in the Statement of the 16th June, this had produced a situation in which paragraph 8 of the Statement of the 16 June took effect. This paragraph stated that if either of the two major parties were unwilling to join in the setting up of a Coalition Government on the lines laid down in that Statement, the Viceroy would proceed with the formation of an Interim Government which would be as representative as possible of those willing to accept the Statement of the 16th May.

We said that since the Congress and the Muslim League had now both accepted the Statement of 16th May, it was the intention to form a Coalition Government including both those parties as soon as possible. In view, however, of the long negotiations which had already taken place, and since we all had other work to do, we felt that it would be better to have a short interval before proceeding with further negotiations for the formation of an Interim Government. Thus whatever interpretation you may put on paragraph 8, your Working Committee can have been in no doubt as to the course we proposed to adopt.

I confirmed in writing the same evening what we had told you.

Assurances

2. Secondly, the assurances which you quote in your statement related specifically to the particular Interim Government that would have been set up if both major parties had accepted the Statement of the 16th June.

3. To prevent misunderstanding I propose to publish this letter together with your letter of the 19th June the substance of which has already appeared in the Press, and my reply of the 20th June.

Yours Sincerely,
WAVELL.

Letter from H. E. the Viceroy, dated June 28, 1946, to Mr. M. A. Jinnah.

I have received your letter of the 28th June and have shown it to the Cabinet Ministers.

We are quite unable to accept your suggestion that we have gone back on our word. As I have said in a letter to you earlier to-day our course of action was determined by what had been laid down in paragraph 8 of the Statement of the 16th June; and we had made it plain to you before your Working Committee meeting on the 25th June that we proposed to follow this course.

The arrangements for the elections to the Constituent Assembly have already been put into operation and we do not propose to postpone them.

As the substance of your letter was included in the All-India Radio news to-day I am publishing this reply.

SIR B. N. RAU APPOINTED CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISER

THE major parties having now accepted the recommendations contained in the Statement of the Cabinet Delegation and H.E. the Viceroy, dated May 16, arrangements are being made in the Provinces for holding elections to the Constituent Assembly said a statement issued from the Viceroy's House on July 1.

It added: It is hoped that these elections will be concluded by the end of July, and that the Constituent Assembly will be ready to meet at any time thereafter.

Sir B. N. Rau's Offer

Subject to confirmation by the Constituent Assembly, H.E. the Viceroy has appointed Sir B. N. Rau as Constitutional Adviser in charge of the work connected with the holding of the meetings of the Constituent Assembly. A small nucleus staff will be provided to assist him.

Sir B. N. Rau has suggested that he should not receive any remuneration while employed on this work and His Excellency has accepted the offer with appreciation.

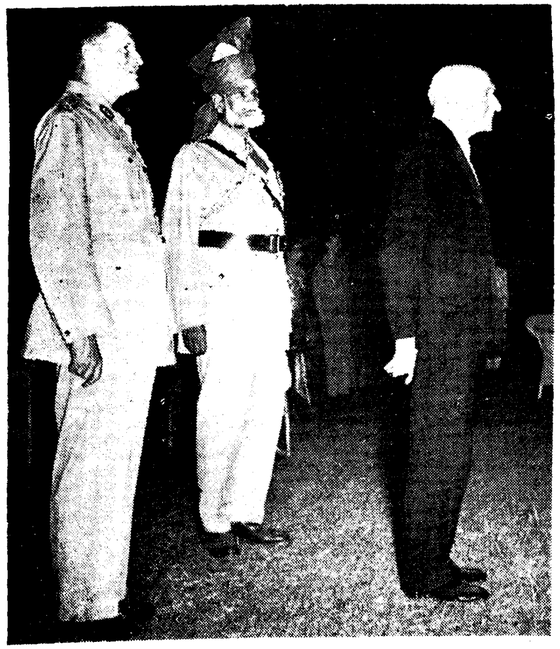
Preliminary arrangements are also being made to insure that secretariats for the sections can be set up in a very short time.

CENTRAL LEGISLATURE ELECTORAL RULES

A Press Note issued by the Legislative Department, Government of India, on June 14 stated:

On the occasion of the general election to the Central Legislative Assembly in the winter of 1945 a number of persons found that their names were not included in an electoral roll in which *prima facie* their names ought to have been included. The Legislative Assembly and Council of State Electoral Rules have hitherto contained no provision enabling persons so situated to secure the inclusion of their names in the electoral roll in time for the inclusion thereof to be effective in relation to a pending election.

Today's Gazette of India notifies amendments whereby provision is inserted in the Council of State and Legislative Assembly Electoral Rules, on the lines of provision contained in the Electoral Rules in force in certain Provinces, which will enable a person whose name has been omitted from an electoral roll in which it ought to have been included to secure the insertion of his name in the roll by an *ad hoc* application accompanied by a fee of Rs. 10|.



LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE (RIGHT) SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, TOOK THE SALUTE AT THE MARCH PAST OF BOYS OF M.A.T.C. PICTURE ALSO SHOWS THE C.-IN-C. (LEFT) AND CAPT. TIKKA KHAN. (BELOW, LEFT) LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE PHOTOGRAPHED WITH LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN.

C.-IN-C. ENTERTAINS CABINET MINISTERS

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, entertained Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, and Mr. A. V. Alexander, members of the British Cabinet Mission, at his residence in New Delhi recently. Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supremo, was among the distinguished gathering present.

The evening's programme included a military display and a Mahratta dance by boys of the Mountain Artillery Training Centre.





LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE TALKING TO CAPT. DURANI (LEFT) WHO WAS RECENTLY AWARDED THE GEORGE CROSS. LT.-COL. DILLON (RIGHT) AND CAPT. GOVIND SINGH (STANDING) WERE ALSO AT THE PARTY.

ADJUDICATION IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

A Press Communique issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on June 18 stated:

As doubts have been raised regarding Government's attitude towards adjudication in industrial disputes in which they are themselves the employers of labour, it is necessary to state the position fully so that there may be no further misunderstanding in the matter.

The law on the point is clear. There are two enactments under which trade disputes can be dealt with, *viz.*, the Trade Disputes Act and Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules. The latter has the following essential provisions:—

(a) Government may refer to adjudication all or any of the points in dispute, and

(b) Government may enforce for such *period* as may be specified all or any of the decisions of the Adjudicator.

Award of Adjudicator

The Trade Disputes Act provides for conciliation and the appointment of a Court of Enquiry. It contains no provision for adjudication. On the other hand, adjudication under the Defence of India Rules has been looked upon with favour by employers and workers alike as a method of resolving important industrial disputes.

There is nothing extraordinary or unjustifiable in the reservation made in Rule 81A whereby Government is given the right not to accept the Award of the Adjudicator. This is in no sense a singular enactment. Similar provisions are contained in laws of other countries relating to industrial disputes. There are good grounds for such a provision. Government is both an employer and a representative of the community as a whole and its function as a representative of the community as a whole cannot be forgotten even in industrial disputes in which Government is involved as an employer.

Government's Intention

In the latter capacity Government must retain the right to reject an Award as a whole or on any of the issues that have been referred to adjudication if it is considered necessary to do so in the larger interests of the community.

Among other grounds for such liberty of action are the following:—

(1) The Award might have a grave upsetting effect on the general economy of the country or its public finances;

(2) The Award may raise issues of such vital importance that Government may find it necessary to make their final decision dependent upon the support of the Legislature or a Committee of Legislature.

(3) The Award may favour unduly one section of Labour whose case has been adjudicated upon at the expense of another section whose case was not under adjudication.

But the fact that the law contains such a provision is one thing and the intention of the Government is quite a different thing. It is wrong to assume that Government would not respect the decisions of the Adjudicator because they have power to reject them. The Government of India are pledged to give these decisions their fullest consideration.

It is hoped that this clarification of the position will dispel all doubts in the minds of the workers as to the attitude of the Government of India in regard to adjudication in cases in which Government are themselves concerned as an employer.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND CENTRAL SERVICES

By a Resolution published in the *Gazette of India* of June 15, 1946, the Government of India have decided to increase the reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes of vacancies filled by direct recruitment in the Central Services from 8 1-3 per cent. to 12½ per cent, so as to bring it in accord with the population ratio.

Rules (1) and (2) in paragraph 4 of the Resolution of August 11, 1943, are accordingly amended as follows:—

"(1) 12.5 per cent of all vacancies to be filled by the direct recruitment of Indians in the Central Services to which recruitment is made on an all-India basis will be reserved for Scheduled Castes.

"(2) In the case of services to which recruitment is made by local areas or circles and not on an all-India basis (e.g., subordinate posts in the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs Department, the Customs Services, the Income Tax Department, etc.) the over-all reservation of 12.5 per cent. of vacancies for Scheduled Castes candidates will be obtained by fixing a percentage for each local area or circle having regard to the population of the Scheduled Castes in the area or circle concerned and the rules for recruitment adopted by the Provincial Government of the area or circle concerned."

DRUGS RULES

In Press Notes dated April 14 and May 5, 1946 it was announced that in accordance with the recommendations of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, the Central and Provincial Governments, except Orissa, had decided to bring into force the Rules framed under the Drugs Act, 1940, with effect from February 1, 1947.

The Government of Orissa have also decided to enforce the Rules framed by them and published on December 21, 1945, with effect from February 1, 1947.

FIRST I.L.O. CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN INDIA

The First (Preparatory) Asiatic Regional Conference, of the International Labour Office will be held in India in January, 1947. The provisional agenda of the Conference will be:—

(i) Problems of social security;

(ii) Labour policy in general;

(iii) Programme of action over a period of years for enforcement of social standards embodied in International Labour Office Conventions and Recommendations which have not yet been ratified or accepted by the countries representatives at the Conference;

(iv) The general economic background of social policy, including problems of industrialisation;

(v) Director's Report.

Countries to Participate

The countries to participate in the Conference will be China, India, and Thailand, which are the Asiatic Member States of the International Labour Office; and Australia and New Zealand, the two other Member States in the Far Eastern Region.

At the meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation at which this was decided, it was also agreed that a committee composed of the officers of the Governing Body and the representatives of the Governments of China, India, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States should be set up for the purpose of advising the Acting Director of the International Labour Office on the manner in which the representation at the Conference of non-self-governing States and States with interests in the region should be obtained.

The non-self-governing States, the representation of which is envisaged, include Burma, Ceylon, Indo-China Indonesia and Malaya. The participation of Nepal is also envisaged.

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on June 21 stated:

Complaints have been received from a number of firms and Indian Trade Commissioners abroad to the effect that some of the communications received in foreign countries from firms in India have been found to be inadequately stamped with the result that avoidable expense and inconvenience has been caused to the parties concerned.

Business firms in India are advised to take care in their own interest to ensure that communications addressed to foreign countries are adequately stamped.

INDO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE IN 1944-45

Indian Trade Commissioner's Annual Report

"THE shape of post-war trade and economic collaboration now begins to loom more distinctly and it behoves the Indian manufacturers and exporters to prepare. They should play their part by maintaining the highest standards of quality and by labelling and packaging export goods according to the requirements of particular markets." Thus observes the Indian Trade Commissioner in Australia and New Zealand, in his Annual Report for 1944-45.

Emphasising the need for market research, the Report points out that as competitors, old and new, would appear in due course to challenge India's position in the Australian market, the greatest vigilance would have to be exercised in order to maintain and, if possible, to improve the position which India had won during the period of the war. Indian manufacturers and exporters should therefore devote particular attention to intensive study of the market conditions in Australia and New Zealand and take steps to meet the changing conditions and demands of the consumer.

Future Prospects

The Trade Commissioner feels confident about future prospects of India's trade with Australia and New Zealand which he describes as quite reassuring. "But," he remarks, "I would again like to emphasise that Indian business methods leave considerable room for improvement. It is of the greatest importance that the overseas buyer should have the fullest confidence in the business integrity of the Indian exporters."

Australia's total imports from British India during the year ended March 31, 1945, were valued at £14,988,676, a decrease of £5,947,497 as compared with the value for the previous year. As compared with the pre-war year 1938-39, ended June 30, however, there was an increase of over £12 million.

It is interesting to note that India considerably improved her position in Australia's external trade during 1944-45 as compared with the pre-war year, 1938-39. Her share in Australia's exports rose from 1.6 per cent in 1938-39 to 11.7 per cent in 1944-45 and in imports from 3.0 per cent to 8.5 per cent in the corresponding years.

During the period under review, imports of cotton piecegoods registered a fall, mainly due to restrictions imposed in India on exports. There was a general preference for British and American manufactures on account of better quality. The retention of the market in textiles, emphasises the Report, largely depends on the extent to which the Indian maufacturer will satisfy the special requirements of the Australian market in variety, quality, finish and prices. Goods of inferior quality are resented and create a prejudice against the country of manufacture.

Imports of woven cotton piecegoods from India into New Zealand, however, advanced from £502,000 in 1943-44 to £1,009,000 in 1944-45.

Imports of Jute products into Australia continued to be under the control of the Commonwealth Jute Buyer. There was a noteworthy fall in the imports of "Hessians, brattice cloth, jute piecegoods" but on the other hand the category of "bags and sacks" registered an increase as compared with imports during 1943-44.

Raw Cotton

Imports of raw cotton from India into Australia, which were subject to Administrative control, registered an increase as compared with 1943-44. Owing to the existence of accumulated stocks, imports of cotton waste were restricted and there was a fall in the imports of cotton spinner's waste from India—the sole supplier of this commodity in Australia.

Imports into Australia of carpets and other floor coverings continued to be on the prohibited list. There is however, according to the Report, a bright future for this trade if the exporters and manufacturers in India take measures to study the special requirements of the Australian market. All kinds of Indian floor coverings, it says, with the exception of *durries*, will find a ready and large sale in Australia. The most popular types are the medium quality woollen pile carpets from Mirzapur, Benares and Madras.

India has retained her position as the sole supplier of linseed and the principal supplier of other types of seeds to the Commonwealth. Imports from India of linseed improved in value from £761,000 during 1943-44 to £875,000 during the nine months ended March 1945.

Goat Skins

India was the only supplier of Kapok to Australia. But there still exists in the country a hesitancy to the free use of the Indian product due to its objectionable odour. If this could be removed by treating it properly and packing it with more caution, keen demand can be maintained even when the Java produce reappears in the Australian market.

Imports of edible nuts (excluding coconuts) also continued to be almost entirely from India. The imports of Indian peanuts have been maintained. Among spices, the entire supply of curry powder for the Australian market came from India. India's share of the supply of tea from 45.4 per cent in 1943-44 to 24.5 per cent in the nine months ended March 31, 1945.

During the period, large supplies of bristles, horsehair, drafts and hair were shipped from India. There is a keen demand in Australia for Indian goat hair, which is used extensively in making various types of brushes, furniture polishing mops, etc., if it is properly combed, washed, sterilised and dressed. The Report is of the view that if the quality and grade of Indian goat skins are improved, Australia will provide a stable market for this commodity.

Although the monopoly for the supply of shellac to Australia and New Zealand rested with India, imports have been very much on the low side.

Exports to India

The total exports of Australian goods to India during the year ended March 31, 1945, valued at £16,426,811, showed a remarkable increase over the value for the previous year, which amounted to £8,825,009. There was a spectacular increase in the exports of goods classified under "Foodstuffs of Animal and Vegetable Origin". The exports of products in this category alone amounted to £11,663,380 during 1944-45, as compared with £3,391,598 in 1943-44. The principal single items included in this category were butter, cheese, honey, dehydrated mutton, processed meats, tinned meats, milk and cream, biscuits, wheat, wheat flour, jams and fruit jellies.

Exports of commodities included in the following categories also recorded substantial increases: "Metals, Metal manufacturers and Machinery"; "Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass and Stoneware"; "Drugs, Chemicals and Fertilisers;" and "Miscellaneous" (principally Arms).

Of particular interest, states the Report, is the striking increase in the exports of Australian goods to India in recent years. While imports from India during the period under review showed a marked decrease from the previous year, the balance of trade continued to be in favour of India, although the figure contracted from £12,876,000 in 1943-44 to £ 1,848,000 during 1944-45.

EXPORT OF HIDES AND SKINS

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department on June 7 stated:

It has already been announced that exports of hides and skins raw and tanned, and leather manufactures other than men's and women's footwear would be allowed freely to all permissible destinations for a further period of two months with effect from June 1, 1946. Exporters are, however, warned that, though the period of free exports has been extended up to July 31, 1946, it may not be possible to continue this liberal policy after the expiry of these two months.

No commitments should therefore be entered into which are likely to require shipping after the months of June and July as, in the event of a decision by Government of India to discontinue the liberal policy, no shipments beyond those which have already taken place in these months will be permitted.

INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND BANK

Continuous Representation Assured

IT has come to the notice of the Government of India that there is considerable misunderstanding regarding the position of India and of the Indian Executive Directors on the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department on June 26.

According to the Articles of Agreement of both these Institutions, the five countries holding the largest quotas are entitled to appoint Executive Directors and the remaining seven Directors are elected by the other member countries under the special procedure laid down for the election in the Articles. When the quotas were fixed at Bretton Woods, India was not among the first five largest holders. But India's quota was so large that under the procedure laid down for the election she would have been in a position to elect an Executive Director on each of the Institutions on the strength of her own votes.

At the time of the election of the Executive Directors during the Savannah Conference in March last, however, the U.S.S.R., which was one of the five largest quota holders, had not joined, and India automatically, therefore, became one of the five countries entitled to appoint an Executive Director on the Fund and the Bank and was naturally precluded from standing for election.

It was felt, however, that there was always the possibility of the U.S.S.R. joining later and in that event, as India would cease to be one of the five largest quota holders, the position of the Executive Directors appointed by her on the Fund and the Bank would be dubious under the Articles of Agreement.

India's Seat

The question was examined by a special Committee at the Savannah Conference at India's instance and certain proposals to secure India an Executive Director's post on each of the Institutions were made, which were to be put into operation in the event of Russia's joining. But these proposals were not quite satisfactory from India's point of view and it was felt that the only way to safeguard India's position was to recommend to the Executive Directors of both the Institutions to interpret the Articles of Agreement in such a way as to ensure the maintenance of India's seat on the Board of Executive Directors of the Fund and the Bank till the time of the next election, when India could secure a seat on the strength of its own votes. With a view to this, the Governor for India on the Fund and the Bank proposed a resolution at the plenary session of the Governors of the Fund and the Bank which was accepted by them. The resolution reads as follows:

"Resolved that the following point of interpretation raised by the Governor for India in regard to Article XII Section 3(b) (1) and Section 3(f) be referred to the Executive Directors for their decision in pursuance of Article XVIII(a) of the Articles of the International Monetary Fund namely:— That with reference to the *Ad Hoc* Committee's report on the position of the Executive Director for India adopted by your Governors at their meeting on the 15th of March and in view of the inconsistency between Section 3(b)1 and Section 3(f) of Article XII that these sections be interpreted to mean that any member having one of the five largest quotas at the date of a regular election shall be entitled to appoint an Executive Director who shall hold office until the next regular election without prejudice to the right of a subsequently admitted member to appoint a Director if it has one of the five largest quotas."

If this interpretation was accepted as correct, then no appointed Director could be displaced till the next election when the appointing country would have a chance to contest it and secure representation. The resolution proposed by the Governor for India and the interpretation suggested was discussed at the meeting of the Executive Directors of the Fund on May 8 and it was unanimously decided that the interpretation suggested by India was the correct one.

A similar resolution was passed by the Board of Directors of the International Bank on May 9. Under this interpretation, any country such as India which had once appointed an Executive Director cannot be deprived of its representation till the next election even though a country holding a larger quota joined the institution.

At the time of the next election such a country secures representation for itself by contesting the election and electing its representative on the Board of Executive Directors.

In view of this decision of the Executive Directors, it is clear that India will have its Executive Directors both on the Fund and the Bank till the next election even if Russia were to come in. In the event of Russia's joining, India can stand for election after two years, that is, in September 1948, when she can elect a representative on each of these Institutions on the strength of her own votes. India, therefore, is assured of representation continuously.

TARIFF BOARD'S QUESTIONNAIRE

A Press Communique issued by the Indian Tariff Board on June 28 stated:

Indian Tariff Board's Questionnaire relating to the following industries, namely: (i) Sodium Sulphide, (ii) Chloroform, (iii) Sulphuric P.B. and Anaesthetic, (iv) Potassium Permanganate, (v) Bicycles, (vi) Sewing Machines, (vii) Plywood Tea Chests, and (viii) Sodium Metabisulphite and Potassium Metabisulphite, is ready for issue to manufacturers of the above-mentioned articles and others who may be interested therein.

Firms and persons who are interested in these industries and who desire their views to be considered by the Board may obtain copies of questionnaire on application to the Secretary, Indian Tariff Board, Bombay-1.

A separate questionnaire for importers and consumers is also ready and intending parties may specify the particular questionnaire for which they are applying.

The following are the dates of submission of replies to questionnaire for these industries:

1. Sodium Sulphite, September 2, 1946.
2. Chloroform, July 31, 1946.
3. Sulphuric P.B. and Anaesthetic, July 31, 1946.
4. Potassium Permanganate, July 31, 1946.
5. Bicycles, August 15, 1946.
6. Sewing Machines, September 2, 1946.
7. Plywood Tea Chests, September 30, 1946.
8. Sodium Metabisulphite and Potassium Metabisulphite, September 2, 1946.

NURSING COLLEGE IN DELHI

A Press Note issued by the Department of Health, Government of India, on July 10 stated:

The Government of India have established a College of Nursing to prepare young women for the degree of B.Sc. (Hons.) in Nursing instituted at the University of Delhi.

The course of study extends over a period of four academic years and the students will be resident at the College throughout this period. The minimum qualification for admission to the course is the Higher Secondary Examination of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi, or any examination recognised as equivalent to it. A few scholarships will also be offered to deserving students.

Details of the course are obtainable from the Principal of the College of Nursing, 12, Jaswant Singh Road, New Delhi.

The first session begins on July 26, for which applications have been called by July 20.

WAR AGAINST LEPROSY IN INDIA

Greater Interest Shown Throughout Country

STEADY progress in anti-leprosy work in India is reported by the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association in its Annual Report for 1945.

An encouraging feature of the work in India in recent years, states the Report, is the increasing interest taken by the Central and Provincial Governments. The Government of Madras recently approved a programme for an anti-leprosy campaign for the Presidency and appointed Dr. R. G. Cochrane as the Honorary Director of the Campaign.

The Punjab Government has provincialised the posts of both of the Provincial Leprosy Officer and the Assistant Leprosy Officer and has also agreed that the establishments attached to these posts, so far maintained by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, should now become a provincial responsibility.

Leprosy Asylum

The post-war development plans for Orissa, include the opening of a leprosy asylum for 300 infective cases in each district, attaching leprosy clinics to each dispensary and hospital and starting rural colonies, clinics and village isolation centres.

The U.P. Government has under consideration a scheme for carrying out leprosy services and propaganda throughout the Province.

The Government of C.P. and Berar has accepted the recommendations of the Leprosy Committee appointed by that Government to make suggestions for future development of the work.

The Bengal Government has also included in its post-war plans the establishment of two leprosy colonies with accommodation for 500 beds each, and has set up a special committee to make suggestions for the development of leprosy work in the Province.

Village Isolation Colonies

At the Centre, the Bhore Comittee has recommended the establishment of a Central Leprosy Institute of India and the development of village isolation colonies.

Another direction in which advance is reported by the Report is the acceptance by Provincial Governments of the principle of admitting patients with leprosy into general hospitals for treatment. Such patients have in the past been frequently refused admission into general medical institutions even though they were non-infective.

In this connection the Central Advisory Board of Health endorsed the view contained in the "Report on Leprosy and its Control in India"—in the production of which the Association had a great hand—that "there is no adequate reason why, if needing hospitalisation, non-infective cases should not be admitted to general wards and infective cases to infective wards. It is essential that the attitude of the medical profession as well as of the public should be modified and liberalised in this respect.

Research Activities

The Madras Government was the first to take action on the above resolution. The action of the Madras Government was commended to other Provinces by the Association and the Governments of U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Central Provinces and the Punjab have now accepted the principle.

Dealing with the research activities of the Association, the Report details various clinical, therapeutic and bacteriological studies undertaken by the Association during the year under review. Among the conclusions reached through therapeutic studies was that penicillin is of no value in the treatment of leprosy. But there are indications that some fungi other than *Penicillium notatum* (the source of penicillin) may prove useful in the fight against leprosy and studies in this direction are being continued.

The Association and its Provincial branches also carried out widespread propaganda on leprosy. A new branch of the Association has been formed in Sind.

TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH VISITORS' COURSE

The Tuberculosis Association of India has been organising during the past two years classes for training Health Visitors in tuberculosis. Twelve candidates are at present receiving instruction. The next class will, it is understood, commence in November next in the Model Tuberculosis Clinic, Irwin Hospital, New Delhi. It covers a period of training and instruction for eight months including the last two, which will be spent in the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli.

Men and women who have matriculated or who are trained nurses are eligible for admission. Those who have studied up to the matriculation may also apply. Preference will be given to candidates deputed by the affiliated associations, Provincial or State Governments, corporations, local boards, or industrial organisations. Training will be imparted free.

The Rubber Control and Production Order, 1946 has been amended to provide for sale, transfer or disposal of rubber by any owner of an approved estate or holding or any approved dealer to any other owner of such an estate or holding or any other such dealer.

ADMISSION TO U. K. AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

A Press Note issued by the Education Department, Government of India, on June 18 stated:

The Government of India desire to repeat the warning, already given, to students intending to proceed overseas for advanced studies that the prospects of securing admission for any large number of Indian students in British or American institutions during the coming year are not hopeful, though Government will continue to do their best to secure admission for as many as possible.

In a recent statement in the House of Commons the British Minister of Labour announced that 90 per cent. of the places available in Universities in the U.K. would be reserved for men and women who have served with His Majesty's Forces or have been engaged in important civilian work. This means that seats for all other students including Indian students, (Government sponsored and private) will be available only out of the balance of 10 per cent.

Warning to Students

Educational institutions in the U.S.A. are also gravely perplexed due to the unprecedented numbers demanding enrolment and, in spite of assurances of goodwill to foreign students, are obliged to put severe restrictions on the number of admissions.

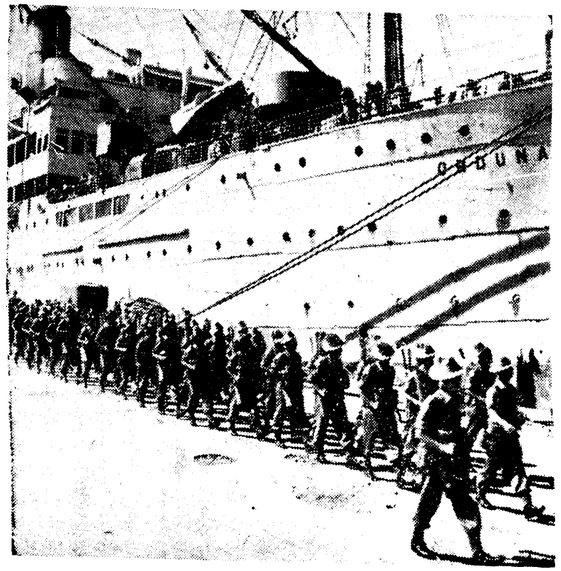
All prospective candidates are, therefore, advised not to resign their present posts, if they hold any, or to obtain passages until their admission is confirmed.

Students sponsored by the Central Government, Provincial Governments or Indian States are also warned that admission may not be secured for them for some considerable time to come and that Government can give no guarantee whatever as to when they may be able to go abroad. Students should not, therefore, do anything in the way of resigning any posts, which they may be holding, until they hear from Government that passage and admission are available. In the meantime, the candidates selected will be responsible for looking after themselves and the Government of India will not hold themselves responsible for any maintenance or other grants.

The Tuberculosis Association of India, New Delhi, awards the Hassan Maaud Suhrawardy Memorial Anti-Tuberculosis Challenge Shield annually to the organisation or institution which has the best record of effective anti-tuberculosis work done within that year.

Competition for this Shield is open to corporations, municipalities, affiliated tuberculosis associations, district or local and other recognised bodies doing anti-tubertulosis work on approved modern lines.

INDIAN TROOPS LAND IN JAPAN



MEN OF THE 2/5 ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES COMING ASHORE FROM THE "ORDUNA" AT KURE, JAPAN.

In May, 1946, the troopship "Orduna" arrived at the famous Japanese Naval Base of Kure, bringing 1,700 men of the Mahratta Light Infantry and the renowned 2/5 Royal Gurkha Rifles, the battalion which won three V.Cs. in the recent war. The troops marched through the main streets of Kure, with the Kumaon Band leading.

The Mahratta Light Infantry which was to be stationed elsewhere went to the Kure Railway Station. The 2/5 Royal Gurkha Rifles, who are stationed at Kure, went straight to their new home—typical Japanese structures of wood and glass—and started settling down to the normal routine of barrack life.



THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS OF KURE. (RIGHT) THE GURKHAS BEING SERVED THEIR FIRST MEAL IN JAPAN.

NEW TYPES OF R.I.A.F. COMMISSIONS

Opportunities for Permanent Careers in Service

IN order to effect the further nationalisation and further development of the peacetime Royal Indian Air Force, a steady increase of officers will be required, it is announced by Air Headquarters.

In addition to those, need for the initial peacetime force of 10 squadrons, already announced by the Government, additional numbers will be required for the R.I.A.F. units to be formed to replace R.A.F. units withdrawing from India as nationalisation progresses.

As a result, two new types of commissions are to be introduced very shortly. One of these will enable those officers who have served faithfully and efficiently in the R.I.A.F. during the war to continue in the Service with excellent opportunity of obtaining within the next four years a permanent commission and making the R.I.A.F. their careers.

Extended Service Commission

The first new type is an Extended Service Commission for which all Emergency Commissioned Officers, other than those selected for Permanent Commissions and those of the Administrative and Special Duties Branch except ex-regular airmen will be invited to apply. The extended service will be for four years on the active list followed by four years on the reserve. Officers selected who accept extended service will be eligible for appointment during their active list service to permanent commissions.

The second type of new commission is the Short Service Commission. This has already been announced, and is now being amended to apply only to existing trainees and most of the future entrants in all branches. Successful applicants will be commissioned on completion of training and will be required to serve four or five years on the active list before transfer to the Reserve. Short Service officers will be eligible for appointment to permanent commissions.

Gratuities will be payable on completion of the full period of active list service to both types of commission.

To provide a solid foundation on which the future R.I.A.F. may expand there is to be the immediate grant of further permanent commissions in the General Duties (Aircrew) Branch to bring the total up to 200 for the Branch by the end of June, 1946.

In the Ground Branches permanent commissions to a total of at least 82 will be granted by the end of July, 1946.

In addition 75 permanent commissions will be granted to those officers in the General Duties Branch who accept extended service, and an appreciable number to the Ground Branch officers accepting extended service.

As part of the general expansion of the peacetime R.I.A.F. an Administrative Branch is to be created. This will provide prospects of a permanent career for a limited number of those serving in the Administrative and Special Duties Branch, whilst there will also be an opportunity for suitably qualified officers of that Branch to train for transfer to other G.D. Branches.

Air Chief's Message

In a personal message to all officers of the R.I.A.F. Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, describing the new commissions he is granting, said:

"We shall require more officers than we have at present and you must remember that we have to look forward to a steady increase in numbers to effect complete nationalisation and a still greater increase as additional R.I.A.F. units are formed to replace R.A.F. units in India.

"You are a young service which has already earned a fine reputation as an efficient fighting force. You should be able to look forward to a steady expansion and in direct proportion to that expansion opportunity of a permanent career will increase.

"I hope that the information I have given you will let you see clearly that there is every chance of a sound career in the Service. My intention is to grant the maximum number of permanent commissions compatible with service requirements. I shall therefore review the position at the end of this year."

OFFICERS REQUIRED BY ROYAL INDIAN ARTILLERY

Following the recent announcement concerning the expansion of the Royal Indian Artillery, officers in other arms of the Indian Army have been called upon to volunteer for a permanent transfer to this branch of the service.

Only British and Indian officers holding regular commissions in any arm of the Indian Army and I.E.C.O.s under 35 years of age who have volunteered deferment of release in either of the categories D.V.R., D.V. and D.V. 2; should apply for transfer.

Officers selected will attend a four months' conversion course at Deolali and final acceptance will depend upon their reports during this training. While under instruction officers will retain their temporary rank and after training will, as far as possible, be posted to regimental appointments in that rank.



GEN. A. R. GODWIN-AUSTEN.

LT.-GEN. GODWIN-AUSTEN PROMOTED GENERAL

LT.-GEN. A. R. Godwin-Austen, Principal Administrative Officer in India, has been promoted to the rank of General. He assumed his present appointment at the end of last year after serving as Quartermaster-General from January, 1945.

A veteran of the first World War during which he served at Gallipoli, in Egypt and Mesopotamia, won the M.C. and was mentioned in despatches. Gen. Godwin-Austen was in command of the 8th British Division in Palestine and Transjordan from 1939-1941.

After the break up of the 8th Division General Godwin-Austen assumed command of the 12th East African Division which eventually smashed the Italian forces in Abyssinia at the decisive Battle of the Lakes.

Gen. Godwin-Austen then took command of the newly formed 13th Corps in the Libyan Desert. In the battles of December, 1941, 13th Corps, which included the 4th Indian Division, surrounded all the German and Italian forces holding the frontier of Cyrenaica and held them imprisoned until they were "mopped up" and captured wholesale.

The 13th fought and won the battle of Sidi Rezegh, relieved Tobruk and drove Rommel's forces from Derna and Benghazi to Agheila. It was at Tobruk that General Godwin-Austen wrote his laconic message—"Tobruk relieved but not more than I am"—which to-day still remains a classic in despatches from the firing line.

The Government of India has decided to grant a further 50 permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy to Indian officers of the Royal Indian Naval Reserve.

EMBARKATION OF CIVILIANS IN TROOPSHIPS AT BOMBAY

CORRESPONDENCE in the Press concerning the embarkation of civilian personnel in troopships at Bombay makes it desirable to define the responsibility of the Sea Transport, Military Embarkation and Civil Authorities concerned.

The work of arranging an embarkation can be divided into two main parts: firstly, the action necessary prior to the arrival of the passengers on the quay and. secondly, the action necessary after passengers have presented themselves for embarkation.

Embarkation programmes for troopships embarking civilians are planned by Embarkation Headquarters and Sea Transport after consultation with the other authorities concerned. These programmes are based on the date and time at which civilians can most conveniently report for embarkation.

Allocation of Berths

As most of the trains from up-country arrive at Bombay about midday and as hotel accommodation in Bombay is extremely limited, civilian embarkations are normally arranged for the afternoon or early evening.

The berthing of civilians is planned and arranged at the berthing conference conducted by Sea Transport. Representatives of the Services and the operating agents attend these conferences. The Sea Transport authorities in conjunction with the operating agents are responsible for the detailed allocation of berths in the ship.

It is not possible to hold the berthing conference until after the arrival of the vessel as accommodation in troopships is constantly being altered to provide additional facilities on board, and up to date plans are consequently not always available. In addition, civilian passenger lists are amended daily due to civilians not accepting passages offered to them. This necessitates berthing being carried out as late as possible to ensure that reasonably accurate passenger lists are available.

Quayside Formalities

Quayside formalities consist of medical inspection, customs inspection, passport inspection, baggage check and issue of berthing cards. The authorities responsible for these at Bombay are respectively the Port Health Officer, Customs Officials, the Bombay Police and, for the last two, the ship's agents.

In addition to the above the responsibility for quayside facilities is that of the Bombay Port Trust and, for traffic control and security, the Bombay Police. The Military Embarkation staff is not responsible in any way for the embarkation of civilians in troopships, but does help the agents by providing staff and labour to assist in the checking and handling of passengers' baggage.

HOMEWARD BOUND TROOPING DEPOT, DEOLALI

THREE parties—each consisting of an officer, a senior N.C.O. and two British other ranks—which were sent by General Headquarters to investigate conditions at the Homeward Bound Trooping Depot, Deolali, have submitted their reports. They conclude that complaints concerning food, amenities and accommodation have no real basis.

New arrivals are quickly 'booked' and settled in and informed of baggage regulations and marking, documentation and medical examinations, states one report. This process takes from one to three days according to the number in camp. Facilities for marking, crating and storage of baggage are first class.

Amenities

Quarters vary in the different camps but the majority of arrivals are accommodated in tents. Married quarters are reasonably comfortable and nurseries are provided, there being no distinction between children of officers and those of other ranks—a commendable point.

Reading rooms, bookstalls, tailors and shoemakers' shops, canteens and several curio shops are among the many amenities, provided at Deolali, says the second report.

Any possible query that may arise is answered in a small booklet, "Westward Bound", which is given to all new arrivals. "The camp," says this report, "compares favourably with the various leave camps in India."

The third report, after detailing common faults committed by units despatching personnel to Deolali, says of the Homeward Bound Trooping Depot: "The whole organisation works like clockwork."

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS

Following the announcement in October last year, that permanent commissions in the Indian Army would be restricted to Indians and to other persons domiciled in India, 426 Indians Emergency Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army have been granted permanent commissions.

Of the 426, one officer was commissioned as a Captain, 356 as Lieutenants and 69 as 2nd-Lieutenants.

SALVAGED MATERIAL YIELDS RS. 396 LAKHS

DURING the first four months of this year the Army Salvage Organisation, which handles salvage from the three fighting Services, has raised Rs. 396 lakhs from the sale of salvaged material.

For perhaps a year or 18 months ahead the flow of salvaged material will tend to increase and, as the Defence Services are reaching their ultimate post-war strength, it will then tend progressively to fade out. The extent of the activities and the rise in flow can be gauged by the fact that of the Rs. 396 lakhs the receipts per month were Rs. 57 lakhs in January, Rs. 96 lakhs in February and Rs. 150 lakhs in March and April respectively.

Of particular interest is the fact that about 1,500 salvaged aero-engines have been disposed of since the beginning of 1946 at an average price of under Rs. 200 each. Other salvaged material which has been sold ranges from paper and cardboard to M. T. vehicles and components and includes textiles, rubber, leather and scrap material.

War Surpluses

The disposal of war surpluses fall into two sharply defined categories. The first group are serviceable and repairable stores of all kinds and these are handled by the Disposals Organisation of the Industries and Supplies Department. The second are stores known as salvage, comprising every class of goods beyond economical repair.

The Army welcomes visits by the public to any local salvage depot. Those desirous of paying such a visit should write to the Salvage Officer of the appropriate Command or Area Headquarters.

AIRBORNE ARTILLERY FOR INDIAN ARMY

Five Royal Indian Artillery regiments are to be converted into parachute regiments, it is officially announced at G.H.Q. They are 9th, 12th and 17th Field Regiments, the 6th Indian light anti-aircraft regiment and an anti-tank regiment.

These units will form the divisional artillery of the 2nd Indian Airborne Division. If ever these men go to war, a vast armada of heavy bombers will carry them with their guns, jeeps, ammunition and other equipment to the battlefield over which they will be dropped by parachute.

Recruits, who must be volunteers, will be drawn from almost every class in India. They will be trained by Royal Indian Air Force personnel, who themselves are men, now receiving instruction at the Parachute Training School, Chaklala.

FROM SERGEANT TO BRIGADIER



Ajit Anil Rudra

FORMERLY a British Army Sergeant who led British troops against the Germans in the 1915 Battle of the Somme, Col. Ajit Anil Rudra O.B.E., 15th Punjab Regiment, has been appointed Director of Morale at G.H.Q., with the rank of Brigadier. His career is unique in the history of the Indian Army.

He is the son of the late Principal S.K. Rudra of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, who was a well-known educationalist of the Punjab and one of the founders of the Delhi University.

Brigadier Rudra was born in 1896 and educated at Trinity College, Kandy. Enlisting as a private in the 18th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, he saw service in France and Flanders during World War I.

Promoted to Lance-Corporal, then Corporal and finally Sergeant he went through the thick of the fighting in the bloody encounters along the Somme in 1915. Twice his battalion was decimated and he himself was wounded.

In 1919, he was commissioned and joined the 4/15th Punjab Regiment in Palestine. He also served on the Frontier during the 1920 Afghan war, and took part in the Relief of Wana, 1921, and other Frontier expeditions.

Brigadier Rudra is one of the few Indian officers who, before the war, served in a non-nationalised unit. He has to his credit a record in that he held every regimental appointment in succession in his battalion. He was quartermaster for four years and adjutant for four years and then a company commander. In 1941 he was appointed 2nd-in-command of his battalion.

He was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel in 1943 on the staff at G.H.Q. as Liaison Officer, South East Asia Command, 14th Army and Eastern Command Headquarters.

In 1946, he was awarded the O.B.E. for meritorious services.

New Campaign Medals for Servicemen

FURTHER details are now available of conditions governing the grant of the India Service Medal and the War Medal, the institution of which has recently been approved by H.M. the King.

The India Service Medal will be granted to British and Indian personnel of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army (including civilians in military employ) the Indian States Forces and the Royal Indian Air Force, for three years' non-operational service in India between September 3, 1939, and September 2, 1945. The conditions under which civilians other than those in military employ may wear the medal have not been finally decided.

The ribbon of this medal has a narrow light blue stripe in the centre with alternate dark, light and again dark blue stripes on either side. The medal is an alternative award to the Defence Medal and no one may wear both. It will not be admissible to British Service personnel.

The War Medal will be granted to full-time personnel of the Armed Forces for a minimum service of 28 days wherever the service during the war has been rendered. The ribbon is in the red, white and blue of the Union flag. It has a narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side and broad red stripes at each edge, the two intervening stripes being blue.

Those entitled to the Oak Leaf for "Mention in Despatches" will wear this emblem on the War Medal ribbon. The medal will be granted in addition to any others to which a person may be entitled.

GRANTS FOR WINNERS OF GALLANTRY AWARDS

Many provinces in India have devised comprehensive schemes to reward those of their inhabitants who have been decorated for gallantry. These rewards, Bombay's for example, range from Rs. 10,000 for a V.C. to Rs. 2,000 for M.M. In some cases land is being given in lieu of money, says an official announcement from G.H.Q.

Schemes have been prepared by Madras, Bombay, the Punjab, U.P., C.P. and Berar, Bihar and Ajmer-Merwara Provinces. Indian states and other provinces have under consideration suitable schemes, details of which will be published in due course.

Sind is not affected as no person domiciled in that Province has been awarded a gallantry decoration.

All ranks in the Army, Navy and Air Force are eligible and in the case of posthumous awards grants will be made to the heirs of the deceased. Full details are given in Special India Army Orders.

HERO OF KANGAW BATTLE PROMOTED BRIGADIER



S. P. P. Thorat

ONE of the heroes of the Kangaw battle in the Arakan—Col. Shankar Pandurang Patil Thorat, D.S.O.—has been appointed Secretary to the Indian National War Academy, with the rank of Brigadier.

He is the seventh Indian Brigadier at present serving in the Indian Army. Brig. Thorat belongs to Kolhapur State.

Born in 1906, Brigadier Thorat was commissioned in 1926 from Sandhurst and joined the 1/14th Punjab Regiment after a period of attachment to the 2nd Middlesex Regiment. He saw his first spell of active service in the Mohmand operations of 1935. Two years later he took part in the Waziristan operations (1937-38) and later in the Ahmedzai Salient operations.

After serving on the staff at General Headquarters he was promoted to second-in-command of the 9/14 Punjab Regiment in 1944. The following year he took command of the 2/2 Punjab Regiment then fighting in the Arakan, where he won his D.S.O.

Until recently Brig. Thorat was Deputy Director in the Adjutant General's Branch at G.H.Q.

Plans to resettle all ex-Servicemen and most of the war workers of Orissa have been made by the Provincial Government.

There are 10,700 posts under the Government available for the 4,070 ex-Servicemen who were released by May 31 this year and for other discharged war workers. The Government is also implementing special priority schemes under the post-war development plans which will absorb a further 12,000 persons.



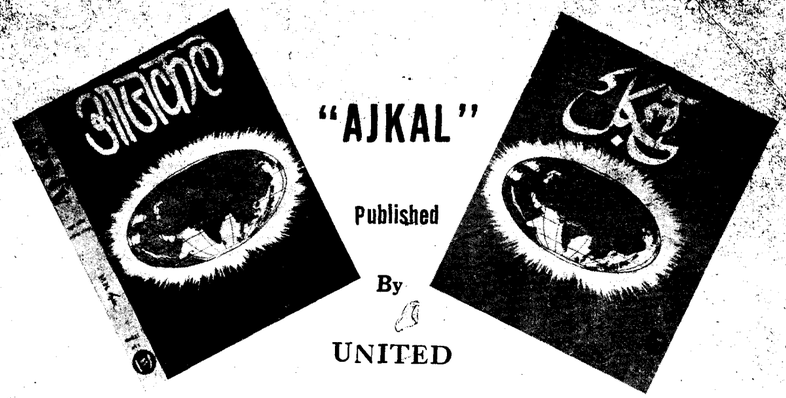
MEMBERS OF THE ORDNANCE SERVICES DIRECTORATE TEAM BEING PRESENTED TO FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, C.-IN-C., INDIA. HERE, HIS EXCELLENCY IS SHAKING HANDS WITH H. S. KAPUR OF THE O.S.D. TEAM.

D.H.Q. INTER-BRANCH HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP



LT.-GEN. SIR ARTHUR SMITH, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, WHO GAVE AWAY THE PRIZES, CONGRATULATES K. B. SAXSENA, CAPTAIN OF THE WINNING TEAM, BEFORE HANDING OVER THE SHIELD TO HIM.

The final of the District Headquarters Inter-Branch Hockey Tournament between the C. A. O. War Department and the Ordnance Services Directorate was played on May 18, before a distinguished gathering, including Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India. The game ended in a draw. The match was replayed on May 23, the C.A.O. team winning by two goals to one. Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Chief of the General Staff, gave away the prizes.



"Ajkal" is a magazine, published fortnightly in Urdu and monthly in Hindi, describing important events in the world, particularly among India's neighbours. It also has a large section devoted to literary articles, poems and stories by well-known Indian writers.

Obtainable from leading booksellers at anna -|6|- per copy or from the Business Manager, "United Publications," P.O. Box 166, Delhi.

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Selection of contents in July issue:—

HINDI.

The Carpet Industry in Persia.

Kun Ming, China

The Maritime Supremacy of Ancient India.

Srinivasan Ramanuja.

Hiroshima (short story)

Salma (story)

Riti-Kal, Alankrit-Kal or Shringar-Kal.

URDU

Irrigation in the U.S.S.R.

Some Afghan Poetesses of Ancient Afghanistan.

The First Winter of Peace in Europe.

"Rt. Hon. Srinivas Sastri".

"Amjad Haiderabadi Ki Shairi".

Hadisa (short story).





DR. L. C. JAIN VISITS "BRINDIV"

Dr. L. C. Jain, Economic Adviser to the British Allied Commonwealth Council, Japan, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Prabha Jain, recently visited "Brindiv" Force at Kure, Japan. He was met by Major Virendra Singh, who escorted him on his tour. They were entertained by Lt.-Gen. Northcott, Commander-in-Chief of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, at his home at Kure.

These pictures show (above) Dr. Jain, Lt.-Gen. Northcott and Miss Prabha Jain feeding fishes in the garden of the C.-in-C.'s home at Kure and (left) Dr. Jain and his daughter, with Major Virendra Singh, being welcomed at "Brindiv" headquarters.

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Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Canada, visit of Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India in gave a cocktail party in Toronto recently in honour of the London. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Mrs. L.M. Cosgrave, Mrs. Ahuja, Sir Samuel Runganadhan, Miss Potts, Mrs. Potts, Maj.-Gen. A.E. Potts, Mrs. P.L. Bhandari and Col. L. Moore Cosgrave, who is shortly proceeding to India to take up his appointment as senior Canadian Government Trade Commissioner.

Vol. 19, No. 187. INDIAN INFORMATION July 1, 1946.

AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

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

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

Edited by A. S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

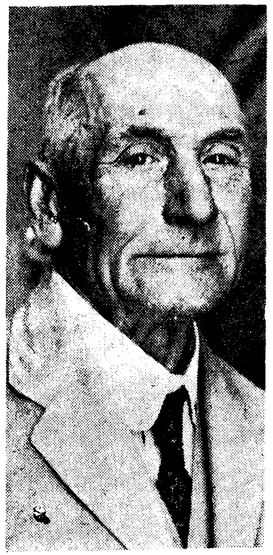
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COVER PICTURE: Boating on the Cauvery.

CONGRESS AND MUSLIM LEAGUE ACCEPT LONG-TERM PLAN

Interim Government Talks Adjourned



Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India.

THE Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy are glad that constitution-making can now proceed with the consent of the two major parties and of the States, said a statement issued on June 26 by the Cabinet Mission and H.E. the Viceroy.

They welcome the statements made to them by the leaders of the Congress and the Muslim League that it is their intention to try and work in the Constituent Assembly so as to make it an effective means of devising the new constitutional arrangements under which India can achieve her independence. They are sure that the members of the Constituent Assembly, who are about to be elected, will work in this spirit.

The Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy regret that it has not so far proved possible to form an interim coalition Government, but they are determined that the effort should be renewed in accordance with the terms of Para eight of their statement of June 16.

Owing, however, to the very heavy burden which has been cast upon the Viceroy and the representatives of the parties during the last three months, it is proposed that the further negotiations should be adjourned for a short interval during the time while the elections for the Constituent Assembly will be taking place.

It is hoped that when the discussions are resumed the leaders of the two major parties, who have all expressed their agreement with the Viceroy and the Cabinet Mission on the need for the speedy formation of a representative interim Government will do their utmost to arrive at an accommodation upon the composition of that Government.

As the Government of India must be carried on until a new interim Government can be formed, it is the intention of the Viceroy to set up a temporary caretaker Government of officials.

It is not possible for the Cabinet Mission to remain longer in India, as they must return to report to the British Cabinet and Parliament and also to resume their work, from which they have been absent for over three months. They, therefore, propose to leave India on Saturday next, June 29.

In leaving India, the members of the Cabinet Mission express their cordial thanks for all the courtesy and consideration which they have received as guests in the country, and they most sincerely trust that the steps which have been initiated will lead to a speedy realisation of the hopes and wishes of the Indian people.

PERSONNEL OF CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

It has already been announced by the Viceroy and the Cabinet Mission that a temporary Caretaker Government will be set up pending further negotiations with the parties, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on June 29.

For this purpose H. M. the King has approved the appointment of the following as Members of the Executive Council: Sir George Spence, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Sir Eric Coates, C.S.I., C.I.E., Sir Robert Hutchings, K.C.I.E., C.M.G., Sir Eric Conran-Smith, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Sir Gurunath Bewoor, K.C.I.E., together with the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., and the Hon'ble Mr. A.A. Waugh, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., who are already temporary Members of the Executive Council. H.E. Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, the Commander-in-Chief, will also continue to serve.

The portfolios have been distributed by H.E. the Governor-General as follows:—

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, War.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Commerce and Commonwealth Relations.

Sir Eric Coates, Finance.

Sir Eric Conran-Smith, War Transport, Railways, Posts and Air.

Sir Robert Hutchings, Food and Agriculture.

Sir Akbar Hydari, Labour, Works, Mines and Power, Information and Arts, Health.

Sir George Spence, Law and Education.

Mr. A.A. Waugh, Home and Industries and Supplies.

Since planning has now reached a stage at which it can be completed and implemented by the individual departments concerned, the Governor-General has decided to abolish Planning and Development as a separate Department. Co-ordination and progressing of development will be done by the Co-ordination Committee of Council.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO H.M. THE KING-EMPEROR

The following messages have been exchanged between His Excellency the Viceroy and His Majesty the King-Emperor:

From His Excellency the Viceroy:

"On behalf of the Princes and people of India, the Viceroy, with his humble duty, begs to offer Your Majesty most loyal and heartfelt greetings and warmest good wishes for the long life and prosperity of Your Majesty."

From His Majesty the King-Emperor:

"I sincerely thank you for the message which you have sent me on behalf of the Princes and people of India on the occasion of the celebration of my birthday and which I deeply appreciate."

The C.-in-C. in a message, said:

"Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck with his humble duty to Your Majesty begs to offer you the loyal greetings and good wishes of the Armed Forces of the India Command, on the occasion of the celebration of Your Majesty's birthday."

INTERIM GOVERNMENT PLAN

HIS Excellency the Viceroy, in consultation with the members of the Cabinet Mission, has for some time been exploring the possibilities of forming a coalition Government drawn from the two major parties and certain of the minorities, said a statement issued by the Cabinet Delegation and H.E. the Viceroy on June 16.

The discussions have revealed the difficulties which exist for the two major parties in arriving at any agreed basis for the formation of such a Government.

The Viceroy and the Cabinet Mission appreciate these difficulties and the efforts which the two parties have made to meet them. They consider however that no useful purpose can be served by further prolonging these discussions. It is indeed urgently necessary that a strong and representative Interim Government should be set up to conduct the very heavy and important business that has to be carried through.

The Viceroy is therefore issuing invitations to the following to serve as members of the Interim Government on the basis that the constitution-making will proceed in accordance with the statement of May 16:—

Sardar Baldev Singh.
Sir N. P. Engineer.
Mr. Jagjivan Ram.
Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.
Mr. M. A. Jinnah.
Nawabzada Liaqat Ali Khan.
Mr. H. K. Mahtab.
Dr. John Matthai.
Nawab Mohd. Ismail Khan.
Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin.
Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar.
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari.
Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

If any of those invited is unable for personal reasons to accept the Viceroy will, after consultation, invite some other person in his place.

Distribution of Portfolios

The Viceroy will arrange the distribution of portfolios in consultation with the leaders of the two major parties.

The above composition of the Interim Government is in no way to be taken as a precedent for the solution of any other communal question. It is an expedient put forward to solve the present difficulty only and to obtain the best available coalition Government.

The Viceroy and the Cabinet Mission believe that Indians of all communities desire to arrive at a speedy settlement of this matter so that the process of constitution-making can go forward and that the Government of India may be carried on as efficiently as possible in the meantime.

They therefore hope that all parties especially the two major parties will accept this proposal so as to overcome the present obstacles, and will co-operate for the successful carrying on of the Interim Government. Should this proposal be accepted the Viceroy will aim at inaugurating the new Government about June 26.

In the event of the two major parties or either of them proving unwilling to join in the setting up of a coalition Government on the above lines, it is the intention of the Viceroy to proceed with the formation of an Interim Government which will be as representative as possible of those willing to accept the Statement of May 16.

The Viceroy is also directing the Governors of the Provinces to summon the Provincial Legislative Assemblies forthwith to proceed with the elections necessary for the setting up of the constitution-making machinery as put forward in the Statement of May 16.

VICEROY'S LETTER

Here is H. E. the Viceroy's letter, dated June 16, 1946, to the Presidents of the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League.

I send herewith a copy of the Statement which, as indicated in the letter I sent you yesterday, will be released at 4 p.m. this evening.

As the Statement shows, the Cabinet Ministers and I are fully aware of the difficulties that have prevented an agreement on the composition of the Interim Government. We are unwilling to abandon our hope of a working partnership between the two major parties and representatives of the minorities. We have therefore done our best to arrive at a practicable arrangement taking into consideration the various conflicting claims, and the need for obtaining a Government of capable and representative administrators. We hope that the parties will now take their share in the administration of the country on the basis set out in our new Statement. We are sure we can rely on you and your Working Committee to look to the wider issues and to the urgent needs of the country as a whole, and to consider this proposal in a spirit of accommodation.

Civilians registered for passage to the U.K. in August and subsequent months, holding priority VII or above, who are willing to sail in July, are invited to inform their Travel Agents.

The latter are being asked to forward consolidated lists of such persons to the Deputy Civil Passage Controller, Bombay.



Col. Rajendrasinhji being congratulated by Lt.-Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Chief of Staff in charge of Intelligence, U.S. Army.

U. S. HONOUR FOR COL. RAJENDRASINHJI

Col. Maharajkumar Rajendrasinhji, D.S.O., a cousin of the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, has been awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) by the U.S. The citation, dated from the White House and signed by President Truman, reads:—

"Colonel Maharaj Rajendrasinhji, Indian Army, performed outstanding service from November 1942 to July 1945 as Military Observer and since June 1945 as Military Attache to the United States. His distinguished military career together with his executive ability and wide knowledge of the United States have made his numerous visits to United States installations extremely interesting and instructive to American Army units and particularly valuable to those American units scheduled to have contact with Indian Army personnel.

"His co-operation with the War Department and continued spirit of helpfulness have been outstanding and contributed greatly to the friendly relationship existing between his country and the United States. Colonel Rajendrasinhji's exceptionally meritorious conduct reflects great credit upon himself and the Indian Army.

H.E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 99,225 from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to the War Emergency Service Committee of the National Council of Y.M.C.A.s in India, Burma and Ceylon towards the maintenance of its Centres for Indian troops in India and S.E.A.C.

AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN RAILWAY BOARD AND RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION

A Press Note issued by the Railway Board on June 20 stated:

The Railway Board met the Committee of Action of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation this morning. This meeting was held as a result of a letter which the Railway Board addressed to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation asking them if they were prepared to call off the general strike on the acceptance by both parties of recommendations made by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Labour Department, and Mr. S. C. Joshi, Chief Labour Commissioner, were present for part of the discussion.

The Federation's representatives asked for clarification on certain points which were explained to them and agreement was reached on a number of issues. Firstly the Federation asked that the Pay Commission might be moved to consider the question of pay and allowances before taking up other issues which have been referred to them, and that the commission should report thereon within six months.

The Board promised to recommend to Government that the question of pay and allowances should be taken up first and that they would explain to the Finance Department the great anxiety which the railway employees felt regarding the date on which the findings of the Pay Commission on this matter might become available.

Post-War Scales

The Federation wanted to know if the offer which the Board had made in May in regard to consultations with the Federation over the question of post-war scales, still held good. This undertaking was that "before the Railway Board submit their written evidence to the Pay Commission whether in reply to the questionnaire which the Commission might issue or otherwise, they (the Board) would not only be prepared to discuss with a small Committee nominated by the Federation the contents of their memoranda but also the data on which they may be based". The Board replied that this offer which had so far evoked no response from the Federation still held good.

On the Federation's asking if their 16-point programme which they maintain would obviate retrenchment, would be placed before the Committee, the appointment of which has been recommended by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, the Board explained that any such committee would inevitably consider not only these methods but also other methods of absorbing surplus staff, and there was no intention of excluding the suggestions made by the Federation from the Committee's term of reference. The Board explained that Government had not so far considered the exact composition of the Committee and the Federation urged that it should not only be "high-powered" as recommended by the Standing Finance Committee but also that it should work at "high speed."

In answer to a query whether the Central Government and the Railway Board would support action to ensure uniformity of conditions of service on railways other than Indian Government Railways, it was pointed out that the Board have no objection to referring the matter to the Indian Railway Conference Association if the Federation so desired.

Question of Retrenchment

The question of the retrenchment was finally considered. The Federation's contention that the appointment of an Adjudicator in connection with Hours of Work, Leave Reserves, etc. would result in an increase in the permanent cadre and that the Board were pre-judging the issue by insisting on continuing to discharge surplus hands for whom no alternative work could be found. The Railway Board explained to the Federation once again that it was not possible to keep on men for whom there was no work and also pointed out how successful the Railway Administrations had been so far in finding alternative work for surplus staff.

After discussion the Board agreed to the proposal that any employee who was in service on September 15, 1945, *i.e.*, when the war in the East ended, would not be discharged on becoming surplus unless the refused alternative employment. This policy, it was agreed, will continue until the report of the Adjudicator had been considered, but the Board stressed that this was contingent on the Federation taking effective steps to call off the strike.

RAILWAY STRIKE CALLED OFF

The Railway Board have received a letter from the General Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, stating that the Federation has called upon affiliated Unions to cancel strike notices and advise the Railwaymen to refrain from the proposed stoppage of work from June 27, 1946, said a Press Communique issued by the Railway Board on June 21.

GOVERNMENT ACCEPT RAILWAY STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A Press Note issued by the Railway Board on June 17 stated:

It will be recalled that the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on May 30 rejected both Government's offer of immediate relief amounting to Rs. 3 1/3 crores and also the alternative offer of adjudication regarding the extent of *ad interim* relief to railway employees pending the report of the Pay Commission, in addition to adjudication on the subjects already referred to the Adjudicator. The Federation instead put forward claims for immediate concessions amounting to Rs. 9 1/2 crores non-recurring and Rs. 23 crores recurring, and the strike notices subsequently issued by the Unions revert to immediate claims involving Rs. 78 crores.

The Government of India, therefore, referred the financial aspects of the case to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways whose recommendations have now been carefully considered. Government appreciate the great trouble which the Committee have taken in investigating this intricate problem and accept the Committee's recommendations.

Government will bring to the notice of the Pay Commission the Resolution of the Standing Finance Committee on the question of taking up railway scales of pay before those of other Government servants. Government are, however, doubtful whether the Commission will find this course practicable as one of the purposes of the Commission is to review and co-ordinate the pay of all Central Government services. Whatever course is pursued by the Pay Commission, Government are prepared to give effect from January 1, 1947, to such recommendations as may be accepted. It may be noted that Government have already asked the Pay Commission to accelerate their report to the maximum possible extent.

Interim Relief

With regard to interim relief, Government accept as a basis of interim settlement, the recommendations of the Committee for the payment of sums amounting to Rs. 9 crores, thereby exhausting the Budget surplus, and, subject to the strike being called off, to discuss with the Railwaymen's Federation the means by which this can be most equitably distributed among the various grades of employees. If strikes take place, it will inevitably effect railway finances and it may therefore be necessary for Government in such circumstances to make further reference to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

Government accept the recommendation that a Committee of the Assembly should be appointed at an earlier date

to review the working of the Railway Convention and the collection of data on which this Committee will have to work will be accelerated.

Government agree to the appointment of a high power Committee to examine the whole field of economy on working expenses, retrenchment and practical methods of absorbing surplus men; the Committee to be set up immediately after the present Adjudicator has issued his findings. In the meantime, Government will continue their present policy of trying to find the maximum amount of alternative employment for those men who are declared surplus by Railway Administrations.

Development of New Areas

Government, however, regard the abolition of any allocation to the Betterment Fund as retrograde. They must point out too that failure to make an apportionment of any surplus from the Railway Budget to General Revenue during the current year, in accordance with the vote of the Assembly, will seriously affect the funds available for Central and Provincial reconstruction in spheres such as Education, Health, Roads, Agriculture etc.

As the Committee have also observed, the Railway Board have already under consideration various schemes for the development of new areas and for the benefit of railway users and railway employees which will greatly add to railway expenditure and which would have been financed in part only from the funds already accumulated. The prospect of forward traffic receipts on the present level of rates and fares is, on the other hand, not encouraging.

In this connection, it must be pointed out again that there has been no rise in short distance fares since before the war, other fares have been increased by 6½ per cent. only, and the overall increase in goods rates has been approximately 8 per cent. only, whereas the Wage Bill, with the present concessions, will have increased by some 130 per cent.

Rates and Fares

In ordinary circumstances, Government would have had no hesitation in increasing rates and fares immediately by executive action in the usual manner in order to restore the financial position at least to the extent to which it will be affected by these concessions. In view, however, of the expressed desire of the Standing Finance Committee to consider this aspect further, Government propose to consult them before taking action.

Government, however, feel that the matter is likely to be of such urgent importance that the effect of all these financial liabilities on railway rates and fares should be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways at a very early date.

To meet a shortage of potatoes in India, the Australian Government have offered 5,000 tons to India, which quantity will be imported through the trade.

RAILWAY STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT retrenchment cannot be a subject for adjudication, and that the Federation's demands are in excess of what is necessary to neutralise the rise in the cost of living was the opinion expressed by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in its resolution passed unanimously on June 14.

The Committee met for four days (June 10, 11, 12 and 14) under the chairmanship of Mr. I. S. Puri, Financial Commissioner of Railways. The Members of the Committee who were present at the meeting on June 14 were: Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, O.B.E., Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. P. K. Salve, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, C.I.E., Mr. Muhammad Nauman, and Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee.

A strong condemnation of the Federation's proposal to raid the Depreciation Fund and further reduce interest charges, a request that the Pay Commission might accelerate their recommendations regarding the Railwaymen's case and that they should date from January 1, 1947, an immediate relief of Rs. 5 crores per annum with back effect from July, 1945, making up Rs. 9 crores in 1946-47 are the other principal features of the resolution.

Committee's Resolution

The Committee also expressed its view that no further expenditure could be incurred without an all round rise in rates and fares and that even the relief now contemplated would leave no surpluses in this year's budget to provide contributions to General Revenues or to the betterment fund.

The following is the full text of the resolution unanimously passed by the Committee:

The Committee have considered the memorandum placed before them by the Financial Commissioner of Railways, have heard in person the Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and have obtained such further information and explanations as they considered necessary. In the light of all this they have given very careful consideration to the demands of the Federation against the background of the economic life of the country and of the conditions of Railway Finances.

The Committee accept the view that the possibility of retrenchment is not a trade dispute under the Trade Disputes Act and the Federation cannot in law ask for the matter being referred to adjudication. Should retrenchment be effected in a manner contrary to accepted principles, *e.g.*, those laid down in the Murphy Committee's report, the Federation may have a case for adjudication.

The Committee, however, observe that so far there has been no retrenchment on any appreciable scale, the number of employees retrenched up to the present being only about 7,000, all of whom were not strictly railway employees, and the Committee have heard no complaints against the methods of retrenchment followed. Nevertheless the Committee are conscious that apprehensions exist in the minds of railwaymen that there may be large scale retrenchments hereafter. These fears arise from the large increase in railway staff, which seems to the Committee to be out of all proportion to the increase in the quantum of work which the railways in India have been called upon to perform as measured by the usual statistics of train miles, wagon miles, etc.

Federation's Demands

In fact, the various demands of the Federation for a decrease in the hours of work, increase in the periods of rest and change in the conditions of service generally are understood to have been partly inspired by the fear of large scale retrenchment.

The Committee consider that the best method to allay these fears and at the same time to enable the public to appreciate the position properly would be to appoint a small high power committee with which non-officials including those interested in Labour should be associated. Such a committee should be charged not merely with the responsibility of ascertaining the extent of staff surplus to requirements but also of suggesting practical methods of absorbing them. The Committee feel, however, that such a committee can make a reliable forecast only after the adjudicator's award on the hours of work, leave rules, etc., has been considered by Government. Till then the Government should vigorously pursue its policy of finding alternative employment for whatever staff may be found surplus and should also grant compulsory leave to such staff as may not have taken leave for a long time. The adjudicator should, of course, be asked to expedite the award.

The Federation's demands as now put forward in the strike notice are, in the view of the Committee, in excess of what is necessary to neutralise the effect of the rise in the cost of living. If all these are to be conceded, the railway worker would not only be placed in a more favourable position than other Government servants in the matter of relief but would improve his relative position permanently *vis-a-vis* the rest of society. This would indicate not only a reluctance to share with the rest of society the inevitable effects of the war but a desire to steal a march over them.

It is the considered view of the Committee that the present finances of the Indian Railways are incapable of meeting the additional recurring expenditure which the acceptance of the Federation's demands would involve. The additional cost as estimated by the Railway Board even after excluding several demands which cannot be evaluated, will be in the proximity of Rs. 78 crores a year. While the Committee do not wish to pass any judgment on the merits of the Railwaymen's demands which have been referred to the Adjudicator and the Pay Commission, they observe in passing that the relief in the shape of dearness allowance and cheap grain shop facilities cost the Railways Rs. 27 crores in 1945-46. In addition to this, these railway employees have received only two months ago relief costing Government over Rs. 3 crores.

Apart from this enormous additional burden the Railway Board have under consideration various schemes for the development of new areas, for better travel facilities and for the improvement of the conditions of service and of living of railway employees. If these schemes intended for the benefit of the user of the railways and their employees are undertaken, they will in the net add greatly to railway expenditure.

With rates and fares at the present level, the diminution in the volume of traffic which is in sight will lead to a contraction of railway revenue. The margin for meeting any large additional demands is, therefore, non-existent and any substantial permanent increase in the staff bill, can only be met by an all round increase in rates and fares, except in so far as the deficit could be met by economies. The Committee would prefer to postpone consideration of this question till they have had time to consider the recommendations of the Adjudicator and of the Pay Commission on the respective questions referred to them and till all possibilities of economy have been explored.

The Pay Commission

As regards the proper agency to consider the revision of scales of pay, the Committee see no difference between reference to the Pay Commission and that to an adjudicator. In fact, a Pay Commission on which all interests are represented might be a better agency in the interests of railwaymen for this examination than an adjudicator. The Committee, are, however, impressed by the contention of the Federation that considering the amount of work entrusted to the Commission, there is no prospect of their recommendations being available at an early date. The Committee, therefore, recommend that if possible the Commission should be requested to take up the question of railway scales of pay first and to submit their recommendations on this question within six months.

If this is impossible, they consider the proposal of government for an *ad interim* adjudication pending the report of the Commission to be a reasonable method of procedure. They understand, however, that this method may not be acceptable to the Federation. In the circumstances, they suggest that the Pay Commission be asked to accelerate their report to the maximum possible extent and that their recommendations as accepted by government be made retrospective from January 1, 1947. This should in our opinion satisfy the Federation whose insistence hitherto on the question being referred to adjudication was due not to any lack of confidence in the Commission but due to their anxiety to secure relief to railway employees within a reasonably short time.

The Committee are further of the opinion that the question of temporary relief is one which might be sympathetically considered till such time as action is taken on the recommendations of the Adjudicator and the Pay Commission. The Committee are not in favour of the grant of a war bonus in view of the repercussions in other departments of Government.

Temporary Relief

At the same time the Railway Board's offer of May 29 appears to the Committee to be unsuitable in form, particularly that portion of it which proposes to convert a part of the dearness allowance into basic pay as it does not afford any immediate relief to railwaymen. Moreover, the relief proposed is, in the opinion of the Committee, inadequate. Consequently they suggest a more generous offer. What exact form this relief should take must necessarily be left to the Railway Board as this Committee is not in a position to make recommendations on points of detail.

The Board will be well advised to settle details in consultation with the Federation so that interim relief may be offered in a form which will best tend to relieve the staff of their most pressing financial anxieties.

The Committee recommend a measure of relief amounting to Rs. 5 crores annually. They further recommend that the relief be given to railwaymen with retrospective effect from July 1, 1945. This relief will involve in the year 1946-47 an additional expenditure of about Rs. 9 crores which will completely wipe out the estimated surplus leaving no contribution to the Betterment Fund or to the General Revenues or the Railway Reserve. In the hands of the railwaymen this will place an appreciable lump sum amount of Rs. 5 crores to meet their immediate needs.

The Committee consider that any raid on the Depreciation Fund or a reduction in interest charges is not feasible. The balance of about Rs. 17 crores in the Railway Reserve is so meagre that it cannot be safely drawn upon in view of the uncertainty of Railway earnings in the coming years.

The Railway Convention

The elimination of contribution to General Revenues can only be considered by the Legislative Assembly who will in due course appoint a committee to review the working of the Railway Convention. The Committee recommend that this committee should be set up at an early date. The data on which this committee will have to work are, it is understood, being collected by the Officers of the Railway Board. The work of collection should be completed without any avoidable delay. No retrospective effect can be given to any change in the Convention Resolution as suggested to the Committee by the Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, as such a course will only result in shifting the burden from the railway user to the general tax-payer.

The Committee would next like to place on record their dissatisfaction that during the war there should have been an increase in working expenses out of all proportion to the increase in the quantum of work done by the Indian Railways. In times of war financial scrutiny is generally lax, but the Committee feel that even after making due allowances, they could expect a better standard of financial control.

The Committee strongly urge that a general economy committee, charged with the responsibility of suggesting ways and means of effecting economy in all branches of the Railway Administration, should be set up without delay. Active steps should be taken to reorganise the machinery for financial control both at headquarters of the Government of India and on the Railway. This committee may, if convenient also be entrusted with the functions of the high power committee suggested in paragraph 2. The Committee attach special importance to this recommendation as on such action depends the possibility of meeting the additional financial burden if any, that may arise by the acceptance of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the adjudicator.

MR. GURUSWAMI'S PLEA

All the Members of the Railway Standing Finance Committee were present at its meeting on June 10. After a preliminary general discussion, in which Lt.-Col. Ralf B. Emerson, Chief Commissioner of Railways and Col. H. W. Wagstaff, Member for Staff also took part, the Committee adjourned to meet the following day when Mr. Guruswami, General Secretary of the *All-India Railwaymen's Federation*, was invited to state the Federation's viewpoint on the financial aspect of its demands.

Mr. Guruswami, who remained with the Committee for about two hours, dealt with subjects which included retrenchment, dearness allowance, revision of the basic scales of pay and war bonus. The 12 points, which the Council of Action had placed before the Railway Board on May 29 as a basic for interim relief, also came up for discussion.

As an alternative to raising rates and fares as a means of finding money, to meet railwaymen's demands, Mr. Guruswami suggested that Government could find Rs. 24 crores per annum by resorting to various expedients. These, according to Mr. Guruswami, were:—

(i) stopping contribution to general revenues;

(ii) treating as repayment of capital invested in Railways and thereby securing a reduction in interest charges—

(a) loss on strategic lines;

(b) payment of contribution to general revenues since 1924-25; and

(c) value of concessions allowed during the war on military traffic.

and (iii) finally reducing the annual contribution to the Depreciation Fund.

The Committee held its third sitting on June 12 when Mr. Guruswami was invited to be present to clarify certain proposals he had made at yesterday's meeting.

The Financial Commissioner before summing up the discussions to date commented on Mr. Guruswami's proposals and defined the railways' position in regard to the annual contribution to the Depreciation Fund. He also explained the exact implications of Mr. Guruswami's proposals to stop contribution to general revenues and reduce the interest charges payable by railways thereby passing the burden on to the general tax-payer.

A sub-committee consisting of Mr. I.S. Puri, Sri Satya Narain Sinha, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. M. Nauman and Lt.-Col Dr. J. C. Chatterjee was appointed to draft the Resolution of the Committee embodying its final recommendations which was placed before the full Committee on June 14.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF OF RS.5 CRORES

A Press Communique issued by the Railway Board on June 17 stated:

The Government of India have approved of the Resolution submitted by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in regard to various matters arising out of the present demands of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and the Railway Board have been instructed to get into touch immediately with the Federation, and, in the event of the latter also accepting the proposals and calling off the strike, to discuss with them details of the method of distribution of the immediate relief of Rs. 5 crores recurring with back effect from July 1, 1945.

SURPLUS RAILWAY STAFF

A Press Communique issued by the Railway Board on May 30, stated:

Owing to a large number of surplus staff having recently been found employment in other railway activities, figures now issued by the Railway Board show a marked improvement over similar figures previously published. The position at the end of April 1946 shows that with those re-engaged after discharge the actual number of staff rendered surplus was 27,175 of which 20,168 have either been re-employed or have been absorbed in other posts without a break in service.

The number of staff actually discharged and not yet re-employed up to the end of April was only 7,007 of which over 4,000 were those who had been employed by the Railways on behalf of other Government Departments.

RAILWAYMEN'S PROPOSAL TO "RAID" DEPRECIATION FUND

A Press Note issued by the Railway Board on June 4 stated:

A lack of appreciation of the disastrous consequences of a Rs. 50-crore raid on a Rs. 100-crore Depreciation Fund, a suggested repudiation of capital borrowings after interest charges equal to the capital have been paid, mention of hypothetical losses to Railways on concessions to military traffic which if retrieved would bolster up Railways' gross earnings, are the main features of the Federation's recent statement to the Press.

The Depreciation Fund to-day stands at Rs. 100 crores. Against this is the background of six wartime years when replacement and rehabilitation of stocks were almost at a stand still. The wear and tear during the last six years has been much more than normal and as a result over Rs. 30 crores a year are required at least for some years to come to rehabilitate railway assets at the rate necessary to give reasonable and efficient services to the public. Against this must be set off the normal contribution to the Depreciation Fund of a little over Rs. 13 crores.

If the Federation's suggestion is adopted it will leave Rs. 50 crores in the coffers which will be almost empty at the end of three years. A failure to replace and rehabilitate rolling stock, permanent way, etc., would reflect on the efficiency of the railways, reduce the safety factor in railway operation, reduce running services and bring in its wake lower revenue and higher operational cost.

Interest Charges

As it stands, the Depreciation Fund will be exhausted by 1957-58 without any hope of the revenue renewal being overtaken by contributions at the present rates, if post-war prices are stabilised at 130 per cent of pre-war prices. This question, has been repeatedly examined by experts and also by Members of the Legislature who have come to the conclusion that the contributions have not been excessive.

The suggestion put forward by the Federation is that capital should be wiped out after the aggregate interest charges paid have exceeded that amount. This is tantamount to saying that borrowings should be returned and no interest charges should be paid on it. As this, of course, presupposes the existence of a new social polity alien to the present social structure, it would be impossible even to entertain such a proposal. Railways only pay such interest charges as the Government pay to the public, and the Railways have been given the full benefit of the savings made in their interest charges by the Central Government through their loan conversion operations in recent years. Any default in interest payment by Railways can only mean getting the public to pay for Railwaymen's benefit by resorting to general taxation.

In peacetime the revenue on military traffic does not exceed Rs. one crore and a large proportion of military traffic consists of munitions, petrol, kerosene and other oils and explosives; and these are charged at full tariff rates and not at concessional rates.

There are no concessional rates for Government traffic. In view of the fact that peacetime military traffic is worth only Rs. one crore to the Railways the question has merely academic interest. The loss on strategic Railways which amounts to a couple of crores is not charged to Railway revenues but recovered from general revenues and as such does not lend itself to financial manipulation.

Railwaymen's Earnings

The lowest paid railway employee draws at present Rs. 38-8-0 per month as against the Federation's statement that he draws only Rs. 9 and if the offer made by the Railway Board had been accepted he would have drawn an additional four rupees bringing his total wages to Rs. 42-8-0. This is in addition to the benefits accruing to Railway servants and makes railwaymen's wages and conditions of service much more attractive than that of the industrial wage earner.

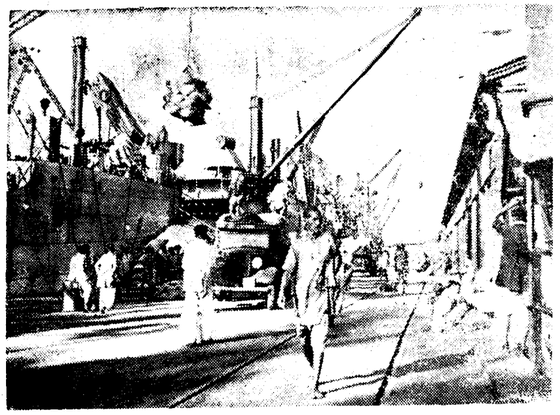
The average salary of a Railway Officer has been computed by the Federation at Rs. 1,400 per month which is 20 per cent. in excess of the real figure. It would be in the fitness of things to mention that the heads of public utility concerns in large towns draw much more than the head of a large Railway Administration. If the salaries were reduced to Rs. 500 a month as suggested by the Federation the resultant saving in money, will be only Rs. 1.3 crores as against loss in efficiency, and in personnel, as many would find more lucrative employment in commercial undertakings.

CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION

A Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on June 17, stated:

The Government of India desire to announce that a decision has been taken that all changes in scales of pay which may be decided upon in the light of the Pay Commission's recommendations will be given effect to from January 1, 1947.

This decision will apply to all classes and grades of Government servants under the control of the Governor-General-in-Council.



Bags of imported rice arrive at an Indian port.

FOOD SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO INDIA

THE actual and prospective grain shipments to India during the period January to June, 1946. amounted to 799,600 tons of wheat or wheat substitutes and 91,600 tons of rice. stated Sir Robert Hutchings, Food Secretary to the Government of India, addressing Pressmen at a conference in New Delhi on June 7. Of the first quantity, the contribution of the various countries in wheat is as follows: Australia, 444,000 tons, Canada, 137,600 tons, U. K., 5,500 tons and U.S.A., 132,500 tons. Of the 80,000 tons of maize programmed for shipment, U.S.A. and Argentine are to supply 40,000 tons each.

As regards shipments of rice, the exporting areas are Burma and Siam and the quantities due from them are 76,100 and 15,500 tons respectively.

Allocations to Deficit Areas

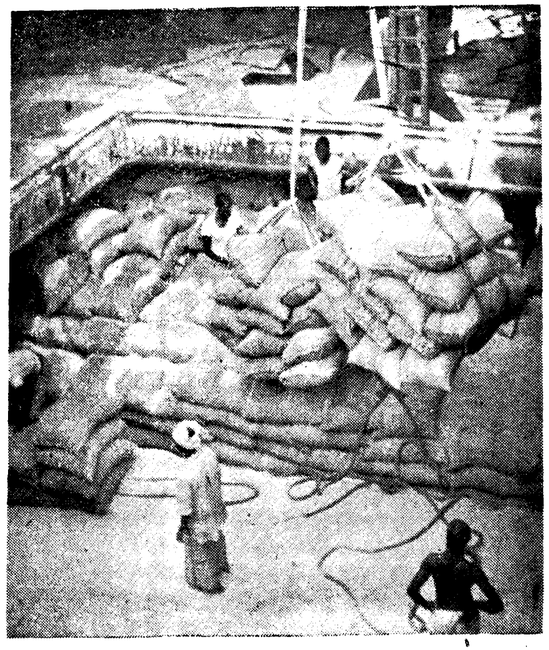
It was explained that grain shipped from abroad in June could be expected to have arrived in India by the end of July or the first half of August. In the Food Department's forward distribution programme, the imported supplies allocated to the principal deficit areas were 230,000 tons in June and 220,000 tons in July. Among the principal deficit areas are the provinces of Bombay and Madras and the States of Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, and the Deccan states.

The movement programme involved in distributing both imports and internal surpluses could be judged from the following figures for the month of June: firstly 230,000 tons of imported grain have to be moved from ports to inland destinations; secondly the movement of internal Basic Plan surpluses from the surplus to deficit areas in India included 45,500 tons of wheat, 79,000 tons of rice. 15,000 tons of millets, 29,500 tons of gram and 26,500 tons of pulses.

Thirdly, there was in addition, the movement of grain procured by provinces inside their own areas both by the trade and Governments, which have to be moved from surplus districts to towns and deficit districts within the provinces. Statistics showed that the average total volume of grain movement under all these categories was of the order of 700,000 tons a month.

The Secretary, Health Department, informed the conference that according to reports received from Provincial Governments there had been up to the present no noticeable deterioration in health conditions in Madras, Bombay and Mysore. Epidemic conditions have improved during the past month and the prevalence of cholera and smallpox is not more than normal. Emergency medical and epidemic supplies have been sent to Madras and Mysore and are in process of dispatch to the Bombay Government who have only recently placed their order.

There are serious cholera epidemics in Bihar and the U. P. In Bihar mortality has reached 2,400 deaths a week, and it is 1,700 deaths a week in the United Provinces. In Bengal mortality has reached 1,300 deaths. All three Provinces now show generally a decline. There is no indication however that these epidemics are related to malnutrition.



Rice being unloaded at an Indian port.

ACCURATE MAINTENANCE OF CROP STATISTICS

A crop-cutting technique called "random sampling method" has been evolved which promises to ensure an accurate maintenance of yield statistics.

The question of improving crop statistics was considered by an Inter-Departmental Committee of the Government of India in March 1943 and since then extensive research in the application of random sampling for conducting crop cutting experiments has been undertaken by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research under the direction of its Statistical Adviser, Dr. P. V. Sukhatme.

The object of the research was not merely to develop a method which will give estimates of yield of the maximum accuracy, but which also fit into the normal administrative routine.

The Method

The method consists in conducting crop-cutting experiments in fields selected at random in each *tehsil*. Every field in a *tehsil* growing a crop gets an equal chance of being selected. In each selected field a plot of size 1/100 of an acre or larger is marked in a random position and the crop harvested. The number of plots and their distribution between and within *tehsils* are planned to give yield estimates of the maximum accuracy subject to the administrative arrangements.

Plots sampled in this manner give yield estimates which are most representative of the true yield per acre for the tract surveyed. The yield estimates thus obtained cannot be numerically identical with the true yield over the whole area but can be brought within as close a limit of the latter as one may desire by increasing the number of experiments. The difference between the two can be easily calculated and is termed the sampling error of the estimates.

It has been found that the true yield rarely differs from the sampling estimates, either in the plus or in the minus direction, by a quantity larger than twice the sampling error. Crop-cutting experiments in sufficient numbers in fields selected at random thus provide the surest way of obtaining reliable estimate of yield.

The first surveys using this method were carried out by the Council on wheat in 1943-44 on a full provincial scale in the United Provinces and the Punjab. About 3,000 experiments were conducted in the United Provinces and 2,000 in the Punjab. The average yield per acre and the total outturn in each province were estimated with sampling errors of just over 1 per cent. The official estimate for the United Provinces was found to be an over-estimate by about 15 per cent. The results for the Punjab showed that the official estimate for irrigated wheat conformed closely to the sample figure, but that for un-irrigated wheat was lower by 14 per cent.

These surveys were extended in 1944-45 to cover the wheat belt comprising the Punjab, U.P., C.P., N.-W.F.P. and Sind, embracing an area of over 200,000 sq. miles and covering over 22 million acres of wheat. About 10,000 plots of size varying from 1/80th to 1/20th of an acre were located and harvested in some 3,000 villages. The total production for each of the five provinces was determined with sampling errors between 1 and 3 per cent. while the entire production for the whole of the tract was determined with a sampling error of less than 1 per cent. The estimates were available within a week of the last date of harvesting.

The results showed that the official estimate for the United Provinces was an over-estimate as in the previous year, the official estimates for the Punjab and the N.-W.F.P. were slight under-estimates, while those for the Central Provinces and Sind closely agreed with the corresponding sample estimates.

Survey of Paddy

The first survey of paddy on a full provincial scale was carried out in Orissa in the winter of 1944. This survey was followed in 1945 by a survey in the United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa, the Central Provinces, Bombay and the deltaic region of Madras. The area covered by the survey and the number of experiments carried out were larger than those for the wheat belt. As in the case of wheat surveys, sample estimates of the yield per acre and the total production were obtained within a margin of 3 per cent. sampling error. The official estimates were found to be under-estimates in certain provinces and over-estimates in others excepting Bombay and Madras where official estimates were found to be in close agreement with the sample estimates.

The results achieved call for adopting the random sampling method as a permanent measure for the improvement of yield statistics. If crop-cutting experiments are repeated over a series of years, the resulting normal yields for the districts will be considerably different from the present set of normal yields which form the basis of calculating the estimates.

In the current season sample surveys are in progress in all the five provinces covered last year, as also in Bihar. These surveys on wheat and paddy are the largest of their kind attempted anywhere in the world and have demonstrated that random sampling is a practical method for measuring the yield of agricultural crops and the best means of procuring reliable statistics.

DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD INDUSTRIES

IN order to capitalise the industrialisation achieved during the war and to extend it for the better utilisation of food resources, the Central Food Department is undertaking a survey of food industries to prepare plans for their development on an all-India basis.

All Provincial Governments and local Administrations have been requested to assist in the survey by providing information, in answer to the questionnaire issued, in respect of each of several industries. The questionnaire has also been issued directly to factories. It aims at eliciting information particularly to train production in new directions.

Planning Panels

As soon as factual information is available, five planning panels will be appointed for different groups of allied food industries. The industries covered include edible oils, butter, milk products, cheese, breakfast foods, biscuits, food yeast, sugar and sugar products, dextrose, canned meat and meat by products, synthetic and diabetic foods, canned foods other then fruits, vitamins, etc.

The possibilities of conserving food supplies now tending to be wasted in local and seasonal gluts are being explored with reference to mass production at costs which should command wider markets. Attention is also being directed for canning typical Indian foods with a view to meeting the demand from Indian communities abroad.

TIGHTENING OF FOOD AUSTERITY MEASURES

Further tightening of food austerity measures to the extent necessary in view of the present difficult food position and the removal of disparity in food austerity measures in order to put them on a more uniform basis throughout the country have been suggested by the Central Food Department to all Provinces, Administrations and leading States.

These austerity measures, which have already been introduced by several administrations, include restriction on the total number of guests to 24, including the host or hosts, to be entertained where milk, foodgrains or eatables are served; prohibition of the use of cereals or their products in the preparation of luxury foods like pastries, cakes and sweetmeats intended for sale; prohibition of making of ice-cream and *khoya*, limitation of courses to three to be served at meals in establishments; severe reduction of supply of sugar to aerated water and other mineral water manufacturers; restriction of sevice of rice in European style establishments, etc.

It has also been suggested that the rate of extraction of wholemeal *atta* should not be less than 95 per cent and the manufacture of the finer wheat products, *e.g., suji, rawa* and *maida*, should be banned. Wholemeal flour for bread should not be less than 85 per cent extraction.



In a village fish market.

NEED FOR PROPER MARKETING OF FISH

THE need for proper marketing of fish and the development of this industry is emphasised in the Report on the Marketing of Fish in India prepared by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India.

The marketing aspect of the fish industry is elaborated in the Report which also includes the recommendations recently submitted by the Fish Sub-Committee.

The total annual production of marine fish is estimated at 116.7 lakh maunds, while the marketable surplus of fresh water fish amounts to 62.6 lakh maunds. Almost 99 per cent of the inland catch is consumed as fresh fish. The consumption of fresh sea fish is limited owing to an inadequate and uneconomic refrigeration. Approximately 60 per cent of the sea fish reaches the consumer as dried or salted. The Report recommends that efforts should be made to popularise the consumption of preserved fish in areas where this type of food is still unfamiliar. For this, suitable methods of preservation and dehydration will have to be undertaken.

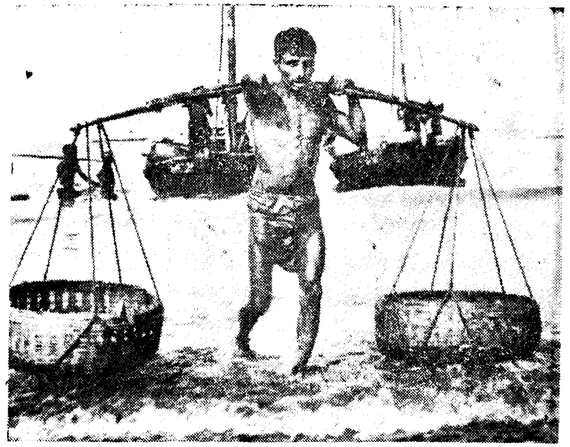
The cost of effecting such improved processing technique is considered beyond the means of individual fishermen who play an insignificant part in the disposal of their respective catches. At present, the marketing is almost entirely in the hands of the middlemen to whom the producers are hopelessly indebted. The Report furnishes a solution by recommending the formation of fishermen's co-operative societies to dispose of their collective catches, and thus aims at producing a better quality of fish in the market. For a proper marketing of this product in the consuming areas, it is stressed that these societies should be linked to the co-operative sale societies.

Preserved Fish

There are practically no imports of raw fish into India. Considerable quantities of dried and canned fish and fish by-products such as cod liver oil and manures valued at Rs. 16 lakhs per annum are imported. To encourage the canning of fish and to ensure regular supplies of it in prime condition and at cheap rates, the Report recommends the starting of mobile canneries.

It is suggested that recipes which would appeal to the Indian taste should be worked out by experts and the possibility of canning crabs, oysters and prawns in addition to fish and fish pastes should be examined. It is pointed out that the canned marine produce should be graded according to certain well-defined standards. The Report recommends that suitable methods of power fishing of Indian seas be investigated on a planned commercial scale.

According to the Report, the term "fish" includes not only the finny tribes but also aquatic animals like



A fisherman returning home with the day's catch.

prawns, lobsters, crabs, oysters etc. and about 50 of these varieties are considered to be commercially important. Not all of them are consumed as food. At present, a number of varieties, constituting about 10 per cent of the total aquatic animals from Indian waters, are converted into commercial products like manure, guano, etc.

Appreciable quantities of sun-dried, salted and smoked fish are consumed in the country. The method of preservation by sun-drying is popular in Bengal, Travancore and Bombay. The Report suggests that only thin varieties of fish should be sun-dried. Over 65 per cent of the production of salted or cured fish is concentrated in Madras which has the largest number of fish curing yards. (The Government of India allow salt free of duty under certain conditions for curing fish.)

Wholesome Food

Much care and hygiene is recommended in handling fish for curing purposes. It should be carefully stowed in boats. Smoked fish, which is prepared by suspending fish on rods in a kiln in which a smoky fire is burning, is not popular with the Indian consumers. It is pointed out in the Report that this product could be conveniently introduced in India provided the public accepted this form of wholesome food. This method would also eliminate much of the waste now incurred and would release a greater percentage of fish for human consumption.

Since it has been established that the annual landing of marine or fresh water fish is subject to wide variations, it is recommended that a quantitative statistical survey of each commercial variety be compiled over a period of last five years and repeated quinquennially thereafter.

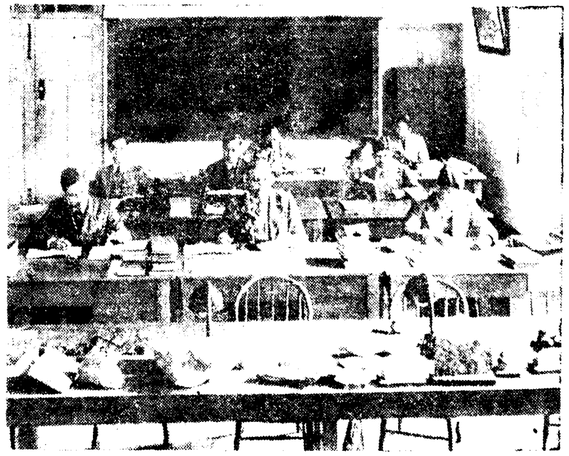
The Report concludes by suggesting that the production of medicinal oil from shark livers and oily fish should be developed as a cottage industry.

EXPORT OF FOODSTUFFS BY POST

The Government of India have decided that controlled foodstuffs may be exported by post when covered by a written authority from the Food Department which should accompany parcels presented for despatch, said a Press Note issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on June 5.

It added: It may, however, be stated that applications for export of controlled food are at present refused, as a rule, by the Food Department.

By previous notifications the Government of India had absolutely prohibited the export of foodstuffs by post with the exception of a parcel of tea up to a maximum of 1 lb. This ban on export has been lifted in the case of the export of coffee and uncontrolled foodstuffs.



Indian geologists at work in Melbourne.

INDIAN GEOLOGISTS IN AUSTRALIA

Post-Graduate Work at Melbourne University

EIGHT Indian geologists recently arrived at Melbourne for post-graduate work at the University. They were sent by the Government of India for advanced work in preparation for the expansion of the Geological Survey, the largest of its kind in the British Empire.

The eight Indians are: Dr. K. Jacob and Messrs A F M Mohsenul Haque, K. K. Dutta, P K. Chatterjee, M. S. Balasundaram, R. N. P. Aregyaswami, V. Subramanyam and B. G. Deshpande.

Formerly Indian geologists went to England Europe and America for higher university training. This time Australia was selected because the geology of Australia is very similar to that of India and the academic year, from March to October, coincides with the recess period in the Survey of India. The Geological School at Melbourne provides facilities fully comparable with those found elsewhere, at a considerably lower cost.

Training Scheme

The men, who are Geological Survey Officers with experience of work in India during the war, will undergo a general course and specialise in one branch of geology under the direction of Professor E. S. Hills. They will also visit several mining fields in Australia. On their return to India in November, they will take up work in the magnitre, mineral development, engineering geology, geophysics and laboratory divisions of the Geological Survey, each according to his speciality.

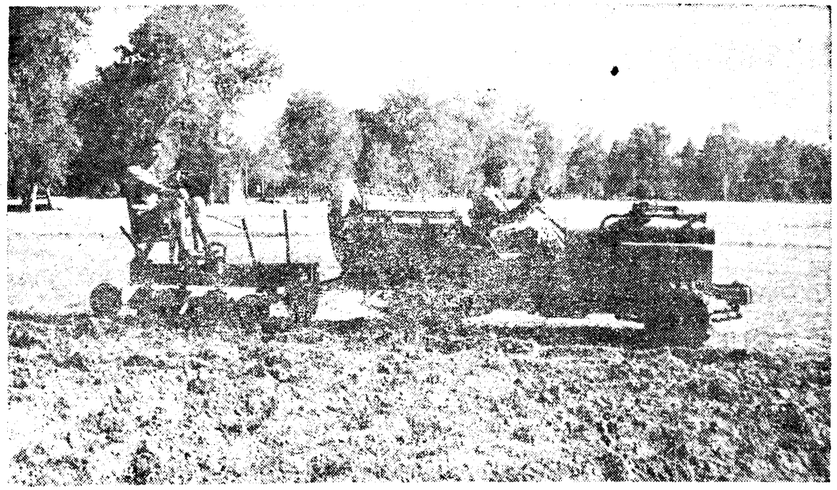
It was originally intended to send 12 men each year, but because of housing shortage in Australia the Government of India reduced the number to eight. It is hoped to continue the training scheme for the next three years.

DAIRY DEVELOPMENT IN BOMBAY

A scheme estimated to cost over *Rs. 23,00,000*, prepared by the Government of Bombay relating to dairy development in the Province, has now been approved by the Government of India.

The Central Government on their part have sanctioned, in connection with this development scheme, a grant equal to one half of the cost of the appointment of the Deputy Milk Commissioner in the Bombay Province during the year 1946-47, subject to a maximum of Rs. 15,528; and also a grant equal to one half of the loss to be incurred in the supply of imported concentrates to the owners of milch cattle at subsidised rates during 1946-47, subject to a maximum of Rs. 11,71,100.

The distribution of concentrates to milch cattle is expected to aid considerably in the production of additional quantities of milk.



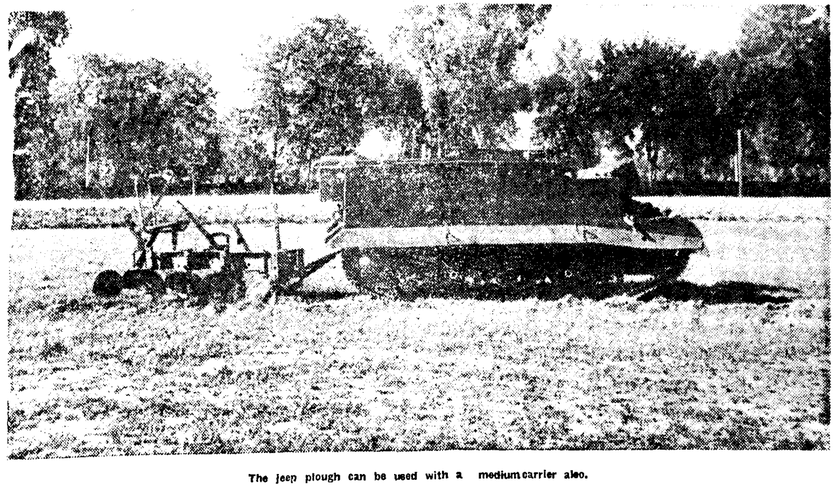
Built from the armoured plates of broken-down lorries, a new triangle-shaped plough has recently been perfected by the R.I.E.M.E. Workshop at Risalpur. These ploughs are drawn by jeeps or carriers instead of bullocks. Here, a jeep plough cuts a triple furrow.

ANTI-FAMINE "WEAPON"

To help combat the threatened famine in India the Army is turning its modern 'swords'—the tanks—into ploughshares and replacing bullocks by jeeps and armoured carriers. Built from the armoured plates of broken down tanks and parts of unserviceable military trucks, a new triangle-shaped plough has recently been perfected by the R.I.E.M.E. workshops at Risalpur.

The plough is mounted on a chassis with three wheels and has three shares which plough deep furrows even on hard, dry ground. Instead of the conventional bullocks, the plough is drawn by a jeep.

Much land, including Risalpur's extensive polo grounds, have been tilled by this jeep-carrier plough. With the help of this new anti-famine "weapon" it is hoped to raise a good crop during the coming season.



The jeep plough can be used with a medium carrier also.

ANTI-INDIAN LEGISLATION IN S. AFRICA

Indian High Commissioner Recalled

A PRESS Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on June 11, stated:

As a protest against the South African Union Government's continued attitude of indifference to the representations of the Government of India for the postponement of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill, the existing trade agreement between India and South Africa is being terminated; and as matters do not seem to improve, it has been found necessary to recall the High Commissioner.

The Draft Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill, just passed in the Union Parliament, and assented to by the Governor-General, marks the culmination of a series of legislative measures that have been adopted by the Union Government from time to time in the teeth of opposition of the Indian community in South Africa and the protests from the Government of India. Indians in South Africa at present number 250,000 distributed in Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape of Good Hope. Out of 200,000 Indians domiciled in the Province of Natal, 118,000 live in Durban. The European population of Durban is 125,000.

Emigration of Indians to Natal began in 1860 on the repeated importunities of the Natal Government for supply of unskilled labour for sugar plantations. Soon after the first indenture period was over when the labourers began to return to India, the colonists found difficulty in procuring local native labour and the sugar industry was threatened with ruin. The Natal Government renewed their requests and an agreement was reached between them and the Government of India whereby the Indian immigrants were granted lands, in lieu of a free passage to India, if they wished to settle in the Colonies, after completing their terms of indenture. This led to resumption of immigration to Natal in 1874.

Terms of Immigration

It was an integral part of the terms of immigration that the labourer should enjoy equality of status after the period of indenture and that he would live under the ordinary law of the land and not be subject to any discriminatory legislation. In fact, the Government of India had made it clear in their communication to Natal Government, "We cannot permit emigration to be resumed until we are satisfied that the Colonial authorities are awake to their duty towards Indian immigrants and that effective measures have been taken to ensure to that class of His Majesty's subjects full protection in Natal."

The Indian indentured immigration continued steadily after 1874 and was naturally soon supplemented by immigration of free Indians, there being then no barrier to their settlement in South Africa.

The Government of India did a great deal to encourage Indian labour to go to South Africa in order to oblige the Natal Government and the planters. But when the time came for Indians to settle down in the Colony as free people, the Natal Government, far from honouring its agreement, began imposing disabilities on them.

In 1896, Indians were deprived of political franchise. Then a Poll Tax was levied of £3 per annum and in 1913 Indians were declared prohibited immigrants. Simultaneously there had been agitation in the Transvaal against Indians in the form of restrictions on entry of Indians as well as on their residence and trading. The anti-Indian agitation led to a passive resistance movement under the guidance of Mr. Gandhi which culminated in the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement of 1914 by which the abolition of the £3 tax and the remedying of other grievances were promised. General Smuts expressed the hope that the Agreement would constitute a complete and final settlement of the controversy.

Cape Town Agreement

After the first World War a fresh agitation against Indians was started. It took the form of legislation intended to impose restrictions on land holding and residence in urban areas, the object being, in the words of Dr. Malan, to treat the Indian as an alien element to be considerably reduced Happily, the Class Areas Bill lapsed owing to the dissolution of the Parliament. The Areas Reservation Bill, introduced next year, was shelved on representation made by the Government of India, pending joint discussions between representatives of the two Governments at a Conference in 1926. By this agreement, called the Cape Town Agreement, the Union Government undertook to provide for the uplift, through education and other means, of Indians who remained in the Union and were prepared to conform to the western standards of living, while the Government of India promised to do its best to provide more adequately for repatriated Indians.

But the Cape Town Agreement has remained a dead letter, the uplift clauses thereof not being implemented, mainly owing to the default of Provincial and Municipal Governments. After 20 years, the position today is that Indians in South Africa are a voteless community, suffering from various economic, social and political disabilities. Indians cannot, also, move from one province to another in the Union of South Africa. They cannot use trams, railway compartments, places of amusements, restaurants, which are exclusively reserved for Europeans. No facilities for medical and engineering training have been provided for them with the result that the Government of India had to reserve seats for Indian students from South Africa in the various institutions in India. Indians do not also hold any jobs except menial ones.

As for Indians in the Transvaal, the Union Government had in 1939 sought to restrict the right of Indians to occupy certain lands, to trade anywhere in the Transvaal (today, Indian traders in the Transvaal have to take out a licence which is not easily obtainable) and to transfer their business anywhere in the same township by passing, what is known as the Interim Act of 1939.

First Broome Commission

This was a two-year measure and was followed in 1940 by the appointment of the Indian Penetration Commission, known as the first Broome Commission, to enquire into and report whether it was a fact that Indians were encroaching upon lands situated in the predominantly European areas. The Commission found that the extent of Indian penetration in the Transvaal since 1927 was not alarming or even surprising, while in Natal it was little more than a trickle. Shortly after, the Europeans alleged that, since the publication of the Commission's report, Indian penetration in predominantly European areas had become a serious menace and they clamoured for the appointment of another Commission for Durban.

A Commission, popularly known as the Second Broome Commission, was accordingly appointed and reported that although there had been some penetration by Indians it had been greatly exaggerated, and that the Commission and the public had been misled by an inaccurate map and misrepresentation of facts.

What actually happened was that Indian traders had made money during the war but found no outlet for investment. They could not send their money to India for fear of being accused of extra-territorial patriotism and of exploitation of the country in which they had settled.

They were also living in almost slum conditions, and, with an improved standard of living, naturally wanted to live in better houses in more sanitary surroundings. They had, therefore, purchased at phenomenal prices some sites discarded by Europeans, or situated on the fringes of European areas. Though there were 118,000 Indians to an European population of 125,000, Indians owned only 4 per cent. of the total acreage of property in Durban proper.

European agitation, however, increased in intensity and resulted in the Pegging Bill being rushed through the Union Parliament in 1943, despite the Government of India's protests. For the first time statutory restrictions were imposed on the acquisition of land by Asiatics in Natal. Fresh protests from the Government of India and Indians in South Africa led the Union Government to appoint in March, 1944, a judicial commission, the third Broome Commission, to enquire into and report on matters affecting the Indian community in the Province of Natal.

The Indian community agreed to co-operate with the Commission. And the result was the Pretoria Agreement. According to this Agreement the Pegging Act was to be replaced by an Ordinance to be passed by the Natal Provincial Council providing for the creation of a Licensing Board consisting of two European and two Indian members with a third European, with legal training, as Chairman. The Government of India did not regard this as the ideal solution of the Indian problem, but agreed to give the agreement a chance.

Once again, as a result of European protests, the Select Committee to which the legislation was referred, dealt with it so drastically that, in the opinion of the Government of India, the resulting revised draft was in direct contravention of the Pretoria Agreement in several important respects.

Reciprocity Act

When the Ordinance was passed, the Government of India, on their representations being disregarded, enforced their Reciprocity Act declaring persons of non-Indian origin domiciled in the Union of South Africa to be prohibited immigrants in India and debarring them from acquiring or occupying property in India without obtaining permits.

Fortunately, the Union Government declared the Ordinance 'ultra vires' and expressed their intention of exploring an alternative solution of the Indian question. In June, 1945, the Union Government undertook legislation for the provision of better housing facilities for all classes of the population, including Indians. The Housing (Emergency powers) Act was passed and under one of its provisions the Natal Housing Ordinance was enacted by the Natal Provincial Council. The High Commissioner for India and representatives of the Indian community were taken into confidence at various stages. The Government of India also acquiesced on administrative assurances being given, that the new measure would not in any way prejudice existing Indian interests. The Government of India was given a hint that the Pegging Act would be allowed to lapse after March 31, 1946. These matters, the Government of India hoped, would prove adequate in solving the problem of Indian rights in land.

The Draft Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill, introduced in the Union Parliament, came, therefore, as a surprise. In the opinion of the Government of India, this Bill is worse in many respects than the Pegging Act because, while that Act applied only to residential land in urban areas, the present Bill applies to all kinds of land, including agricultural land, both in urban and rural areas.

The Government of India consider that its effect will be to extend permanently the provisions of the Pegging Act to all kinds of land, urban and rural, throughout Natal and the Transvaal. The franchise, which is proposed to be given on a communal basis, will provide for representation by Europeans, except in the case of the Natal Provincial Council where it may be by Indians.

The Government of India asked for postponement of the legislation and, as recommended by the third Broome Commission (this was the only recommendation made by the Commission) requested the Union Government to receive a representative Delegation of Indians to explore an alternative settlement. The suggestion was rejected and the Bill was rushed through in the Parliament.

Such an attitude seems unjustifiable in view of the new international outlook arising out of the second World War. The Government of India have had to give notice of the termination of its Trade Agreement with the Union Government. A Delegation of the South African Indian Congress was in India enlisting cooperation of Government and the people.

NEW HALF-ANNA POST CARDS

A Press Communique issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Government of India, on June 12 stated:

Consequent on the reduction of postage rate on inland postcards, as already announced, new half-anna postcards will be available for sale at all Post offices with effect from July 1, 1946.

With regard to the nine pies postcards held by the public and remaining unused after June 30, 1946, the Post offices will exchange them for half-anna postcards upto September 30, 1946, provided they are in a serviceable state.

No exchange will be permissible in respect of nine pies postcards containing any printed matter but a refund of their value subject to a reduction of 20 per cent., will be granted, as a special case. Applications for such refunds should be made to the Postmasters-General concerned.

A Press Note issued by the Imperial Record Department on June 27 stated:

In response to public demand the last date for receiving applications for the Diploma Course in Archives Keeping has been extended up to July 15. The classes will commence from August 1, 1946.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on June 5, stated:

The Government of India published a Press Note in March explaining that the insurance of motor vehicles against third party risks would be made compulsory in British India from July 1, 1946, that certain rules, brief particulars of which were given, had been published for objections, but that the owners of motor vehicles need not take any action until nearer July 1, 1946, when further advice would be published.

The law on the subject will be found in Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

On and after July 1, 1946, all motor vehicles other than vehicles owned by Government and certain approval local authorities, used in British India, must be insured against death or bodily injury as follows in respect of any one accident:—

Goods Vehicles—Third party liability of not less than Rs. 20,000.

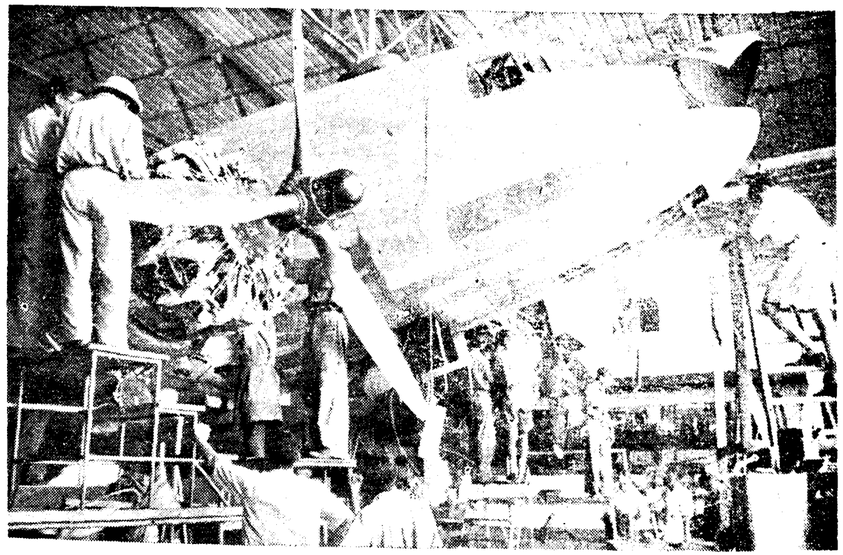
Public Service Vehicles—Third party liability in respect of persons other than passengers of not less than Rs. 20,000, and in respect of passengers liability not less than Rs. 20,000 in all and not less than Rs. 4,000 in respect of an individual passenger if the vehicle is registered to carry not more than six passengers excluding the driver, or Rs. 2,000 if the vehicle is registered to carry more than six passengers excluding the driver.

Vehicles other than the above including private motor cars—Unlimited third party liability.

In addition, Provincial Governments are authorised to require that policies shall cover liability arising under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in respect of employees carried on vehicles.

Apart from a policy of insurance complying with the above requirements owners must have a certificate of insurance the production of which the police are authorised to demand. This will be supplied by the Insurance Company with which the owner is insured.

Since on and after July 1, 1946, it will be an offence to drive or to cause, or allow, to be driven (a motor vehicle) in a public place in British India unless the vehicle is covered by a policy of insurance complying with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1939, and the offence will be punishable with imprisonment or fine or both, owners are advised immediately to take steps to insure their vehicles or, if these are already insured, to satisfy themselves that the policies comply with the requirements of the Act, and to obtain a certificate of insurance in respect of each vehicle. If action is postponed to the last minute the insurance companies may not be able to deal with cases in time.



A Douglas Bomber undergoing repairs in an Indian Aircraft Repair and Maintenance Factory.

NATIONAL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY FOR INDIA

THE Government of India have decided to establish a national aircraft industry in India, with a 20-year target of complete self-sufficiency, for building aircraft needed for the Royal Indian Air Force as well as for civil aviation. The decision is based on the recommendation of the United Kingdom Aircraft Mission which was invited to India in March, 1946. The report will be released as soon as arrangements for its printing can be made.

The Mission consisted of Messrs. J. V. Connolly and L. R. Barrett from H.M.G.'s Ministry of Supply and Aircraft Production and Messrs. J. D. North and S. P. Woodley of the Society of British Aircraft Constructors. Arriving in India on March 25, they made a rapid, but intensive survey of the potentialities for the manufacture of aircraft and its ancillary products. They visited the aircraft repair and maintenance factories at Barrackpore, Poona and Bangalore as well as the Ordnance factories at Cawnpore, Cossipore and Jubbulpore. Their report was submitted to the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, towards the end of April.

After examining the three sites at which aircraft repair and maintenance had been carried on during the war—at Barrackpore, Poona and Bangalore—the Mission recommended that aircraft production should, initially, be started in the Bangalore factory, as it is the only one which is still a working aircraft unit, has the longest experience of aircraft work and the greatest number of staff and operatives experienced in working as a team on aircraft production. It has to its credit the design, execution and successful flight of an entirely original prototype glider. Moreover, research and training facilities are available closeby at the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore.

Due to the comparatively small initial demand for aircraft, only one factory is recommended in the first instance; but at a later stage of development, production may be started at other centres.

Dealing with the probable costs, the Mission say that the scheme for this industry is in a state which prevents accurate estimates being made



An instructor (left) in the aero-engine assembly section of the factory is demonstrating the engine.



A Bristol engine being installed on a Lysander aircraft.

until the final programme of production is decided upon. They consider, however, having regard to the assets already available in the Bangalore factory and the probable production programme that an extra expenditure of Rs. 13 lakhs should meet all the requirements for plant for the next five years.

This does not include capital expenditure on engine development which is likely to be heavy. But on this aspect of the industry, the Mission did not consider themselves fully qualified to report and the matter is being separately pursued. The Mission on the basis of their present calculations do not consider that the running cost to the taxpayer of the scheme suggested by them for the first quinquennial period need exceed Rs. 130 lakhs. This will be the net additional cost over and above what India would have paid if the aircraft were purchased overseas. As against this must be set off the fact that India would have the nucleus of an aircraft industry including trainers, technicians, and designers.

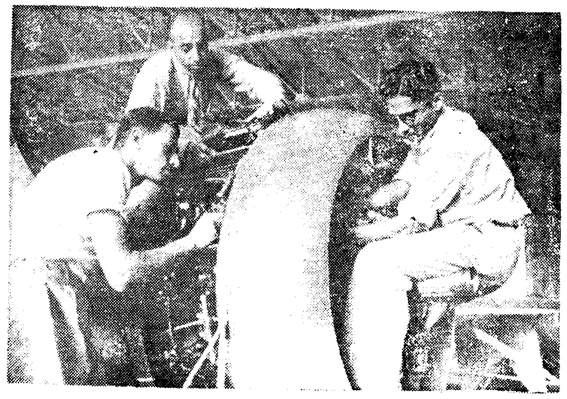
On the Mission's recommendations the Government have decided that the Board of Directors should be reconstituted to include three Technical Expert Directors, namely, the Managing Director, the Technical Director and the Works Director from the U. K. and a Finance Director from India as whole-time executives as no qualified Indians for the first three posts are at present available.

An important part of the general plan for the development of the industry will, however, be to train Indians for filling such posts. The other Directors will be part-time officers and will consist of the Director-General of Civil Aviation or other expert representative of Government's aviation interests, a representative of the Industries and Supplies Department, a nominee of the Mysore Government (if they still retain a financial interest in the factory) and two Indian industrialists.

The Mission have stressed the advantage of having two non-official Directors on the Board, even though the Company will be one entirely financed by Government. They feel that the association in this manner of private industrialists who have rendered important services during the war will be in the wider national interest.



Adjusting release mechanism of parachute flare on a Catalina flying boat.



Engine of a Catalina patrol boat being repaired.

The Mission attach particular importance even at the initial stage to the designing of aircraft, as only by this means will the necessary confidence and skill be obtained by Indian staff. The Government have accordingly decided that the design of an original prototype aeroplane specifically suited to Indian conditions should be taken up immediately.

The Mission have given a detailed report on some aspects of technical training including that available at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and also on labour training. They consider the facilities available at Bangalore promising and have suggested ways and means for their development and co-ordination with the requirements of the industry.

Trainer Aircraft

The Government have decided that steps should be taken forthwith for the production of trainer aircraft required for the R.I.A.F. It is anticipated that the first aircraft will come out of the Indian factory in less than 18 months from now.

The size of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. makes some complementary manufacture side by side with aircraft production desirable during the first quinquennium. The passenger coach project has been recommended as eminently suitable by the Mission. The Railway Department, are prepared to place orders for coaches for the next five years subject to the type and price being found satisfactory. Their first order will be for 100 coaches, which will probably be the maximum yearly capacity of the factory.

AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD

THE Government of India have established an Air Transport Licensing Board, said a Press communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on June 9.

It added: In January, 1946, the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, were amended providing that no air transport service shall be established or shall operate in British India after October 1, 1946, except under the authority of and in accordance with a licence issued for the purpose.

The amended rules also provided for the establishment of an Air Transport Licensing Board to be charged with the duty of examining applications for licences to operate air transport services and of issuing, amending, suspending or revoking such licences.

The Government of India have now constituted this Board as follows:

Mr. Justice Din Muhammad, Puisne Judge of Lahore High Court (Chairman).

Director-General of Civil Aviation in India (Deputy Chairman).

Mr. M. K. Sen Gupta, C.I.E., Financial Adviser (Communications) Government of India (Member).

Two more Members will be appointed to the Board, one with special knowledge of aviation or air transport and another in consultation with His Excellency the Crown Representative.

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 8 lakhs from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for amenities for troops during the current financial year. Rs. 5 lakhs of this is for British and Indian troops in India and Rs. 3 lakhs for Indian troops in S.E.A.C.

PASSAGES TO UNITED KINGDOM

A Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on June 14, stated:

During May 1946, 972 males and 1,598 women and children secured sea passages to the United Kingdom. These were mainly in the first five priorities and include several hundred children between the ages of 12 and 16 proceeding to the United Kingdom for education and accompanied by parents or guardians.

During June it is hoped that over 3,000 civilians passages will be available.

For July the allotment of civilian passages is 950 males and 1,300 women and children. This will provide for the first five priorities and in the case of women and children will cover also the 6th priority and most of the 7th priority.

Persons who are registered for passages in July but owing to change of plans do not wish to travel in July should inform their travel agents as soon as possible.

PERMANENT POSTS FOR C. P. W. D. MEN

To secure the effective maintenance of all permanent buildings under the control of the Central Public Works Department in Delhi and at the same time to give adequate service prospects to the employees engaged on maintenance or construction works, the Government of India have accepted in principle the necessity of providing a sufficient number of permanent posts.

In selecting employees for such permanent posts in the work-charged, establishment, preference will be given to those who have continuous service of over 10 years. On selection for a permanent post, an employee will have the option of counting his continuous service for pension or of retaining his rights to the contributory provident fund.

Government are considering other points, such as pay and allowances, accommodation, working hours, leave and holidays, raised by C. P. W. D. Workers' Union, New Delhi, in their recent representation.

Mr. K. R. P. Aiyangar, Secretary to the Central Pay Commission, has returned to New Delhi from England after a six-week study of the terms and conditions of service of the British Civil Service. He also gathered information on machinery established in the United Kingdom for settling differences between Government and Government employees.

The preliminary work of collecting data has already begun and the Pay Commission is expected to hold its first meeting shortly in New Delhi.

WHAT INDIA GETS UNDER INDO-U.S. LEND-LEASE AGREEMENT

A Press Communique issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on May 31, stated:

The Government of India Delegation led by the Hon'ble Mr. A.-A. Waugh, Member for Industries and Supplies, Government of India, which went to Washington early in April, 1946, has returned to India after concluding a satisfactory settlement with the Government of the United States for Lend-Lease, Reciprocal Aid, surplus war property located in India and for the financial claims of each Government against the other arising out of the war.

The settlement provides for a complete cancellation of payments for Lend-Lease, Reciprocal Aid, U.S.-owned surpluses in India and claims arising out of the war, subject to the condition that, if the sale proceeds of U.S.-owned surpluses exceed the equivalent of 50 million dollars, 50 per cent. of the excess proceeds will be paid to the U.S. Government in rupees. These rupees will be spent in acquiring embassy sites and buildings and for an agreed cultural and educational programme in India, or for American Government expenditure in India, but for no other purpose. No dollar liability will thus arise.

Reciprocal Aid

The settlement should be viewed against the background of the following facts. The United States sent India about Rs. 650 crores worth of Lend-Lease goods. These stores were obtained partly for India's own purposes and partly for purposes of H.M.G.'s war measures, in particular, operations by South East Asia Command for which India was the base. The value of Lend-Lease stores for which India could properly assume liability amounted to nearly Rs. 200 crores. These stores include those obtained for essential civil purposes in India, such as machine tools, steel, non-ferrous metals, railway equipment, etc., and the military articles consumed during the war, or held after the war for India's own purposes.

In return for this aid, India gave reciprocal aid to the United States in the shape of supplies and services for the U.S. Forces in India, certain raw materials, and services for United States shipping in Indian ports. The cost of this reciprocal aid, including the capital cost of airfields and accommodation built for the U.S. Forces in India, came to nearly Rs. 200 crores.

Other factors in the settlement were the financial claims relating to supplies and services rendered after V-J. Day (which produced a net figure of Rs. 14 crores due to India, and the surplus war property located in India. The surplus war property arose from two sources. As has been stated above, the greater proportion of Lend-Lease stores came to India on United Kingdom's account and there were considerable surpluses from United Kingdom military holdings of Lend-Lease stores that had a civilian use in India.

They include trucks, metre-gauge locomotives and wagons, engineer equipment, etc., as well as petroleum products in India (other than aviation spirit, which had already been covered by the United Kingdom Agreement). Secondly, there were large United States-owned surpluses in India. These include hospital equipment, road-making and other engineer equipment, transportation stores, vehicles, aircraft, machinery, food, etc.

Lend-Lease Articles

Under the Agreement India gets—

(a) Lend-Lease civilian articles held by India on V.-J. Day, i.e., September 2, 1945, such as machine tools, metals, railway equipment, chemicals, etc.;

(b) Lend-Lease articles on order on V.-J. Day;

(c) The military Lend-Lease articles held for the Indian Armed Forces as on April 1, 1946, subject to the United States Government's right of recapture, which will not generally be exercised;

(d) Surpluses from the United Kingdom military holdings in India with a civilian use in India, such as trucks, metre-gauge locomotives, wagons, etc. The Government of India has the right to use and sell them in India, but if they are to be sold outside India the prior permission of the United States Government has to be obtained;

(e) Lend-Lease petroleum products in India other than aviation spirit;

Quarterly Reports

(f) The United States-owned surpluses in India. Their disposal will be entirely the responsibility of the Government of India. Quarterly reports on the proceeds of disposals will be sent to United States Government. Termination of the disposal programme, at the stage when disposals operations cannot be profitably carried on, will be determined by the Government of India, and a final report will be sent to the United States Government. At that stage any payment from realisations in excess of the equivalent of 50 million dollars will be made to the United States Government in rupees.

(g) All installations in India whether built from Lend-Lease or from Reciprocal Aid materials become the property of the Government of India.

The United States Government gets the Reciprocal Aid articles in the possession of the United States Government on V.-J. Day.

India agrees not to charge United States Government for the supplies and services rendered to United States Forces in India from V.-J. Day until May 31, 1946, (the date of closing of the India-Burma theatre) and also agrees to meet certain defined claims against members of United States Forces in India, such as claims arising out of traffic accidents, etc.

These negotiations did not cover silver obtained by India under a separate agreement executed in 1944 which provided for its return in kind. The figures given above for Lend-Lease are exclusive of the value of this silver.

The agreement, which was concluded in an atmosphere of mutual goodwill, augurs well for the future of relations between U.S.A. and India.

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT INDIAN RECORDS

More than 60 eminent historians from all over the country assembled at Peshawar in October 1945 for the 22nd annual meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission, whose proceedings have now been issued in a separate volume.

The Conference at which the Hon'ble Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh presided, planned a number of fresh measures for the collection of old records and their preservation for posterity.

The publication, now issued, gives details of these measures, which include the formation, with financial aid from the Government of India, of *ad hoc* and Regional Survey Committees in the provinces and States.

Further, it has been suggested that the Government of India's Director of Archives will hereafter inspect provincial records offices and advise them on matters relating to their arrangement and safe preservation. In this connection, a recommendation has been made that district and divisional records may be transferred to provincial or State centres.

Twenty-Year Plan

A five-year plan of publication, to be followed by a more ambitious twenty-year plan, has been undertaken by the Commission's Research and Publication Committee and a number of important historical documents will be published in oriental languages.

The publication includes 37 short articles, specially contributed, based on documents available for the first time on various aspects of life and politics in India.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND U.K. FOR DISPOSAL OF MICA STOCKS

DURING the first few months of the war, mica required in large quantities by the United Nations, particularly the U.K. and U.S.A., was procured mainly through ordinary trade channels without any assistance from the Government of India.

In 1940 the Supply Department, at the request of the U.S.A. undertook to collect and forward to Washington, on behalf of the Ministry of Supply, offers of mica to form a Federal stock pile. In 1941 again, at the request of the U.S.A. Government, the Supply Department negotiated contracts with the Metal Reserve Co. of America for the procurement of large stocks of mica. In addition to these contracts purchases, purchases for the U.K. and some purchases for the U.S.A. continued through ordinary trade channels without any assistance from the Government of India.

Joint Mica Mission

The U.K. and U.S.A. Governments then decided to change their methods of buying mica and from August 1, 1942, they formed a Joint Mica Mission composed of American and U.K. representatives. This Mission under instructions from its principals was responsible for purchasing, inspecting, accepting, paying for and despatching all mica required by the United Nations. It was assisted by the Geological Survey of India. It arranged a series of samples in consultation with the Government of India.

The Mission declared that it would buy all mica offered which was up to the standard of its samples. This practically covered the whole range of mica produced in India. Export of mica was controlled by the Government of India and no export was possible except with the concurrence or on the authority of the Joint Mica Mission.

As a result of the large scale purchases of the Mission up to the end of November 1945, large stocks of mica accumulated with the Joint Mica Mission in India and with the U.K. and U.S.A. Governments and the manufacturers in those countries. It was realised that unrestricted sales of this accumulated stock after the war, would cause a slump in the Indian industry and paralyse the trade. The Government of India were anxious to solve the question in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. It was understood that any surplus stocks owned by the U.S.A. Government would remain frozen for 15 months after the end of the Japanese war.

The Government of India decided that the question should be discussed in detail in U.K. with the Ministry of Supply and they accordingly sent out a Mission in September 1945, led by Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department. Besides Mr. Prior, the deputation consisted of a senior officer of the Bihar Government, Mr. J. W. Houlton, and two representatives of the Indian Trade—Mr. Chand Mull Rajgharia and Mr. E. F. Watson.

Plan for Disposal

As a result of those discussions, arrangement for the disposal of stocks has been arrived at. The broad basis of the plan is the gradual marketing of the stocks over a period of years, in relation to current sales and without undue interference with current production in India. The arrangements contemplate the disposal of the main commercial categories of block and films over varying periods up to five years and the disposal of the smaller sizes (grade 5 and smaller) of block mica of qualities stained and lower, and the main stocks of loose splittings, as market conditions permit, within a target period of 10 years.

In the case of lowest quality small grade splittings there is normally surplus production and the U.K. Government have agreed to withhold these from sale unless new demands arise, which enable them to be disposed of in addition to the normal Indian production.

Mica Disposals Panel.

The actual rates of release and the prices at which sales from Government stocks will be made, will be fixed periodically on the advice of a Mica Disposals Panel, consisting of officers of the Board of Trade and of the Mica Trade Association with an Observer representing the Government of India. Sir David Meek, the Indian Trade Commissioner in U.K., has been nominated to be Government of India's Observer on the Disposals Panel. He will be assisted by an Advisory Committee of two members, representing the Indian mica trade. Mr. John Podger, the representative of Messrs. Chottu Ram Horil Ram Ltd. and Mr. S. K. Dutt, the representative of the Indian Mica Supply Co. Ltd., both of whom are in London, are the members of the Advisory Committee.

Any point of difference will be referred to the Government of India by the Observer. The prices at which the Board of Trade will sell its stocks will as far as possible be in line with prices at which current private supplies are available.

The disposals scheme comes into effect forthwith.

Cash-on-delivery parcel service with Malaya *viz.*, the Straits Settlements excluding Labuan, the Federated Malay States of Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak and Selangor and the Unfederated Malay States of Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perdlis and Trengganu is available.

REDUCED TELEGRAPH RATES TO U.S.A.

A Press Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on May 31 stated:

As a result of the introduction from June 1,1946, of the reduced telegraph rates agreed upon at the Bermuda Tele-communications Conference in December last, substantial reductions will be made in the rates between countries of the British Commonwealth and the United States of America. For example, for some years the rates for ordinary telegrams from India to the U.S.A. have been between Rs. 1-11-0 and Rs. 3-2-0 per word; these will be reduced to the new maximum charge of Re. 1 per word from June 1.

For telegrams addressed to all the six zones of the U.S.A. (including Alaska) also to Porto Rico, St. Croix and St. Thomas in the West Indies and to Guam Island, Midway Island and Sandwich Islands in the Pacific the new rates will be as follows:

Ordinary	..	Re 1-0-0 per word
Code (CDE)	..	Re. 0-11-0 per word
Deferred	..	Re. 0-8-0 per word
DLT	..	Re. 0-5-6 per word

As usual the minimum charge as for 5 words will apply to code (CDE) and deferred telegrams, while for DLTs the minimum will be Rs. 8-9-6 as for 25 words. For Press telegrams the new rate will be four annas per word to any place in the six zones of the U.S.A.

IMPORTED PROVISIONS AND OILMAN'S STORES

According to a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated June 1, 1946, the Central Government have withdrawn the existing notification fixing ceiling prices of imported provisions and under Section 6 of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance sanctioned the following additions to the landed cost of imported provisions and oilman's stores:

(i) 30 per cent. of the landed cost for sales by importers to dealers;

(ii) 62.5 per cent. of such cost for sales by retailers to consumers.

The above sanctioned additions do not apply to imported cheese in bulk for which the following are the sanctioned additions:

(i) 40 per cent, of the landed cost for sales by importers to dealers;

(ii) 86 2/3 per cent. of sfich cost for sales by retailers to consumers.

Freight up to the extent of 5 per cent. of the landed cost in the first case is to be borne by the importer and freight up to the extent of 6 2/3 per cent. to be borne by the importer in the case of cheese.

VAST MARKETS FOR INDIAN GOODS IN EAST AFRICA

Indian Trade Commissioner's Report for 1944-45

WITH the disappearance of Japan as a supplier of cheap manufactured goods and with the improved standard of living and purchasing power of the African the East African territories offer vast markets for Indian manufactures such as cotton piecegoods, ready-made clothes, cheap crockery, glass and enamelware, simple agricultural tools, cigarettes and bicycles. This view is expressed by the Indian Trade Commissioner in East Africa, Sardar Sahib Sangat Singh, in his Annual Report for 1944-45.

The East African territories referred to comprise the Kenya Colony, the Uganda and Zanzibar Protectorates and the Tanganyika territory. The war benefited these territories greatly with the result that there are now a very large number of people whose standard of living has risen and who have learnt to enjoy simple luxuries which were beyond their means before the war. The prospects of increasing trade are therefore stated to be bright.

Indian Cotton Textiles

Discussing the post-war trade prospects, the Trade Commissioner remarks that India can hope to establish trade in East Africa in almost all classes of piecegoods except *khangas* which is a specialised line. Cotton textiles being India's *forte*, with her indigenous high quality raw material and with improved technique, she could outbid any of her possible competitors in the market. Under right conditions, the East African market promises a bright future to Indian cotton textiles of all grades, and India can safely hope to retain a fair share of this market which she has been able to capture almost exclusively under abnormal circumstances created by the war.

India also has good chances to develop her silk piecegoods export trade to East Africa with the elimination of Japan as a supplier, but Indian silk industry would have to concentrate on dress fabrics of various kinds and qualities to enable it to capture and develop a growing market.

Jute Products

The prospects of jute and jute products are, according to the Trade Commissioner, brighter than ever as bag requirements for moving of agricultural produce, hessian cloth, sacking twill, jute yarns and twines as packing materials and for other purposes are in greater demand than before. Although attempts have been made to substitute these by manufactures from sisal and other fibres, they have not met with any substantial success commercially. As more lands in East Africa are to be brought under cultivation under the new agricultural development schemes India's market for these commodities will only grow the wider in future.

East Africa also provides a good market for toilet articles, soap and perfumery but Indian manufacturers are advised to pay attention to the packing and presentation of these articles which should be highly attractive. Similarly, there is scope for medicines and drugs from India provided sufficient publicity is given to these articles in newspapers and among the medical profession.

As regards leather and leather manufactures, the disappearance of Japan from the scene according to the Trade Commissioner, provides India with opportunities for a vast market in the post-war period. Good quality tanned and dressed leather from India will find a ready market in East Africa for many years to come. Markets can also be developed for Indian enamelware, household fittings, sanitaryware, cutlery, crockery, glassware, ready made clothes, safety matches, toys, hosiery, cotton thread, and paints and varnishes.

Commenting on the importance of proper commercial publicity, the Report mentions that a room in the Trade Commissioner's Office in Mombasa has been exclusively set apart for the display of samples of Indian products which are sent by Indian manufacturers and exporters. Wartime restrictions, however, prevented the organisation of regular exhibitions of India goods.

Commercial Publicity

The Report goes on to point out that with the end of the war, exporters and manufacturers in other countries have started vigorously their efforts to regain the markets in East Africa, which were temporarily lost to them due to war conditions. In order that India should not lag behind in her efforts to retain a fair share of the trade with East Africa in the post-war period, Indian manufacturers and exporters are requested to send to the Trade Commissioner's Office a complete range of fresh samples of their products to enable the commercial publicity programme to be reorganised on a much wider scale. The samples should be supplied free, the transport charges being borne by the senders but no charge will be made for the publicity arranged. The Trade Commissioner also recommends the dispatch from India of a large number of commercial travellers.

The following are the salient features of trade with East Africa in the year under review:

Cotton textiles formed the most important item in India's imports to East African territories. The next most important item was jute products. Among other imports is featured exposed films from India, the value of which more than doubled in 1944 as compared with 1943 indicating probably a growing taste in these territories for films produced in India.

The aggregate value of imports of merchandise into the four East African territories rose from Rs. 27,42,22,943 in 1943 to Rs. 30,38,56,369 in 1944. India's share of the imports amounting to Rs. 8,44,06,466 in 1943 as compared with Rs. 8,26,01,138 in 1944. Kenya and Uganda took the major portion of these imports amounting to Rs. 5,30,56,571, an increase of about Rs. 26,87,500 over the figures of 1943.

On the other hand, Indian imports into Tanganyika territory decreased from Rs. 2,93,42,789 in 1943 to Rs. 2,67,36,829 in 1944, and in the case of Zanzibar also there was a decline from Rs. 4,11,54,410 in 1943 to Rs. 26,61,485 in 1944.

Exports of domestic produce from the East African territories to India rose from Rs. 3,84,21,749 in 1943 to Rs. 8,30,41,190 in 1944. The rise is accounted for by large exports of raw cotton to India from Uganda and Kenya; Rs. 2,35,29,063 in 1943 as compared with Rs. 6,39,08,750 in 1944.

STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS FROM GERMAN BANKS

A Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department Government of India, on May 29, stated:

In accordance with a decision arrived at by the Co-ordinating Committee of the Allied Control Authority for Germany, the Government of India have authorised nationals of the United Nations in British India to demand from German banks certified statements of their accounts with them.

The German banks, whether closed down or not, will be required to draw up statements on request, but in the Russian zone, where all banks have been closed, requests for statements will be presented to the new banks which have been opened and which will use the archives of the former banks in so far as they have been preserved.

Requests for Statements

It is emphasised that the arrangement is confined to providing information as to the state of the account. There is at present no possibility of transferring balances.

Requests for statements of accounts should be addressed (preferably in German) to the bank and the letter sent under cover of a second envelope marked "Bank Statement" to Indian Military Mission, c|o Advanced Headquarters, Control Commission for Germany (British Element), Berlin, B.A.O.R. The Indian Military Mission in Germany will confine itself to forwarding the enquiry and the bank's reply and will not undertake to answer any enquiry.

INDO-IRANIAN TRADE PROSPECTS

RECENT events in Iran have been looming large in the world Press and undoubtedly you too have been showing a great deal of interest in what is happening there, across your frontiers, in a neighbouring and friendly country, bound with India through numerous ties of geography, history, culture, race, religion and language. This interest on your part is only natural and appropriate.

India and Iran are no strangers—having known each other since times immemorial. If events in the past 200 years have tended somewhat to loosen the intimate connections binding the two countries, the reasons for bringing about a much closer mutual understanding and co-operation than ever existed in the past

By Major M. Hassan, Indian Trade Commissioner in Teheran.

A recorded Broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on June 10.

should be apparent to all persons who have given thought to the future relationships of India when she attains her rightful place amongst the free countries of the world.

Friendship demands reciprocity and just as we are keen to know about Iran and are sympathetically disposed towards her, so are the people of Iran interested in us and our country. The land of Zoroaster, Rumi, Saadi and Hafiz of whom many of us are still great admirers, is equally appreciative of our great men and writers—past and present.

Having served in Iran for the last four years—in my present appointment for a year only—and having had a rare opportunity of mixing freely with the big and small, and doing in my previous appointment in a humble way a job of work which was for the good of the poor people of the district of Kerman in South East Iran, I hope you will not consider me too presumptive, if I lay claim to knowing something about the people of that charming land. I can assure you that there is a growing realisation amongst them of India's importance, her opportunity and of the role she is likely to play in the future. Let us, therefore, strive to get to know each other more and more. I visualise the dawn of a new era in Indo-Iranian relations, and taking a broader view in India's relations with all the Middle-Eastern countries.

One way of bringing about understanding is through trade. The war has given India an excellent opportunity to build up her trade with Iran. Indo-Iranian trade in the years immediately preceding the war was not on a very extensive scale. India occupied 5th place in Persia's "commercial" imports and exports during those years. The lion's share went to the U.S.S.R. and Germany, next came the U.S.A. and U.K. followed by India and Japan. This position has been changed by the war. India has emerged during the war as the principal supplier of consumer goods to Iran. Germany and Japan have been out of this market for some time and it will be years before they can stage a come-back, if at all.

Latest Statistics

The latest statistics published by the Iranian Government show that for the period March 22, 1944 to March 21, 1945, India was the chief supplier of Persia's "commercial" imports. In 1942-43, she supplied as much as 55 per cent. of these imports. In 1943-44, the percentage dropped to 36½ per cent. and in 1944-45 it was 31.79 per cent. These decreases are explained by the enforcement of controls in India. Despite the controls in India and the import licensing procedure in Iran, India remained in a dominant position in the market.

The question is how can we consolidate our present gains? Unless we are careful we might quite easily lose the advantages that have come our way. Persevering and methodical efforts alone on the part of the manufacturers and exporters will yield good results. Our goods should be known not only for their cheapness and utility but also for their artistic quality. Standardisation is most desirable, as it would enhance the reputation of Indian products. Reputation is also built up by honest business methods and this point has been stressed by all Trade Commissioners from time to time.

Iran offers a good market for large quantities of both consumer and capital goods; specially in the initial stages of peace. Capital goods are required for the execution of various irrigation, water-supply, electric power, public works and industrial development schemes. The U.S.A. and U.K. will, no doubt, supply most of these goods but India can supply most of the consumer goods. India's speciality is the provision of cheap consumer goods for a poor market. The internal supply situation permitting, India should concentrate on the development of her exports in the following lines of trade: Tea, sugar, cotton piecegoods, jute and jute manufactures, coir manufactures, hosiery, leather goods, toilet requisites, and sports goods, etc., to mention only a few amongst the numerous lines.

In conclusion, it is well to remember that Iran is passing through a critical phase in her history, economically and politically. This, however, is true not only of Iran but of many other countries as well. It is wrong, therefore, to take the Iranian question in isolation. It must be studied in its proper perspective in relation to the world problems at large.

Let us hope that our present sick world will soon recover. As well-wishers of Iran, let us sincerely hope that with the rest of humanity she too will soon enjoy all the blessings of peace.

IRREGULARITIES IN P. AND T. STORES AND WORKSHOPS: INQUIRY COMMITTEE APPOINTED

A PRESS Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on June 11 stated:

It has come to the notice of the Government of India that certain serious irregularities have occurred in respect of purchase of stores at the Telegraph Storeyard at Alipore, Calcutta, and the manufacture and purchase of stores at the Telegraph Workshops at Alipore and the Telephone Workshops at Bombay. Some of these cases have been under police investigation and the question of instituting an enquiry into all other cases has been under consideration for some time. The Government of India have now decided to appoint the following committee having judicial, engineering and accounts experience:

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Thomas, Kt., Chief Judge of the Chief Court of Oudh (Chairman).

(2) Mr. O. W. P. Fermie, C.I.E., Postmaster-General, United Provinces Circle (Member).

(3) Mr. M. Subrahmanyan, C.I.E., Retired Accountant-General (Member).

The Committee will have its headquarters at Calcutta and enter upon its duties on August 1, 1946.

The terms of reference of the Committee will be as follows:—

(i) to enquire into and report on the various irregularities alleged to have been committed;

(ii) to conduct, in accordance with the provision of rule 55 of the Civil Service (Classification, control and appeal) Rules, enquiries into the conduct of officers whom the committee may consider as guilty and recommend disciplinary action to be taken against them;

(iii) to recommend measures which should be taken to

(a) rectify the defects in procedure,

(b) ensure prevention of commission of irregularities in the future; and

(c) increase the efficiency of the stores and workshops organisation of the P. and T. Department.

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN INDIA

Scientific Advisory Board's Report for 1945

THE Annual Report of the Scientific Advisory Board for 1945 issued by the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association records another year of progress in medical research carried out in India. The bulk of the research work has been in connection with those diseases (*e.g.* malaria, cholera, plague, leprosy, malnutrition, etc.) which are responsible for high rates of mortality and sickness in India.

Two new Committees to advise the Scientific Advisory Board on Clinical Research and Industrial Health Research respectively were formed during the year. The Maternity and Child Welfare and Rabies Advisory Committees were revived after a period of three and seven years respectively.

Field Experiments

A series of field experiments including spraying from the air were carried out by the staff of the Malaria Institute of India. Both oil solutions and watery emulsions of D.D.T. were used. Further progress has been made in the preparation of D.D.T. emulsion concentrate with easily obtainable solvents, *e.g.*, turpentine oil and medium kerosene extract. Experimental trials with the new anti-malarial drug "Paludrine" have also been carried out. A new enquiry on Mammalian Malaria has been started in collaboration with the Sub-Committee on Tropical Diseases of the Royal Society, London.

The object of this enquiry is to determine if the malarial parasites of mammals also have a similar phase of development outside the red cells of the blood, as is the case with the strain of parasites responsible for malaria in birds. The discovery of such a phase, it is anticipated, is likely to provide the much needed clue which might be of immense help in evolving a really effective treatment for the relapses of malaria which unfortunately are so common and are difficult to control.

Cholera Vaccine

Active research work on the cholera vibrio and the epidemiology and treatment of cholera, which was suspended during the war period, has been resumed. A special statistical enquiry to assess the protective value of cholera inoculation is in progress in Madras Presidency. The Director, Haffkine Institute, Bombay, has evolved a new and simpler method of manufacturing cholera vaccine by growing the vibrios in a liquid medium containing casein hydrolysates.

Preliminary tests carried out on mice indicate that this vaccine has a better protective value than the vaccine prepared by the old method. Confirmatory tests to establish this claim are being carried out at other laboratories. Experimental trials with sulphaguanidine in the treatment of cholera have been carried out at the School of Tropical Medicine with encouraging results. Further trials on a larger scale have been arranged.

D.D.T. has been successfully used for killing rat fleas and checking the spread of plague. Further improvements have been effected in the preparation of plague vaccine at the Haffkine Institute, Bombay. The staff of the King Institute, Guindy, have carried out experiments to elicit the comparative value of the ordinary calf lymph and smallpox vaccine prepared from chick embroys. A small quantity of Influenza Vaccine "A type" has been prepared for experimental trial.

Leprosy

Investigations carried out in Madras by the staff of the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium, Chingleput, have revealed some facts which help to explain why certain villages situated in close proximity to one another have a much higher incidence of the disease than others. It is pointed out that ordinarily the disease is not contracted through casual contact alone and a more intimate relationship, *e.g.*, marriage between infected and uninfected inhabitants of two different villages is essential for the spread of infection. Segregation of cases of leprosy at night where enforced has resulted in a general reduction in the incidence of this disease in the village concerned.

The Drug Research Laboratory, Jammu, Kashmir, continued its work on indigenous plants of pharmacological importance. Experiments were also carried out in the cultivation of pyrethrum flowers at different altitudes and the preparation of extracts with different solvents.

BRASS AND COPPER UTENSILS ORDER AMENDED

The Government of India have empowered the Provincial Governments to control the distribution of brass and copper utensils, by a notification in the *Gazette of India* dated June 8, 1946, amending the Brass and Copper (Control) Order, 1945.

Provincial Governments have been authorised to exercise the powers under clause 9(2) of the Control Order and manufacturers of brass and copper utensils will in future send copies of their monthly returns to the Provincial Governments also.

Clause 9(2) of the Brass and Copper (Control) Order, 1945, will now read as follows:

"Every manufacturer of machine-made utensils to whom brass or copper sheets are released by the Central Government shall comply with the directions of the Central or Provincial Government or of any Officer authorised by the Central or Provincial Government in this behalf—(a) as to any markings to be made on the utensils and (b) as to the distribution of such utensils among dealers."

INDIAN DELEGATION TO EMPIRE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

AN Indian Scientific Delegation of 14 members—amongst them six Fellows of the Royal Society—is attending the Empire Scientific Conference which opened in London on June 17.

Five members of the Delegation left Delhi on June 8 by air. They are: Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, F.R.S., Director, Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India; Prof. Birbal Sahni, F.R.S., Head of the Botany Department, Lucknow University; Prof. Meghnad Saha, F.R.S., Professor of Physics, Calcutta University; Rai Bahadur Dr. S. L. Hora, Director of Fisheries, Bengal and Dr. J. N. Mukherji, Director, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

They were joined at Karachi on June 9 by Sir J. C. Ghosh, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Prof. H. J. Bhabha, F.R.S., Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay; Col. Sir S. S. Sokhey, Director, Haffkine Institute, Bombay; Khan Bahadur Mian M. Afzal Hussain, Member Punjab and N.-W.F.P. Public Service Commission; Dr. M. S. Krishnan, Geological Survey of India, and Mr. D. N. Wadia, Mineral Adviser, Planning and Development Department, Government of India.

Exchange of Views

The following three delegates left earlier, and joined the Delegation in the U.K.: Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis F.R.S., Statistical Institute Presidency College, Calcutta; Prof. K. S. Krishnan, F.R.S., Professor of Physics, Allahabad University and Prof. M. R. Siddiqui, Director, Research Institute, Osmania University, Hyderabad (Deccan).

The Conference has been organised by the Royal Society and will last three weeks. Its main purpose is to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views upon scientific problems which are of immediate practical importance to the various parts of the Commonwealth and to discuss ways and means of achieving the greatest practicable measures of collaboration between scientists.

The Royal Society Conference will be followed by an Official Conference lasting a fortnight. Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar will lead the Official Indian Delegation. All the official delegates will also attend the non-official conference and Sir Shanti Swarup will act as convener of the non-official delegation.

All classes of telegrams are now admitted to the following additional places in the Philippines beyond Manila *viz.* Agricultural College (Laguna), Batangas (Batangas), Calamba (Laguna) Fabrica (Negros Occidental), Lucena (Tayabas) and Masbate (Masbate) at rates as for all other offices shown under Philippines in current edition of the Post and Telegraph Guide.



Field Marshal Montgomery (left) photographed with Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, in New Delhi.

FIELD MARSHAL MONTGOMERY'S VISIT TO INDIA

WEARING his famous black beret, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, who is shortly taking up the appointment of Chief of the Imperial General Staff, arrived at Palam airport at noon on June 18. Field Marshal Montgomery's unofficial visit to Delhi in order to acquaint himself with the current strategical problems of India Command was at the invitation of H. E. the Viceroy. He was greeted by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India.

Also present at the airport were Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, Flag Officer Commanding Royal Indian Navy; Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India; General A.E. Godwin-Austen, Principal Administrative Officer, India, and Colonel D. H. Currie, Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

After a General Salute had been sounded by buglers of the Rajputana Rifles and 4/9th Gurkha Rifles, Field Marshal Montgomery inspected guards of honour of the 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 1/1st Punjab Regiment. He then left for the Viceroy's House.

PRESS REPORT DENIED

A Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I) on June 18 stated:

"The statement, contained in a message from the London correspondent of the *Hindustan Times*, that "the whole question of the future role of India in the British Commonwealth defence plan" was raised by Field Marshal Lord Montgomery with the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, during the recent victory celebrations in London, is officially denied at G.H.Q.

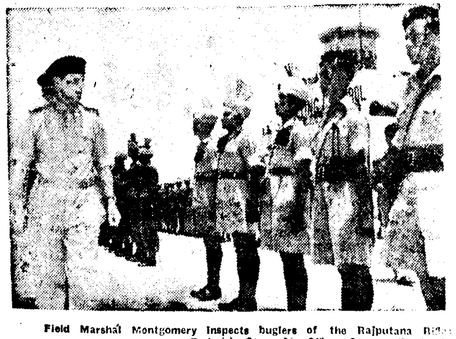
The C.-in-C. in India saw Field Marshal Montgomery only for a few minutes while they were waiting to get into their cars for the Parade and no "major questions" were, or could be discussed.

The C.-in-C. then suggested that Field Marshal Montgomery should come to India next spring and it was not until he landed at Karachi that the C.-in-C. learnt that Field Marshal Montgomery had accepted a short-notice invitation from the Viceroy, after he had left England.

Though Field Marshal Montgomery has not yet assumed his duties as Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the opportunity will naturally be taken while he is in Delhi, of discussing military matters, particularly those affecting British troops in India.

It is, however, quite incorrect to say that formal discussions are to be held "with the express approval of the British Cabinet".

At the invitation of His Excellency, the Viceroy, Field Marshal Montgomery is paying an unofficial visit to Delhi in order to acquaint himself with the current strategical problems of India Command before taking up the appointment of the Imperial General Staff, said a *Press Note* issued from the Viceroy's House on June 17.





Field Marshal Montgomery inspects buglers of the Rajputana Rifles and the 4/9 Gurkha Rifles at Palam airport. (Right) Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, Air Officer Commanding [illegible] greets Field Marshal Montgomery.



The C.-in-C. inspects troops of the 4/10 Baluchof the 10th Indian Division.

C.-in-C. Visits Northern Command

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, visited Northern Command recently. He inspected various troops of the Command, including units of the famous 10th Indian Division and the 501 Workshop, Rawalpindi, where N.C.Os of the Afghan Army are undergoing training. While on this tour, His Excellency presented decorations awarded for gallantry during the recent war.

In Rawalpindi, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck also laid the foundation stone of a swimming pool for the troops stationed there. This pool is being built at a cost of Rs. 65,000, donated by Mr. Bakshi Dalip Singh.





Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck decorates Major Tor Gul of the 4th Frontier Force Rifles with the M. C. (Right) The C.-in-C. laying the foundation stone of the swimming pool, watched by Mr. Bakshi Dalip Singh, who donated Rs.65,000 for the swimming pool.



The Countess of Carlisle

LADY CARLISLE VACATES W.A.C.(I) APPOINTMENT

SENIOR Controller the Countess of Carlisle vacated on June 1, her appointment as Director, Women's Auxiliary Corps (India), on the downgrading of the appointment, which she has held for the past two years.

Lady Carlisle had an impressive record of service before she came to India. Immediately after Munich, in September, 1938, she was asked to become County Commandant of Cumberland and Westmorland and recruited for the A.T.S. in 1938-39.

In August 1939 she went to the War Office as Assistant to the Director A.T.S. and soon after the outbreak of war, in November 1939, became Group Commandant A.T.S., 5 Anti-Aircraft Division. This was the first A.T.S. Group to be attached to "Ack-Ack."

Reorganised W.A.C. (I)

In August 1940, after having served for some months as Staff Officer, A.T.S. in Aldershot Command, Lady Carlisle appointed A.D., A.T.S. Eastern Command and London District.

Here she was in command of 33,000 A.T.S., nearly equivalent to the strength of two divisions. Serving in London right through the "blitz" she was bombed out of her house and the hotel to which she moved.

Afterwards she moved to South Eastern Command as A.D. and later D.D., A.T.S. Here the A.T.S. saw more active service than anywhere else in England for, apart from their anti-aircraft duties, they were engaged in coastal defences in Dover which was under continuous shell fire from the French coast.

Coming to India in July, 1944, to take charge of the W.A.C. (I), Lady Carlisle was faced with the task of re-organising the Corps, bringing it into line with the organisation of the Army and expanding it in anticipation of a long war against the Japanese. A W.A.C. (I) Officers' School was opened for regimental officers and Lady Carlisle was instrumental in founding the W.A.C. (I) Staff College, which has proved a great success and shown that women are just as capable as men of becoming non-technical staff officers.

For the "other ranks" Lady Carlisle secured many advantages, such as increases of pay, war service increment, ration and messing allowances, better accommodation and medical attention, educational courses and, on the welfare side, an assistance fund for deserving cases.

New Controller

Throughout her service in India she has toured indefatigably at all seasons, not only in India Command where she has visited practically every W.A.C. (I) station, but also in Malaya and Burma to see to the well-being of members of the W.A.C. (I) overseas. A good organiser, with great energy and enthusiasm, she is popular with all ranks.

Lady Carlisle is succeeded by Chief Commander Mrs. M. E. Douglas, O.B.E., at present A.D., W.A.C. (I) Southern Command, who will hold the rank of Controller. Chief Commander Douglas was one of the first W.A.C. (I) officers, joining the Corps in May 1942, and acted as Chief Commander, W.A.C. (I) for six months in 1944.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

The employment functions of all the 116 recruiting and employment offices (under the War Department) have been taken over since June 1, 1946, by the Employment Exchanges of the Labour Department, Government of India. There are at present 64 Employment Exchanges all over the country. Seven more will be set up soon to reach the target figure of 71.

Recruiting and Employment Offices were designed (in respect of employment) to help till the employment exchange machinery of the Labour Department was complete. These Offices will no longer function as employment-finding agencies for ex-Servicemen in respect of civilian occupations. The sub-regional Employment Exchanges will do the employment work.

The index cards of all demobilised Servicemen will now be received by the Exchanges. Ex-Servicemen demobilised before the card system was started will be able to obtain their cards from the Exchange nearest their home.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR EX-SERVICEWOMEN

THREE centres for training demobilised W.A.C. (I) personnel will be started by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment in pursuance of the Government's scheme for the vocational training of ex-Servicewomen. One is to be set up immediately in Delhi and the other two later on as the demobilisation of W.A.C. (I) personnel proceeds.

In view of the large demand by women, personnel, training will be given in the following subjects: stenography, typing, commercial and clerical occupations, tailoring and dress-making, hair-dressing and beauty culture, commercial art and interior decoration, cooking and confectionary and labour and social welfare work.

Free Board and Lodging

In regard to other subjects for which the demand is not very large, arrangements will be made in existing or private institutions. While facilities for training in telegraphy and telephone operating will be provided in collaboration with the Posts and Telegraphs Departments will be provided under the schemes appropriate training in the teaching or nursing professions of the Health and Education Departments of the Central Government and of the Provincial Governments.

Trainees will be provided with free board and lodging, free medical treatment and recreational facilities, a pocket allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem and free transport, where necessary from hostels to training centres. They will also have free travelling facilities from their release centres on their homes to the training centre and at the completion of their training to their homes or their place of employment.

The Government's scheme for the vocational training of ex-Servicewomen aims at training them in useful civil occupations in special centres set up by the Labour Department in existing training institutions for women both Government and private and in reputable firms. The object of the scheme is to enable them to take up independent careers and to meet the needs of the country for trained women in such spheres as teaching, nursery, etc.

Special sections in the charge of Lady Assistant Managers have already been set up at the Central and Regional Employment Exchanges to assist ex-Servicewomen in finding suitable civil employment.

Telegrams to and from Fiji Islands are now admitted at the rates shown in the current edition of the Post and Telegraph Guide without any restriction, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India on June 1.

ONWARD

India's Premier Magazine for Women

This is a general magazine covering a very wide variety of topics of interest to the educated woman in the home and in the professions. It is profusely illustrated, giving vivid pictures of women's activities throughout India and in the world outside.

In addition to such practical features as cookery, food, gardening, health, fashions, knitting and embroidery, there are articles on Indian culture, art, handicrafts and social problems, as well as descriptive accounts of what is going on in other countries, especially India's neighbours.

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ITEMS FROM RECENT ISSUES

India's Women Cabinet Ministers
By Ela Sen

The Runaway—a real-life story of the Nagas of Assam
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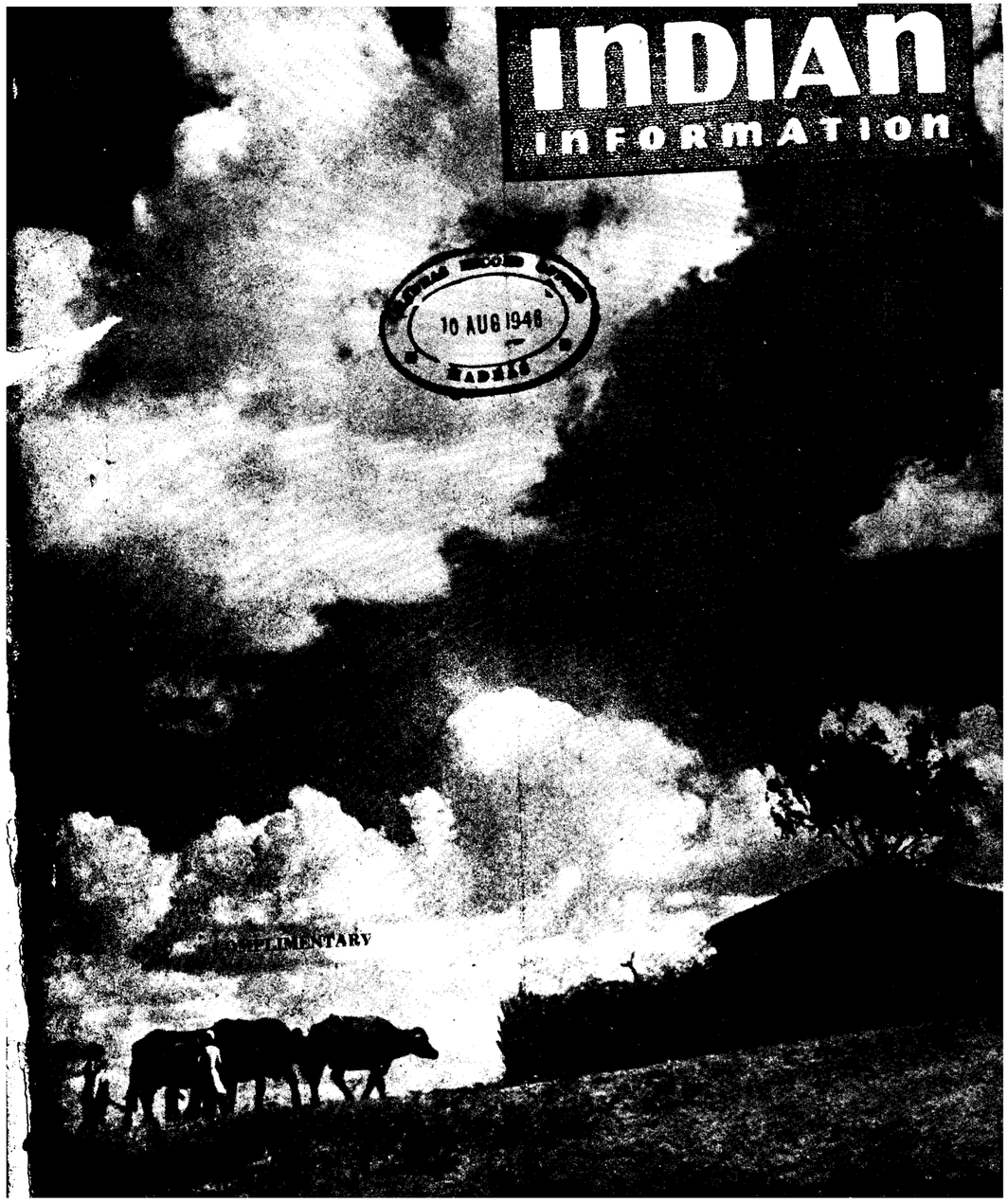


C.-IN-C. VISITS SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY CENTRE

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C.in India, recently visited the Sikh Light Infantry Centre at Lahore. Officers of the Centre were introduced to the C.-in-C. after he had inspected a Parade, including the Boys' Company. Field Marshal Auchinleck also went round the Resettlement Centre and watched men receiving prerelease training, from agriculture to cottage industries. These pictures show (above) the C.-in-C. examining agricultural implements in the Resettlement Centre and (below) a sock-knitting class at the Centre.



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FIGHTING SERVICES CLUB: IN RESPONSE TO THE WISHES OF INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE THREE FIGHTING SERVICES, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A FIGHTING SERVICES CLUB. A PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE THREE SERVICES STATIONED IN NEW DELHI IS DRAWING UP THE NECESSARY BYE-LAWS.

PICTURE SHOWS THE EXECUTIVE BODY OF THE FIGHTING SERVICES CLUB. IN THE CENTRE IS BRIGADIER A. A. RUDRA, VICE-PRESIDENT.

Vol. 19, No. 189. INDIAN INFORMATION Aug. 1, 1946.

AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

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

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

Edited by A. S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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ADJUDICATOR'S AWARD IN P. & T. DISPUTE

Government Accept Recommendations

THE Government of India have accepted in toto the award given by Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha, Adjudicator in the postal dispute between the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and its non-gazetted employees. The various reliefs recommended by the Adjudicator will cost Rs. 0.73 crores non-recurring and Rs. 1.09 crores recurring. A Press Communique issued on July 18 in this connection states:

By an order of the Government of India dated March 5, 1946, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha was appointed Adjudicator to adjudicate upon the trade dispute between the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and its non-gazetted employees. The matter for adjudication was: "Whether, taking into consideration the various forms of relief already granted by the said Department to the said employees, such of the employees as are governed by the new scales of pay require any further relief pending the findings of the Post-War Pay Commission, and if so, the nature and extent of the relief required."

The report of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha has been received and here is the extract dealing with the reliefs recommended by the Adjudicator:

Personal Pay

"I recommend the following relief for the non-gazetted staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department on the new scales of pay to take effect from July 1, 1946.

"1. Increase in basic pay (for categories of staff as given in the Schedule 1 on page 77 of the Manual of Pay and Allowances of Officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department) as shown in the statement below, to be given as Personal Pay:

"(i) Section XV: Runners....25 per cent.

"Section XVI: Record Suppliers, Ferro Typers, Multigraphers, Compositors, Remprinters, Operators, Markers, Duftries, Form Suppliers, Form Pickers, Binders, Attenders, Jamadars, Hall Jamadars, Head Porters, Overseers in Railway Mail Service, Havildars, Head Peons and Makadams....25 per cent.

"Section XVII: Boy Peons, Boy Messengers and Boy Farashes....25 per cent.

"Section XVIII (a): Packers, Porters, Messengers other than task-work messengers, Chowkidars, Watchmen, Gatemen, Hamals, Darwans, Office Peons, Farashes, Mail Peons, Letter-box Peons, Van Peons, Boatmen, Dandies, Manjhis, Tindals, Lascars, Cable-Guards, Attendents, Battery-men, Line Coolies, Telephone Coolies, Wire Coolies, Pressmen, Distributors, Inkers, Cleaners in Telephone Exchanges, Firemen, Liftmen, Weighmen, Lampmen, Khallassis, Coolies, Engine Coolies and other Wholetime employees....25 per cent.

"(ii) Task Work Messengers: (Subsistence Allowance).....50 per cent.

"(iii) Section V: Postmen, Village Postmen, Mail Guards, Linemen, Line-riders, Departmental Stamp Vendors at places other than Presidency towns, Shroffs and Bill Sircars....20 per cent.

"Section XIII (b): Carpenters, Painters, Bicycle Mistries, Assistant Mistries and Motor Men....20 per cent.

"(iv) All other categories excluding Sections I, XII and XIV with the exception of Second Division Clerks and Accountants....15 per cent, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20.

"(v) Section I (with the exception of Second Division Clerks and Accountants)....5 per cent, subject to a minimum of Rs. 5.

"Section XII: Sub-Inspectors..5 per cent subject to a minimum of Rs. 5.

"Section XIV: Conservancy Inspectors, Care-takers, Senitary Inspectors and Commissionaries....5 per cent, subject to a minimum of Rs. 5.

"Note: (1) The relief on the scale recommended should be extended to the employees of the Telephone Districts of Bombay (including Ahmedabad and Karachi), Calcutta and Madras and of the Telephone Workshops appointed on or after 1-4-1943 on the Posts and Telegraphs scales of pay for corresponding categories.

"(2) The employees on the unified scales of pay are excluded from the above relief.

"II. Retrospective effect to be given to the above relief in respect of all the categories except category No. (v) from January 1, 1945, to June 30, 1946, i.e., for 1½ years on the basis of the relief on 1-7-1946 (on the pay for June, 1946).

"III. Grain concession allowance to be given to all the new scale employees at places where no grain concession scheme is in operation, at



SIR ERIC CONRAN-SMITH, MEMBER FOR POSTS AND AIR, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, WENT ROUND DELHI POST OFFICES ON JULY 18 TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR DELIVERY OF MAILS. HERE, KHAN BAHADUR ASHRAF HUSSAIN (RIGHT) CHIEF POSTMASTER, DELHI G.P.O. IS EXPLAINING TO SIR ERIC (CENTRE) AND SIR HAROLD SHOOBERT, SECRETARY, POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT, THE STEPS TAKEN FOR QUICK DISPOSAL OF MAILS.



SIR ERIC CONRAN-SMITH (STANDING SECOND FROM LEFT) WITH MR. KRISHNA PRASADA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, ON HIS LEFT, WATCHING WINDOW DELIVERY AT THE DELHI G.P.O LETTERS ARE BEING DELIVERED TO THE PUBLIC OVER THE COUNTER.

a rate equal to the money value of the concession at Bombay, in respect of 3½ consumption units. The present value of the concession is Rs. 3-12-0 per month.

"IV. Upgrading of all the 'C' areas into 'B' category with the result that the dearness allowance given to the new scale employees at places included at present in 'C' category will be increased by Rs. 2 per month."

The Government of India are willing to accept the recommendations in their entirety. They are further willing to extend the reliefs relating to grain concession allowance and the upgrading of all 'C' areas into 'B' for purposes of dearness allowance to those non-gazetted staff of the Department who are on the old scales of pay.

The cost of these reliefs is Rs. 0.73 crores non-recurring and Rs. 1.09 crores recurring.

Government have also considered the 12 demands which were included in the strike notice served on the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union. Those relating to the pay and conditions of service will be dealt with by the Pay Commission. On five demands Government have passed favourable orders. These relate to over-time allowance for work performed by postmen and packers on Sundays and Postal Holidays, the provision of a leave reserve for these two grades, abolition of medical examination upon promotion to a higher grade, reservation of posts in the clerical cadre for departmental candidates, and the offer of alternative employment as vacancies occur to suitably qualified personnel upon retrenchment.

FEATURES OF AWARD

In amplification of the foregoing Press Communique Government desire to draw attention to certain important features of the award given by Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha, the Adjudicator in the dispute between the non-gazetted staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Administration, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on July 19.

It added: It is obvious from the report that in proposing relief for P. and T. staff in the revised scales of pay in the form of a percentage increase of their present pay, the Adjudicator had taken into account the fact that when the new pay scales were introduced in 1935, the reductions affected in the Posts and Telegraphs Department were generally much more severe than those adopted in other Departments. The award, therefore, has been given with the double object:—

(1) of reducing the gap between the pay of the employee on the new scales and the pay they would have drawn if the reduction in their scales of pay had been approximately of the same order as that introduced in the other Departments of the Government of India in 1935 with effect from 1931, and

(2) of reducing relief in a graded form thus enabling a proportionately larger relief to be given to the lower paid categories than to the better paid categories.

Increase in Basic Pay

As already announced, men in the lowest categories such as runners, packers, porters and letter box peons are to receive as personal pay an increase of 25 per cent on their basic pay. Task work messengers who draw a small subsistence allowance which is supplemented by task work earnings according to the number of messages delivered are to receive an additional 50 per cent of their subsistence allowance. Postmen and men in similar grades will receive an increase of 20 per cent on their basic pay and most other non-gazetted categories such as telegraph masters, telegraphists, clerks and officials of similar status will receive 15 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 per mensem.

In a few cases such as Sub-Inspectors, Conservancy Inspectors and senior non-gazetted officers in Circle Offices, whose revised scales of pay do not contrast so sharply with the old scales as they do in other grades, the increase is to be 5 per cent subject to a minimum of Rs. 5.

The staff of the Calcutta, Bombay and Madras Telephone Districts and of the Telephone Workshops appointed on or after April 1, 1943, on the P. and T. scales of pay will receive similar relief. The Adjudicator has recommended that this form of relief for the men in the revised scales of pay should have retrospective effect for 18 months and this recommendation has also been accepted.

In Bombay, Delhi and a few other places and throughout Bengal and Assam, the P. and T. staff are entitled to obtain certain foodstuffs at concessional rates from shops controlled by the department or by the Provincial Governments. Considering that preferential treatment in this respect in particular places is unjustifiable, the Adjudicator has recommended that the grain concession allowance should be given to all the new scale employees at places where no grain concession scheme is at present in operation. The amount of the allowance recommended is Rs. 3/12/- per month. Government have decided that this concession should also be extended to staff on the old scales of pay.

Finally the Adjudicator has recommended that the dearness allowance given to the new employees on the new scales at places included in the present 'C' category should be increased by Rs. 2 per month. This concession will also be extended to men on the old scales of pay.

The effect of these concessions in a few typical cases is explained below.

A packer in Bombay in his first year of service on a basic pay of Rs. 16, the present total value of whole emoluments with allowances amounts to Rs. 63/5/- will receive as personal pay an additional Rs. 4 and a lump sum of Rs. 72 arrears. (Bombay is already in 'A' area for dearness allowance and there are departmental grain shops in that city).

A postman on the revised scales of pay in Jubbulpore in his sixth year of service drawing Rs. 24 basic pay or Rs. 52 total pay and allowances will receive an additional Rs. 6 per mensem and arrears of Rs. 108. He will also get Rs. 3/12/- per month grain allowance as there are no departmental grain shops in Jubbulpore. (Jubbulpore is in B class for purposes of dearness allowance).

Additional Personal Pay

A packer in Calicut in his first year of service drawing Rs. 14 basic pay and Rs. 40 total pay and allowances exclusive of any house rent allowance will receive an additional Rs. 3/8/- per mensem and a lump sum of Rs. 63. He will also get Rs. 3/12/- grain concession allowance and an additional Rs. 2/- dearness allowance, because there are no departmental grain shops in Calicut and it is at present in 'C' class for purposes of dearness allowance.

In the clerical or telegraphists grades, some men now on the revised scales of pay will receive as much as Rs. 20 as additional personal pay and Rs. 360 arrears.

Government desires to make it clear that in accepting the Adjudicator's Award in its entirety, their decision has not been in any way either influenced or prejudiced by the fact that a single P. and T. Union embarked on an illegal strike while the Adjudicator was still considering his award.

Government have also considered the 12 demands which were included in a strike notice served on the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs by the All-India Union of the Postmen and Lower Grade Staff (including R.M.S.) and have passed favourable orders on the majority of the demands which have not been either referred to the Adjudicator or to the Pay Commission. The following decisions have been arrived at on these demands:—

Promotion to Clerical Cadre

The demand for the removal of the distinction in the matter of leave and pension rules between superior and inferior servants of the P. and T. Department and the abolition of the term "inferior service" has been carefully considered. Distinction in the matter of pensions was actually removed in April 1946. The question of leave is a matter for the Pay Commission. Meanwhile Government have decided that the term "inferior service" should be abolished and another suitable designation be adopted.

Demand 5 is that the percentage of posts in the clerical cadre reserved for candidates from among postmen obtaining qualifying marks in the examination prescribed should be raised from 20 per cent to 50 per cent as before. Although in the past the percentage of postmen and lower grade staff qualifying in this examination has been very low, Government have no objection to the promotion of these departmental candidates to the clerical cadres up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the vacancies in each year as long as they pass the examination.

In regard to demand No. 6, Government have agreed that qualified men appointed in temporary vacancies before September 15, 1945, who are unavoidably displaced, should be offered alternative employment in any recruiting unit when and where vacancies are available.

The eighth demand that all work done on Sundays and Postal Holidays should be compensated by the grant of overtime allowance has been sympathetically received, and Government have directed that any postmen or member of the lower grade staff who is required to work on a Sunday or a postal holiday without being allowed a compensatory holiday will be paid an *ad hoc* allowance of one rupee for the work thus performed. This is a temporary arrangement, pending receipt of the recommendations of the Pay Commission.

In regard to the 11th demand that employees promoted from one gazetted post to another should not be required to undergo a medical examination at the time of confirmation, Government have ordered that if this practice exists, it should be discontinued.

Leave Reserve

In the case of the 12th demand that an adequate leave should be provided, orders are being passed sanctioning a leave reserve both for the postmen's grade and for the packer's grade.

Demand No. 4 that officials of the P. and T. Department who have acted in higher grades satisfactorily for a year or more should be confirmed in those higher grades without any examination is receiving consideration in all its aspects in the P. and T. Directorate.

The 9th demand is that a substantial gratuity should be granted to the family of an employee who dies before earning a pension. This matter will be referred to the Pay Commission. Meanwhile, the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, will be requested to give assistance in deserving cases on a scale as liberal as possible from the Posts and Telegraphs Compassionate Fund.

ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET POSTAL STRIKE

TO meet the strike threatened by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union, the Posts and Telegraphs Department have made arrangements to provide postal facilities to the public to the utmost possible extent, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on July 4.

If the strike is only partial it may perhaps be possible to keep all the services running normally, but if it becomes widespread some curtailments in the existing facilities may have to be made.

During the period of the strike the express delivery service will be suspended and such articles, if posted, will be treated as ordinary mail. In the areas most affected and where there is a total strike certain services, like registration, insurance, booking of V.P. articles of all classes, ordinary and telegraphic money orders, and acceptance of unregistered parcels, book, pattern and sample packets may have to be suspended temporarily with effect from Monday, July 8, 1946.

Official registered parcels presented on behalf of the Government and also registered parcels containing medicines and sera and superscribed as such and accompanied by a certificate from a Medical Officer not lower in status than an Assistant Surgeon, are exempted from the above restrictions and will be accepted for despatch and delivery.

Should the situation make it imperative, further restrictions on the following services may also have to be imposed:-

(a) After the last clearance on July 10, 1946, some or all of the outlying letter boxes may have to be sealed and posting allowed only in the letter boxes attached to post offices, R.M.S. Mail Offices and in the case of late fee paid articles, in the letter boxes attached to the trains.

(b) In the most seriously affected areas the door to door delivery of mails on Sundays may have to be stopped altogether. On week days the number of door to door deliveries may be cut down to one, provided that the necessary staff is available. Where it is not possible to arrange for door to door delivery, window delivery will be arranged instead.

Window Delivery System

The window delivery system affords a safe means of receiving correspondence through private messengers. Commercial firms, institutions and individual members of the public who receive correspondence regularly are advised to make arrangements before the date of commencement of the threatened strike to take window delivery of their mails for the period of the strike the usual fees for window delivery will not be charged.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department will make every endeavour to deliver first class mail and daily registered newspapers as expeditiously as the circumstances permit but some delay may be unavoidable.

TOTAL EMOLUMENTS RECEIVED BY POSTAL EMPLOYEES

STATEMENTS have appeared in various newspapers which give the impression that the Government have been disinclined to give consideration to the demands upon which the strike of postmen and lower grade staff in certain big cities has been based and questioning the accuracy of figures given by the Director-General regarding the pay and allowances of the staff concerned, said a Press Communique issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on July 13.

The following are the facts:—

In his letter dated July 3, 1946, addressed to the Honorary General Secretary of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union (and since acknowledged) the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, stated (in paragraph 11 of that letter):—

"Out of the 12 demands, only five are not covered by the terms of reference of the Pay Commission or of the Adjudicator. These five are petty and with the exception of one of them have never been made before in their present form. I have already undertaken their examination and will gladly discuss them with the Union and give them my sympathetic consideration, but it is not possible to arrive at a decision which will be satisfactory to the Union and to the Department within the 14 days specified in the notice. Such demands have been examined in a friendly spirit in the past and they will again be examined in the same spirit in the future. Indeed, if they had been put forward before, they would have been so examined. The Department realises that a contented staff is the best guarantee of efficient service to the public and it will gladly concede any reasonable demands made by it. But if strikes are called every time when new demands are not satisfied within 14 days, the administration and the whole business of the country would come to a standstill."

Good Conduct Pay

The suggestion has been made that all the demands of the Union should have been referred to the Adjudicator. The position is, as stated by the Director-General, that seven of them are already covered by the terms of reference of the Pay Commission. The request for additional relief to men on the revised scales of pay introduced from 1931 was referred to Adjudication in April this year and the representatives of the Union participated in the Adjudication proceedings at Simla which were completed only at the end of June. The report of the Adjudicator is expected within a few days. The new demands of the Union could not have been referred to the Adjudicator and the strike notice was served after termination of the proceedings.

In April 1946 the Posts and Telegraphs Good Conduct Pay drawn by ... staff of the classes involved in the strike was increased by Rs. 5 per mensem and retrospective effect from July 1, 1944, was given to an earlier increase of Good Conduct Pay and dearness allowance sanctioned from January 1, 1945. By this each postman or a member of the lower grade staff in various areas became entitled to a lump sum payment varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60.

At the same time the pensions of those in inferior service (the lower grade staff) were increased and are now fixed at half the average pay drawn at the time of retirement. For both superior and inferior non-gazetted staff, half the average dearness allowance drawn during the period of 3 years prior to retirement is now included in calculation of pensions.

The figures below show the total emoluments now received during the first year of service in the two grades concerned in the strike at certain places where the men have struck work:—

BOMBAY

	Postmen.	*Packers, Porters, Letter Box peons etc.*
New (1931) Scales of pay ..	Rs. 24-½-34	Rs. 16-1/5-18
Pay ..	Rs. 24	Rs. 16
*Dearness Allowance ..	Rs. 20	Rs. 20
*Good Conduct Pay ..	Rs. 12	Rs. 12
Bombay Compensatory Allowance ..	Rs. 5	Rs. 4
House rent (or free quarters)	Rs. 7	Rs. 7
Value of grain concessions	Rs. 4-5-0	Rs. 4-5-0
	Rs. 72-5-0	Rs. 63-5-0

(Old scales Rs. 30-1-50) (Old scales Rs. 25-30).

CALCUTTA

	Postmen	*Packer, Porters, Letter Box peons, etc.*
New (1931) scales of pay ..	Rs. 24-½-34	Rs. 16-1/5-18
Pay ..	Rs. 24	Rs. 16
*Dearness Allowance ..	Rs. 20	Rs. 20
*Good Conduct Pay ..	Rs. 12	Rs. 12
House rent allowance (or free quarters)	Rs. 5	Rs. 5
Value of grain concessions ..	Rs. 1-13	Rs. 1-13
	Rs. 62-13	Rs. 54-13

(Old scales Rs. 30-1-50) (Old scales Rs. 25-30)

LUCKNOW AND ALLAHABAD

	Postmen	*Packers, Porters, Letter Box peons, etc.*
New (1931) scales of pay ..	Rs. 22-½-32	Rs. 15-1/5-17
Pay ..	Rs. 22	Rs. 15
*Dearness Allowance ..	Rs. 16	Rs. 16
*Good Conduct Pay ..	Rs. 12.	Rs. 12
House rent allowance (or free quarters)	Rs. 3	Rs. 2
	Rs. 53	Rs. 45

(Old scales Rs. 30-1-50) (Old scales Rs. 20-½-28 (Food concessions are granted as for employees of the Provincial Local Government.)

DELHI

	Postmen	*Packers, Porters, Letter Box peons, etc.*
New (1931) scales of pay ..	Rs. 22-½-32	Rs. 15-1/5-17
Pay ..	Rs. 22	Rs. 15
*Dearness Allowance ..	Rs. 16	Rs. 16
*Good Conduct Pay ..	Rs. 12	Rs. 12
House rent allowance (or free quarters)	Rs. 5	Rs. 3
Value of food concessions ..	Rs. 2-8	Rs. 2-8
	Rs. 57-8	Rs. 48-8

(Old scales Rs. 30-1-50) (Old scales Rs. 20-½-28

SIMLA

	Postmen	*Packers, Porters, Letter Box peons, etc.*
New (1931) scales of pay ..	Rs. 22-½-32	Rs. 15-1/5-17
Pay ..	Rs. 22	Rs. 15
*Dearness Allowance ..	Rs. 16	Rs. 16
*Good Conduct Pay ..	Rs. 12	Rs. 12
House rent allowance (or free quarters)	Rs. 5	Rs. 3-8
Winter allowance	Rs. 20	Rs. 4
Washing allowance ..	..	Rs. 0-11
	Rs. 75	Rs. 51-3

(Old Scales Rs. 23-43) (Old scales Rs. 18-23) (Food concessions are also given).

MADURA

	Postmen	*Packers, Porters Letter Box peons etc.*
New (1931) scales of pay ..	Rs. 18-½-28	Rs. 14-1/5-16
Pay ..	Rs. 18	Rs. 14
*Dearness Allowance ..	Rs. 14	Rs. 14
*Good Conduct Pay ..	Rs. 12	Rs. 12
House Rent allowance (or free quarters)	Rs. 2	Rs. 2
	Rs. 46	Rs. 42

(Old scales Rs. 20-1-40) (Old scales Rs. 16-½-21)

*Not Paid prior to the war.

POSTMEN'S DEMANDS—AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Government Position Explained

By Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs.

A Broadcast on "Postmen Strike" from A.I.R., Delhi, on July 11.

I am going to speak to you on a subject which must be deeply exercising your minds at the present time—the strike of Postmen and Lower Grade Staff which commenced at midnight last night.

The Post and Telegraph services touch the daily lives of people more intimately than any other service. Our life, particularly in the fields of trade and commerce, is so bound up with the postal service that any dislocation of the service disturbs the economy of the country. Such a disturbance, I am afraid, has resulted from the action of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union in calling a strike of its members.

As one responsible for the delivery of your mail, I must, I feel, lay before you all the facts which have led up to the present situation, so that you may be in a position to form your own conclusions. I must also tell you what the Department is going to do to maintain the service.

Third Notice

The notice of the present strike received from the Honorary General Secretary, All-India Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union, is dated June 24. This is the third notice of its kind served by the Union during the last 19 months. The two previous ones were dated November 17, 1944, and February 12, 1946, and they were both withdrawn.

The present notice has a little interesting history behind it. On May 6, 1946, Mr. Dalvi, Honorary General Secretary of the Union, requested the Government that a representative of the Union or a person in whom the Union had complete confidence should be appointed as a Member of the Pay Commission, otherwise there would be serious trouble. On May 29, 1946, Mr. Dalvi sent another letter with a copy of a resolution passed by the Council of Action warning the Government that unless Mr. Dalvi were appointed as a Member of the Pay Commission, the Union would resort to direct action. It was also added that the same action would follow unless the demands made by the Union in the second notice of the strike, which were not covered by the terms of the reference of adjudication or of the Pay Commission were not conceded within a month.

In my reply, I pointed out that it was impossible to accept the demand that Mr. Dalvi be put on the Pay Commission, because then the Government could not deny similar representation to other Central Government servants such as Railway Staff, Press Workers and Customs officials. In any case, I explained that Mr. N. M. Joshi, ex-M.L.A., who was the Vice-President of the Union from 1941 to 1944, was already a Member of the Pay Commission. Since the despatch of my reply, it has been ascertained that he is the present President of the Union. In addition to Mr. Joshi, I pointed out, there were on the Pay Commission three M.L.As who had pleaded the cause of the Posts and Telegraphs Staff in a recent debate in the Central Legislative Assembly. There was also on it the Hon'ble Mr. Hossain Imam, who was the Vice-President of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Union from 1938 to 1940.

Good Conduct Pay

About the other demands I explained that they were of small importance and could be discussed. Soon afterwards the Union despatched the present notice threatening that unless all the 12 demands listed by it were satisfied within a fortnight, its members would go on strike on the midnight of July 10.

Only in April last the Department granted generous relief to the employees amounting to Rs. one crore and 14 lakhs, in the shape of Good Conduct Pay and Dearness Allowance. The Good Conduct Pay which, incidentally, is not drawn by employees of any Department other than the Posts and Telegraphs, is quite substantial, being Rs. 12 per mensem for employees in receipt of a salary below Rs. 40, and Rs. 10 for those between Rs. 40 and Rs. 160 per mensem.

You may be interested to know what the pay and allowances of a man who starts service in the lowest grades, as a porter or letter box peon in the Posts and Telegraphs Department come to. In Bombay, which is an 'A' class area, for instance, they come to Rs. 63-5 per month, in 'B' class area to Rs. 43 per month, and in 'C' class areas to Rs. 40 per month. They are nearly three times what they were before the war and the increase in the cost of living is thus fully neutralised.

Handsome Relief

The percentage increase in the case of postmen is not so great but they draw higher pay and their margin of adjustment to meet the higher cost of living is greater. If after the handsome relief granted by the Government, the Union felt that it nursed any grievances in that direction, they could be laid before the Adjudicator and the Pay Commission. I pointed out that the decisions of the Government on the findings of the Pay Commission would have effect as from January 1, 1947, and so it was only a matter of six months.

The Adjudicator is expected to communicate his award within a week and the Pay Commission commenced its sittings yesterday. This being so, it seems most extraordinary that the Union should have chosen last night for starting the strike. Should not the Union have shown a little patience and consideration for the public?

About the demands, there are two features to which I must call attention. One is that they would involve a yearly expenditure of nearly Rs. 11 crores. This would be in addition to Rs. five crores which the Department has granted already. So the total annual relief would be Rs. 16 crores on a salary bill of Rs. 8½ crores. The budget of the Department would be a deficit one—at a time when the income has been the highest on record—unless postage rates were raised. We have just reduced the price of the postcard. The hands of the clock would have to be put back.

The other features is that the Union's letter of May 20 desired the appointment of M. Dalvi on the Pay Commission and the satisfaction of all the demands made by the Union in its previous notice of strike which were not covered by the terms of reference of Adjudication or of the Pay Commission. The Union has been shifting its ground. In the present notice, the demand about Mr. Dalvi is dropped. Only five of the demands made in the previous notice of strike are retained. All but one of the remaining seven are new in their present form.

Delivery Centres

Seven of the demands are covered by the terms of reference of the Pay Commission or Adjudication; the rest are very minor and such as can be settled by discussion. If strikes are called every time that new demands are not met within a fortnight the administration would come to a stand still. I have, however, promised my sympathetic consideration to the new demands, but the Union is not prepared to discuss or to wait.

Well, what you and I feared has come to the pass; the strike started last night. The Madras and Sind and Baluchistan Provincial Branches of the Union have decided not to participate in the strike. We are also hoping that it would be possible to maintain the delivery arrangements in Central Provinces, Berar, Rajputana, Central India, Bihar, Orissa and Assam without much difficulty. Although in other places the members of six Unions who have federated may not, in accordance with the instructions of the Federation, join the strike, the public there would, I am afraid, be seriously inconvenienced because it may not be possible for delivery to go out by hand of postmen and because of the suspension of unregistered parcels and the booking of registered, insured and V.P. articles and money orders.

Delivery centres have been opened and the public have been requested to call for their letters. Chambers of Commerce, Public bodies like Boy Scouts, and public spirited citizens are very sportingly helping by distributing letters as on previous occasions in 1917 and 1920. The Boy

Scouts Association of India have asked all their branches to place the Scouts at the disposal of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

I have explained to the Union and also in my open letter to the employees that the strike is illegal, and if they join it, they would render themselves liable to penal and disciplinary action.

In case they go on strike, they cannot blame us if they come to harm and are replaced. The public must be served at all costs.

An Assurance

The issues between the Union and the Department are very narrow and petty. Under the circumstances to call a strike is nothing, if I may so, but holding the country to ransom. The Postmen and Lower Grade Staff now on strike can save the public the great inconvenience and avoid much misery to themselves and their families by returning to work. By their present action they stand to forfeit the sympathy of their best friend, the public. They may be afraid to rejoin work for fear of letting down the Union, but it is better than letting down the public who are their masters and to whom they owe a greater loyalty.

I have today sent out instructions to all Heads of Post and Telegraph Circles that if those who have absented themselves from their work will rejoin within 72 hours their orders of suspension would be cancelled and their absence condoned. Others who don't will have to reap the consequences of their actions. If they have any reasonable grievances, I assure them that they would receive the sympathetic consideration of the Department.

DELAYS IN MAILS FOR BURMA AND FAR EAST

A number of complaints of serious delays to mails to and from Burma and other countries in the Far East have come to the notice of the Director-General, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on July 10.

It added: To avoid further complaints in this matter it is hereby notified for public information that these delays were actually caused by a sudden switch over in the mode of transport of these mails from the navy-controlled ships to commercial vessels. No ships could be made available for the transport of mails from the first week of February until the third week of March.

The Director-General very much regrets the inconvenience and annoyance caused to the public and assures them that adequate arrangements have since been made to utilise all possible sailings for the transmission of mails but even so it is not yet possible to secure the same regularity and frequency as before the war.

GOVERNMENT'S SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF POSTAL WORKERS' DEMANDS

Most of the demands made by the Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union have either been referred to adjudication or the Pay Commission and the remaining demands are too trivial in nature for the staff to have recourse to a strike for redress, and a reiteration of Govern ment's sympathetic consideration of postmen and lower grade staff's demands which has been translated into a grant of Rs. 1.14 crores as interim relief in March last—these are the main points of the appeal to postmen and lower grade staff made by Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, in an open letter dated July 2 to all postmen and lower grade staff.

The letter also points out that while there are no grounds for the Postmen's claim of "no retrenchment" there is no immediate fear of any appreciable reduction in personnel. From returns received so far it appears that only half a dozen employees out of a total of over a lakh, have been discharged.

Other points in the letter bring out the illegality of the strike and the impossibility of appointing Mr. Dalvi on the Pay Commission The letter makes a personal appeal to the postmen and lower grade staff to consider carefully before taking such an important step whether the issues were really big enough for drastic action involving misery to themselves and their dependents and very serious inconvenience to the public.

Director-General's Open Letter to Employees

As you are aware, I have received a notice from the Honorary General Secretary, All India Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union, that unless its 12 listed demands are conceded before July 11, 1946, the members of the Union would go on strike from that date, said the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, in an open letter, dated July 2, addressed to all postmen and lower grade staff.

Since the matter is one of great importance for the postmen and lower grade staff and to the public, I am taking the unusual step of addressing this letter personally to you.

Before I deal with the list of demands, I should give you the background of this notice. This is the third notice received by this Department within the last 19 months. The first one was dated November 17, 1944, and the second dated February 19, 1946, and both were withdrawn on May 20, 1946.

Union's Resolution

Mr. Dalvi, Honorary General Secretary of the above Union forwarded to me a copy of Resolution No. 2 passed at a special meeting of the Council of Action held on May 12, 1946. This Resolution required that Mr. Dalvi be appointed as a member of the Pay Commission and included the warning that unless this was done, "this Council will be compelled to resort to the extreme step of direct action to enforce its demand in this important respect which is most vital to the interests of the employees".

The Resolution also mentioned that a number of demands made by the Union in its notice of strike dated February 12, 1946, were not covered by the terms of reference of Adjudication or of the Pay Commission and it authorised the Honorary General Secretary to serve a notice of strike in case the Government did not concede them before June 19, 1946. I replied to the Honorary General Secretary that, apart from the legal validity of the strike which was threatened, the demand of the Union was unreasonable, because, if the Postmen and Lower Grade Staff of the Department could claim representation on the Pay Commission, other bodies of Government servants, gazetted and non-gazetted, could make the same claim There were, for instance, the Railway Staff, Press workers, Customs officials, employees of the Finance Department and hosts of other employees who were concerned.

Mr N. M. Joshi, ex-M. L.A., a well-known Labour leader, who had been one of the Vice-Presidents of the Union, from 1941 to 1944, was already a member of the Commission. (It has come to my notice within the last two days that he is the present President of the Union.) In addition to him, there were represented on the Pay Commission a number of M.L.As who had spoken in support of the adjournment motion moved in the Central Legislative Assembly on February 7, 1946. Another member of the Commission is the Hon'ble Mr. Hossain Imam, who was the Vice-President from 1938 to 1940 of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Union which represents, among others, Postmen and Lower Grade Staff.

In regard to the second part of the Resolution I stated at the time, and I reiterate it now, that the most important of the demands made by the postal employees were covered by the terms of reference either of the Pay Commission or of the Adjudication. I also pointed out in my reply that Government had only recently granted generous reliefs in the matter of Dearness Allowance and Good Conduct Pay.

As a result of a meeting of the Conference held at Poona on June 23, 1945, the Union has put before the Posts and Telegraphs Department 12 demands backed by a threat to go on strike from July 11, 1946, if the demands were not conceded. In the list of demands forwarded with the notice the question of the appointment of Mr. Dalvi on the Pay Commission has been omitted. For your information I am enclosing a statement (See Page 52) which gives the list of demands. You will see that the major demands are for fixation of higher scales of pay and allowances, revision of leave and pension rules and for stoppage of retrenchment.

Generous Concessions

There are others asking for a larger number of holidays, the grant of overtime for working on holidays, exemption from medical examination on confirmation in higher grades, creation of leave reserve, reservation of more posts in the clerical cadre for Postmen, confirmation in higher grades without examination and abolition of the term "Inferior Servants". Seven of these 12 demands were not embodied in the last notice of strike dated February 12, 1946, and all of them but one are new, having never been made in the present form.

In March last the Government of India granted generous concessions to Posts and Telegraphs employees by:—

(i) increasing the Good Conduct Pay (which is not paid to Government servants other than those in the Posts and Telegraphs) from Rs. 7 to Rs. 12 for employees in receipt of salary below Rs. 40, and from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 for employees in receipt of pay between Rs. 40 and Rs. 120;

(ii) raising the limit to which increased Good Conduct Pay could be drawn from Rs. 120 per month to Rs. 160 per month;

(iii) granting six months' arrears of Good Conduct Pay and of increase in the Dearness Allowance; and

(iv) liberalising the pension rules for inferior servants. The inferior servants were allowed to draw pension up to the limit of half average pay and in addition were allowed to count half the Dearness Allowance towards pension.

Pay Commission

The benefit in Good Conduct Pay and Dearness Allowance would entail an expenditure of Rs. 1 crore and 14 lakhs. The Government of India, as has already been pointed out, have appointed a Pay Commission to examine the whole question of scales of pay, leave and pensions, and one of the specific points which the Commission is to consider is the abolition of the term "Inferior Servants." The Commission will soon be getting to work and, as has already been announced, Government have decided to give effect to its finding from January 1, 1947. So it is a matter of only six months before the new scales of pay and rules about leave and pension will come into operation.

The Government have further referred to Adjudication the representation of the All India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union and other Service bodies that the salaries of the employees on the revised scales of pay were not adequate. You will be glad to learn that the Adjudicator has completed the hearing of the case and is expected to announce his award within the next two weeks or so.

The Government have already increased substantially the pay and allowances of the Posts and Telegraphs employees to meet the rise in the cost of living. The initial pay and allowance of a Packer in Bombay (which is an "A" Class Area) come, for instance, to Rs. 63-5 per mensem; in "B" Class Areas, like Lahore, Nagpur and Madras, to Rs. 43 per mensem;, and in "C" Class Areas (smaller towns and villages) to Rs. 40 per mensem. He draws nearly three times more than he did before the war and this increase neutralises fully the increase in the cost of living.

The percentage increase in the emoluments of postmen, head postmen, etc., is not so great, but they draw higher pay and their margin of adjustment to meet the higher cost of living is greater. If after the handsome relief granted by the Government in the matter of pay, allowances and pensions, the Union has still any grievances in that direction which it still nurses, these will be matters for consideration by the Adjudicator and the Pay Commission.

Demand About Retrenchment

The other major demand is about retrenchment. It is presumed that the Union refers to the discharge of temporary personnel who are likely to be displaced by people with War Service or Posts and Telegraphs employees returning from Army Postal Units. Their number is not very big. It is estimated that the number of Postmen, inferior servants, etc., will be about 2,000 in the whole of India, but their discharge will be spread over a long period. The intake of the Department as regards Postmen, inferior servants, etc., is about 1,000 annually.

It is expected that the men retrenched will be absorbed in the Department in the vacancies which occur in the normal course or which will be created as a result of the post-war expansion of the activities of the Department. As a matter of fact, up to now, a very few people have been discharged. The policy of the Government in regard to re-employment was stated very clearly in the Legislative Assembly on February 7 1946, by the then Secretary, Sir Gurunath Bewoor. The Government gave the assurance that the discharged temporary employees would be given preference in filling vacancies which would occur after January 1, 1946. That assurance holds good. Those people whose qualifications do not conform to the minimum qualifications required for the post which they now hold would be offered alternative employment.

Out of the 12 demands now made, only five are not covered by the terms of reference of the Pay Commission or of the Adjudication. They are petty and, with the exception of one, they have never been made before in their present form.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department will gladly discuss them with the Union and give them its sympathetic consideration, but it is not possible to arrive at a satisfactory decision on them within the 14 days specified in the notice. Such demands have been examined in a friendly spirit in the past and they can again be examined in the same spirit in the future indeed, if they had been put forward before, they would have been so examined. If strikes are called every time when new demands are not satisfied within 14 days, the administration and the whole business of the country would come to a standstill. The Department realises that a contented staff is the best guarantee of service to the public and will gladly consider any reasonable demands of the staff.

Strike Illegal

I must draw the attention of the Postmen and Lower Grade Staff to one important feature and I do so not in order to threaten them; but simply to apprise them of the legal position so that they may not say that they were not duly warned. The Government have been advised that the present notice of strike is illegal and, therefore, the members of the All India postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union cannot go on strike without making themselves liable to penal action.

So far as those Postmen and Inferior Servants who are not members of the Union are concerned, they cannot even advance the plea that a notice on their behalf has been served. If they strike work, their action also would come within the mischief of law.

Public business cannot be allowed to suffer and the Heads of Circles have been instructed to take steps to keep the services going at all costs. Those of you who remain staunch will receive every protection. On the other hand those who go on strike will render themselves to the consequences of their action.

An Appeal

I appeal to you, the Postmen and the Lower Grade Staff, who have such a proud record of service to the Department and the public, to pause and reflect and to ask yourself the following questions:—

When the Department has already helped me so much financially and in other ways, and when, if there is still any inequity in the matter of pay, allowances, leave and pension, it can be put right through the Adjudicator and the Pay Commission, and

the minor grievances can be settled by discussion.

(i) Is it absolutely necessary that I should go on strike?

(ii) Are the issues really so big that I should go on strike and render myself liable to prosecution and loss of service, which would involve misery to me and those who are dependent upon me?

(iii) Must the public, who are my real masters, be put to the serious inconvenience which the disruption of the postal services would entail?

(iv) When the strike is illegal and I cease work, can I honestly ask the Department to retain me in service, not to have my place *filled permanently* and not to prosecute me?

I only hope that every Postmen and Lower Grade Staff will bring calm judgment to bear upon these questions which affect their well-being and that of their families and, last but not the least, the public whose sympathy they will forfeit by ill-advised and hasty action.

12 Demands put forth by the All India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union

DEMANDS	*Was it embodied in the list accompanying the strike notice dated 12.7.1946.*	*Was the demand in its present form ever been made before.*	*Demand covered by Pay Commission or Adjudication.*
1. The scales of pay of all the officials in the P. and T. Department below the clerical cadre should be revised as shown below:—			
I. Clerks promoted from postmen Rs. 100-5-200			
II. Overseers, Readers, Sorting Postmen and Mail Guards. Rs. 90-5-130			
III. Postmen and Linemen. Rs. 40-2-80			
IV. R.M.S. and Hall Jamadars Rs. 45-2-55			
V. Packers, Porters and van peons and Telegraph messengers and runners. Rs. 30-1-45	Yes		Pay Commission.
VI. Boy Peons. Rs. 20-1-25			
VII. Mail Drivers. Rs. 100-10-150			
VIII. Telegraph Sub Inspectors. Rs. 85-5-140			
IX. Telegraph Line Inspectors. Rs. 150-10-200			
2. The existing leave rules for the Postmen and Lower Grade Staff should be abolished and substituted by those in existence prior to 1931.	Yes		Pay Commission.
3. All distinction in the matter of leave and pension rules between the superior and inferior servants of the P. and T. Department should be abolished and the term (Inferior) servants should be abolished.	Yes		Pay Commission.
4. Officials of the P. and T. Department who have acted in higher grades satisfactorily for a year or more should be confirmed in those higher grades without any examination.	Yes		
5. The percentage of posts in the clerical cadre reserved for candidates from Postmen obtaining qualifying marks in the test should be raised from 20 per cent to 50 per cent as before, and the posts be reserved for the departmental candidates in the same way as for the minority candidates.	Yes		
6. There should be no retrenchment of any employee and those who have already been retrenched should be reinstated on the same terms.	No		
7. The number of holidays in the P. and T. Department should be the same as in the other Departments of the Central Government.	No	No	Pay Commission.
8. All work done on Sundays and Postal Holidays should be compensated by the grant of overtime allowance.	No	No	Pay Commission.
9. A gratuity calculated at the rate of one month's pay for one year of service, should be granted to the family of an employee who dies before earning pension.	No	No	Pay Commission.
10. All the distinction in the matter of pay, leave, dearness and other allowances and privileges between A, B and C areas should be abolished and all areas should be treated as A areas.	No	No	Pay Commission.
11. The practice recently introduced of compelling employees in permanent service of many years standing to undergo medical examination at the time of their confirmation in the higher grades in which they have been officiating be immediately stopped, and all those who have suffered on account of this requirement should be confirmed without this examination.	No	No	
12. Adequate leave reserve should be provided so as to ensure that departmental candidates who have served satisfactorily for one year or more should be confirmed and their temporary service should be counted towards pension.	No	No	

INDIA'S NATIONAL WAR ACADEMY

TENTATIVELY selected by the C.-in-C. in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, during his recent visit to Poona, the site for India's National War Academy at Karakvasla Lake has now been approved by the Working Committee of the National War Academy. When completed, the Academy will house about 16,000 personnel including 2,400 cadets, as well as teaching staff and menial staff with their families.

The War Department is seeking the assistance of the Bombay Government in acquiring about 5,000 acres of land in the vicinity of the lake. It is hoped that construction work will begin this winter and that the Academy will start functioning in two or three years' time.

The Working Committee has also approved with slight modifications the reports of the Syllabus and Establishment and of the Accommodation and Planning Sub-Committees. The former Sub-Committee made a report covering the system of admission into the Academy, scope and nature of training and the approximate civilian and Service staff required.

The Accommodation and Planning Sub-Committee agreed on a plan of building to make the Academy totally self-contained and its structure worthy of a national memorial.

FOUR-YEAR COURSE

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, the Syllabus and Establishments Sub-Committee of the Indian National War Memorial Committee has been forging ahead with plans for the proposed Services Academy. The work of this Sub-Committee is now finished and its report will be submitted to the Working Committee of the organisation.

The Sub-Committee has drawn up a syllabus for both academic and Service subjects. A four-year course is proposed, common to all cadets for the first two years, after which cadets will divide into general, engineering and business classes. Approximately 700 cadets will be admitted to the Academy every year.

Dr. Jha's services have been loaned to the Government of India for a period of four months from April to August, 1946, when he would resume his work as Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University.

From July 20, 1946, no further applications for Indian Emergency Commissions in the Indian Army will be accepted, said a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (India) on July 9.

It added: After this date entry for civilians into the commissioned ranks of the Army will be only through the Indian Military Academy.

Candidates for Indian Emergency Commissions whose applications have already been received will be called for interview. Successful applicants will be accepted and trained for commissions in the normal way.

Candidates for the I.M.A. must be between 18 and 21 years old on January 1 of the year of entry.

GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE OF C. P. AND BERAR



Mr. F. C. Bourne

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on July 2 stated:

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Frederick Chalmers Bourne, C.S.I., C.I.E., as Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar in succession to His Excellency Sir Henry Twynam, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., whose extended term of office expires in September next.

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

H.E. the Crown Representative, with the approval of the Secretary of State, has appointed Mr. C.G. Herbert, C.S.I., C.I.E., as Political Adviser during the absence on leave of the Hon'ble Sir Conrad Corfield, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., M.C., for about two months from the beginning of August.

Government Aid to Flying Clubs

THE Government of India have long recognised the need for healthy private flying activities to encourage aviation in the country generally and to provide the basic training for the pilots required for the civil air transport, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India on July 3.

It added: They have therefore decided to subsidise the flying clubs in such a way as will ensure rapid revival and expansion of their activities.

The Government assistance is on a scale which has permitted them to issue instructions that both instructional and solo flying shall be sold to all club members 28 years of age and under at Rs. 15 per hour and to all others at Rs. 30 per hour. The former figure is less than half the normal pre-war charge in any club in India and should enable those young men who intend to follow a career in civil aviation to obtain their training cheaply.

Landing Ground

In order to assist the clubs to operate immediately and to meet the expected heavy demand on their services, Government have loaned aircraft and engines to make their fleets up to the numbers required. In addition, assistance is being given in many other ways such as the preparation of landing grounds, the provision and repair of offices, hangars and workshops.

The active flying clubs are at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Patna, Delhi, Lahore and Karachi. Later in the year Government propose to form flying clubs at other centres as well.

AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD

The Air Transport Licensing Board, whose establishment was announced by a Posts and Air Department Press Communique on June 9, has now been fully constituted with the appointment of two more members to it, said a Press Communique issued by the Department of Posts and Air, Government of India, on July 10.

It added: The Board as fully constituted now consists of Mr. Justice Din Mahommad, Chairman; Sir Frederick Tymms, C.I.E., M.C., Director-General of Civil Aviation in India, Vice-Chairman; Mr. M. K. Sen Gupta, C.I.E., Financial Adviser (Communications), Government of India—Member with special experience of financial matters; Air Vice Marshal Sir Edward Rice, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., Deputy Director-General of Civil Aviation (Aircraft Division) —Member with special knowledge of aviation and Dewan Bahadur K. S. Menon, Bar-at-Law, Member, State Council, Jodhpur—Member appointed in consultation with the Crown Representative.



SOME MEMBERS OF THE UNOFFICIAL AMERICAN FOOD MISSION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW DELHI RECENTLY WHERE THEY GAVE THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR RECENT TOUR OF AREAS AFFECTED BY FOOD SCARCITY IN INDIA. DR. THEODORE W. SCHULTZ, LEADER OF THE MISSION, IS SECOND FROM LEFT.

WHY INDIA NEEDS FOODGRAIN IMPORTS FROM ABROAD

Dr. T. W. Schultz's Statement at New Delhi Press Conference

"SINCE our arrival in India we have flown 5,000 miles, and visited representative provinces and states. With the fullest co-operation on all sides we have visited both surplus and deficit areas. We have consulted with government officials, party leaders, professional and businessmen, towns-people and villagers. Thanks to the uncertainties of air travel we have made unexpected visits to villages and towns that had not prepared for our coming. To us who had never before been in India, all this has been an enriching experience," said Dr. Theodore W. Schultz, leader of the unofficial American Food Mission, addressing a Press conference held in New Delhi, on July 13.

[The Mission which has been sponsored by the Indian Famine Emergency Committee, of which Mrs. Pearl Buck is the chairman, visited India to acquire first-hand knowledge of the food position in the country and the condition of the people in the affected areas and to report to the American people.]

Dr. Schultz added: "You have mobilised your existing grain stocks in the areas where your food needs are most urgent. Particularly in the peninsula, your monopoly procurement and food rationing represents some of the most stringent governmental food controls that have been tried anywhere in the world for the common good. These controls have helped measurably to avert famine conditions.

"We have been struck by the public co-operation observed between many of the provincial governments and their private citizens. Exceptions are few. Officials have told us the food programme could not have been executed without such substantial public support.

"It is clear that your ultimate reliance until the next harvest is on imports from abroad. This holds true whether or not it might still be possible for you to further tighten your procurement and ration controls. Your government is not making excessive demands on the limited world grain supply and we support without reservation their estimates of necessary food imports.

"In addition, we find that India should have a central grain reserve. Such a reserve could materially improve some of the situations which have disturbed us on this trip. It could be used to alleviate sudden local shortages. It would help end the differences in rations which, as we saw them operative in Mysore, work an extra hardship on those receiving less than a 12 oz. ration.

"It should also assist your efforts to stabilise the position in such places as Bengal where low grain procurement, and memories of past distress give doubt and fear a chance to affect the market even when the overall stock position appears to be adequate."

After their tour of the affected areas the Mission returned to Delhi on July 10 after covering 5,000 miles by plane, motor car, train and boat.

The Mission, which left Delhi on June 28, has visited the Provinces of U.P., Bengal, Madras and Bombay and the States of Mysore and Pudukottah.

India's food problem has been discussed with all classes and sections of people, with the peasant in his mud-plastered hut in remote villages and District Officials, officers of provincial governments and Ministers of Provinces and States, with members of Provincial and Central Legislatures, with representatives of the Muslim League, the Congress and other political organisations, and with newspapermen and organisers of relief societies.

The Mission has visited ration shops, grain issue depots, warehouses and wholesalers' premises in rural and urban areas. It has watched rationing and compulsory grain procurement operations and has discussed health problems and incidence of disease with Provincial and State health authorities.

At the very beginning of the tour, the Mission had to reverse its programme owing to monsoon conditions and to proceed to Lucknow and then to Calcutta prior to its South Indian tour instead of visiting those places later as had been originally planned.

The Mission has had one major and several minor mishaps during the Indian tour—the first was a forced landing of its special plane in Vizagapatam in Madras Province which necessitated the curtailment of its schedule in South India, Mysore and Bombay and the cancellation of the Lahore visit—the second included stoning of the Missions' aircraft at Dacca by Gurkhas and occasional temporary immobilisation of one or other member of the party as they moved rapidly from one area to another with wide variations of climate and weather.

Forced Landing

The members of the Mission escaped unscathed when their special plane bound for Madras from Calcutta effected a forced landing in the bed of a dried tank 18 miles north-east of Vizagapatam. For half an hour prior to the forced landing, the plane was working on single engine owing to a ripped cylinder and was losing altitude steadily. Within a few minutes of landing, crowds of villagers gathered round the plane, for most of whom it was their first opportunity to examine an aeroplane at close quarters. The information reached R.A.F. authorities, who "jeeped" the party to the officers' mess.

"We are very much impressed with what the Madras Province has done in food control, procurement, rationing and price control. That is a story to tell the world about," stated a member of the Mission on the conclusion of a 2-day tour of the affected areas in the Madras Presidency.

The Mission, which arrived in Madras on the evening of July 4, split into two groups on the following day, one flying to Trichinopoly while the other covered over 250 miles by car, visiting the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot and Chittoor. The second party accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras Government, and the Collectors of the districts which they visited saw grim evidences of last year's drought such as parched, thirsty fields, empty river beds and dried up tanks which otherwise irrigate thousands of acres.

The Mission evinced keen interest in rural rationing and frequently halted at wayside villages to question villagers on their difficulties in the matter of food supply. "We want more rice" was the unfailing answer they received.

The Mission consisted of the following members: Dr. Theodore W. Schultz, Chairman, Department of Economics, University of Chicago; Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; Miss Lillian Smith, author and journalist; Mr. Joseph Willen, Vice-President of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York; and Mr. Sidney Hertzberg, former Editor, *Commonsense*. Journalists accompanying the Mission were: Mr. John K. Jessup, Active Editor *Life*; Miss Mary Jean Kempner, Representative of Newspapers Enterprise Association; Mrs. Dorothy Dunbar Bromley of New York *Herald Tribune* and Mr. Bradley Smith, Photographer.

INCREASED IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS

IN order to meet the present scarcity of foodstuffs in the country, the Government of India have been for some time past considering the question of increasing the supplies of foodstuffs by facilitating imports from abroad, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on July 4.

It added: For this purpose it has been decided that control over imports of following foodstuffs will be removed or relaxed in the manner explained in the subsequent paragraph:

Bacon and ham, fish, coconuts, fresh fruits, pepper, nutmegs, mace, copra and coconut kernel, lard not canned or bottled, vegetable non-essential oils, coconut oil, pulses, soyabeanflour, vermicelli, spaghetti and macaroni, oats rolled, other oats, cornflour and pearl barley.

The articles will be included in the Import Trade Control Open General Licence No. VII so that no licences for their import will be required from British Empire countries in the sterling area. Licences for these goods as well as other foodstuffs already included in that Open General Licence will be freely issued for imports from other sterling area countries and also from easy currency countries, such as France, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy and Greece.

Applications for Imports

Applications for imports of these articles from other non-sterling currency countries when supported by definite offers of availability will also receive favourable consideration.

It should, however, be made clear that some of the goods are on the Reserved Commodity List of the Combined Food Board and therefore subject to export control regulations in the exporting countries

CEMENT PRICES

A notification has been published in the *Gazette of India* dated July 6, 1946, incorporating all the amendments made from time to time to the original notification dated September 30, 1944, regarding prices of cement.

The following are its essential features:—

The maximum price of Portland Cement is Rs. 60 per ton in full wagon loads f.o.r. destinations except (a) stations situated on the Bengal and Assam Railway, supplies to which are on a f.o.r. Calcutta basis; and (b) river stations in Bengal and Assam, supplies to which are on a f.o.b. Calcutta basis.

The price now fixed is the price chargeable by all the cement companies supplying cement.

U. S. Armed Forces' Surplus Foodstuffs

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

The Department of Food have undertaken the disposal of considerable quantities of foodstuffs left as surplus by the United States Armed Forces. The disposal plan aims at reaching all classes of traders, including wholesalers.

The stocks include over 600 items, mostly tinned, but a few are in cartons and bags. Cigarettes and beverages are also included. The greater portion of the stocks are lying at Calcutta, but small quantities are available at Karachi, Agra and Delhi. Delivery to purchasers will be at the depots against release orders issued by the Chief Director of Purchase at Delhi.

Retail Prices

Retail prices have been fixed for all items and sales to traders will be at rates of discount related to the size of their demands. Further particulars can be obtained from the Chief Director of Purchase, Food Department, or the Regional Food Commissioners of the Government of India at Bombay, Calcutta, Lahore and Madras.

DISTRIBUTION OF EDIBLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

A co-ordinated basic plan for the distribution of edible oils and oilseeds from surplus to deficit areas together with the regulation of their prices was unanimously agreed upon at the Oilseeds Conference held in New Delhi between the representatives of the Provinces and the States and the Central Food Department.

There was unanimous agreement that all inter-Provincial movements of edible oils and oilseeds should be controlled both in regard to quantities and prices, as without co-ordinated action about prices, movement of quotas from surplus to deficit areas would not be effective.

Prices of edible oils and oilseeds have been rising, the increase being particularly steep during the last fortnight or so evidently due to speculation. It was, therefore, decided at the Conference that as a matter of expediency prices would have to be fixed more or less on the levels that obtained in the beginning of June, but that there should be gradual reduction in order to bring the prices down to a reasonable level by December.

Price control will be enforced uniformly all over India from July 1, 1946, and the prices notified from that date will obtain for two months to enable stocks to be moved quickly. From September 1, the prices will be gradually reduced monthly.

HOW ARMY IS HELPING TO SOLVE INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM

FROM all over India come further details of the Army's all-out effort to combat the threatened famine.

Ploughing up another 800 acres of waste land on the Kabul river at Warsak, near Peshawar, Northern Command have done much to aid the N.-W.F.P. Government's anti-famine drive. Troops in this area have now upturned 11,000 acres of virgin soil which are expected to yield several hundred tons of foodgrains.

Southern Command are supplying the Government with 2,000 Army beds, as well as the necessary equipment for medical relief purposes in scarcity areas. The Army has also promised its co-operation in supplementing existing medical and public health arrangements for dealing with epidemics that may arise in the scarcity areas of the province. Ambulance cars, jeeps with trailers, trucks and lories will be supplied for medical relief work.

The Army is also supplying water piping and pumping sets, prefabricated sheds for storage, and transport for carrying foodstuffs.

In the meantime, troops all over the country continue to play their own personal part by avoiding waste and devoting even more land in military areas, to the cultivation of crops.

* * *

Food Laboratories

In the course of two months this year, over 60,000 food samples were analysed by the laboratories of the Army's Directorate of Food Inspection. Their vital task ensures the health of the fighting Services in India.

Working in direct association with the Food Department of the Government of India in connection with the inspection of indigenous products supplied under contract, the Directorate operates eight food laboratories and four ghee-testing laboratories. The food laboratory in New Delhi is in some ways the best equipped of its kind in the whole of northern India.

A ceaseless scrutiny of reserve food stocks is maintained by food inspection units. During 1945 this involved dealing with a reserve which never fell below 30,000 tons.

* * *

Milk Supplies

To improve the milk supply of India's civil population, the Quartermaster-General in India has offered to place the resources of the Military Farms Directorate at the disposal of civil administrations in this country.

The Q.M.G. has also expressed his willingness to implement such of the dairy farm schemes of the provincial governments as they may wish him to undertake on their behalf. In addition, he is prepared to establish milk production units (cattle yards) processing units (dairies) and also farms for young and dry stock, as well as to help in the training of the staff required to run these different units, each of which will be handed over, when running smoothly, to the governments concerned.

This offer is made on condition that a central administrative and planning section be set up at General Headquarters to establish the units, the cost involved to be borne by the provincial governments concerned. The site, layout and design of the units will be approved by the Quartermaster-General and the funds for capital and recurring expenditure of the units to be established must all be met by the civil administrations.

* * *

New Milk Blending Process

As a result of a revolutionary new milk blending process which is shortly to be introduced into the Indian Army by the Military Farms Department, the milk of the jawan is going to be increased by 50 per cent. This process will also effect an annual saving of Rs. 20 lakhs.

The process consists of reconstituting imported evaporated milk powder with pure water and and mixing it with a proportion of buffalo milk, which has a high fat content. The result gives a fresh milk which is indistinguishable from ordinary cow's milk and is equally rich in proteins and vitamins.

The new milk will entirely replace standard milk. Its introduction will enable Military Dairy Farms to reduce the size of their herds, a factor which will lead to a corresponding reduction in fodder requirements.

Blended milk will be issued on existing scales to British troops in India, but it will not be supplied either to military families or hospitals, nor will it be offered for sale to the public.

* * *

Help of Army Transport

For more than seven months the Army has been lending vehicles to the civil authorities for the movement of grain and other foodstuffs. In the northern Punjab, military vehicles have been working for the local administration since December and in Southern India large stocks of food have been moved as part of the Army's training programme.

At present six motor transport companies are being employed in the U.P. and Rajputana States. These companies would have been disbanded had the Government not required them for this purpose. They have now been kept on for this relief work and are being paid for by the civil administrations.

The movement of food from one area to another is one of the greatest problems in the efforts to prevent famine and is particularly difficult in districts where there is no rail communication or where roads are bad. In one instance, in the hills of the U. P., not even vehicles can be used, so the Army has provided an animal transport company.

EXPORT OF CASTOR SEED AND LINSEED

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on July 1 stated:

It has been decided to permit export of limited quantities of castor seed to the United Kingdom and Australia during 1946. In April last, these quantities were distributed to certain shippers on the basis of their sales during 1941-42 to H.M.G.'s Ministry of Food.

In supersession of that procedure, it has now been decided that export of castor seed to the United Kingdom should be allowed within the quotas under the arrangements which were in force prior to April. Exports of castor seed to Australia will be allowed on production of evidence of confirmed sale and letter of credit within the quota fixed.

Out of the surplus of linseed available for export during 1946, the question of fixing quotas for various countries is under consideration. As soon as these determined, exports will be permitted on the same basis as indicated above for castor seed. Shippers should, however, note that the quantities are comparatively small and exports will be stopped as soon as the quotas are exhausted.

LAST BATCH OF BEVIN BOYS FOR UNITED KINGDOM

Training mainly in Engineering trades will be given to the last and 14th batch of Bevin trainees who will shortly sail for U.K. The period of their training will be one year instead of eight months as in the past.

The batch consists of 60 trainees, 48 of whom were selected from Services personnel and the rest from civilians. Nine of the civilian trainees will receive training as instructors for the disabled. One of the Servicemen is already in U.K. and will join the party on its arrival.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service in H.M.'s Government have generously agreed to meet the expenditure on this batch in U.K.

RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION MEETS RAILWAY BOARD

Interim Relief Measures Discussed

THE delegates from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met the Railway Board on July 11 to discuss with them the method by which the *ad interim* relief which was recommended by the Railway Standing Finance Committee—recommendations which were accepted both by Government and the Federation—should be distributed, said a Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on July 11.

It added: This relief was to amount to an additional expenditure of Rs. 5 crores per annum which, with retrospective effect from July 1, 1945, would entail a total debit of Rs. 9 crores during the current financial year.

Two Increments

The Federation pressed for direct relief at a flat rate right from those on the lowest scales of pay to those drawing up to Rs. 250 p.m. They considered that the total money available would enable this flat rate to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 5.

The Railway Board felt, however, that relief should bear some relation to the individual's pay which could be achieved by increments subject to certain maxima and minima so as, as far as possible, to do justice to all. It appeared to them possible that the total sum would provide for two such increments.

There was also discussion as to whether a distinction should be made between those on the old and the revised scales of pay, but, having regard to the *ad interim* nature of the relief and the hope expressed by the Federation that the Pay Commission would rectify this anomaly, it was suggested by the Federation that no distinction should be made.

The Federation finally gave it as their view that, in whatever way relief was given, it should result in an increase in emoluments of Rs. 5 p.m. to those under Rs. 30 p.m. and Rs. 4 p.m. to those drawing from Rs. 30 to Rs. 250 a month.

The Railway Board said that they would now reconsider their tentative views in the light of what the Federation had said and would give the greatest weight possible to the opinions expressed by the delegates. They could not, however, commit Government to particular features of the scheme, more especially in regard to the Rs. 250 p.m. limit. They hoped to issue orders soon and made it clear that in no case would it be possible to pay before the August pay sheets.

PAY COMMISSION TO MAKE INTERIM REPORT

THE Central Pay Commission commenced their first session on July 10, in the room of the Chairman in the Imperial Secretariat, New Delhi. The procedure to be followed by the Commission as well as their programme of work were discussed.

In response to the Government's request that the Commission should report as early as possible on the question of pay, the Commission have decided to make an interim report on the subject. It is expected that before the end of the session, the Commission will settle the terms of the questionnaire and give directions for its issue to associations of employers and employees as well as to public associations and select individuals, inviting replies in a month's time.

When they reassemble towards the end of August or early in September to consider the replies received they will come to a dicision as to the persons or bodies to be invited to appear before them to give evidence.

WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

In response to the announcement of May 13, 1946, by the Secretary, Central Pay Commission, stating that the Commission will be prepared to give due consideration to any suggestions on subjects covered by their terms of reference, a number of representations have been received from individuals saying that they are desirous of giving oral evidence in support of their representations, said a Press Note issued by the Office of the Central Pay Commission on July 12.

It is announced for general information that at this stage the Commission will only receive written representations and it will be for them to decide at the proper time who the persons are whom they will examine or hear in person. In the circumstances separate replies are not being sent to individuals who have offered to give evidence.

The Primary Examination for F.R.C.S. (England) will be held in Madras on December 23, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, Government of India, on July 10.

It added: The Examination will be open to candidates (men or women) possessing a qualification which is registerable in the British Medical Register, or degrees in medicine and surgery of an Indian university recognised by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Regulations and application forms are obtainable from the Director of Examinations, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Examination Hall, Queen Square, London, W.C.I..

American Independence Day Greetings

THE following message was sent by the Secretary to the Government of India in the External Affairs Department, to the Commissioner of the United States of America to India, New Delhi, to mark the celebration of American Independence Day (July 4):

On the occasion of Independence Day, I offer the greetings of the Government of India to you and through you to all your compatriots in India.

I should like to take this opportunity to express the confident belief that the collaboration between India and the United States of America which achieved such remarkable results in wartime will continue in peace to promote the interests of the two countries and to contribute towards the security and, in due time, to the restored prosperity of the world.

American Commissioner's Reply

The Commissioner of the United States of America to India replied:

Thank you very much for the cordial message you have been good enough to convey on the occasion of our Independence Day. It is most gratifying to receive this message, and I am sure it will be greatly appreciated by all the Americans in India.

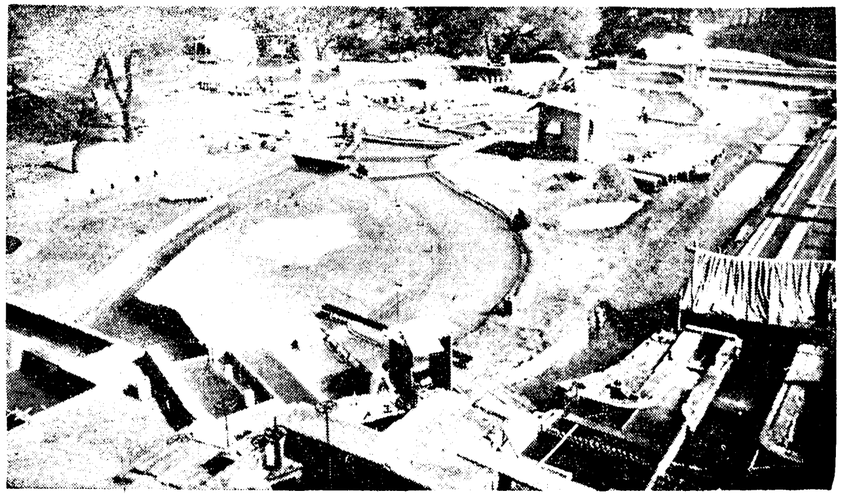
I share your confidence that the collaboration between the United States and India, which contributed so greatly to the defeat of our enemies, will continue and, with our relations becoming even closer in peacetime, will not only ensure the security of our countries but will advance their economic and cultural development.

I believe, this year the celebration has particular significance in view of the great efforts now being made to bring about the independence of India and the fact that today Americans, in addition to commemorating the beginnings of their own nation are also celebrating the first independence day of the Philippines after 48 years of American stewardship.

According to a notification published in the Gazette of India dated June 29, 1946, the Government of India have amended the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1945.

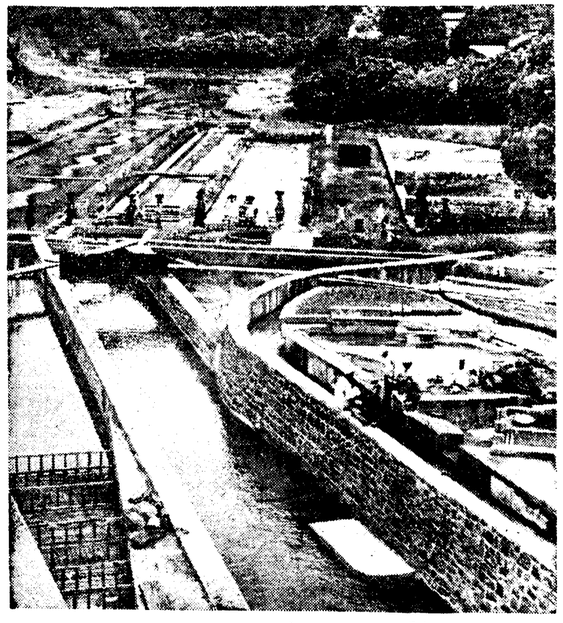
The effect of the amendment is to prohibit the diversion by manufacturers of spindleage in their undertaking for production of yarn which does not come under the purview of the above order.

Any manufacturer desiring to employ spindles in this undertaking for spinning material other than cotton, namely Art Silk Waste, Wood Fibre, etc. cannot do so without the permission of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay.



A LARGESCALE MODEL OF THE HOOGHLY RIVER AT THE INDIAN WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION, POONA.

REORGANISATION OF INDIAN WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION



SOME PERMANENT DEMONSTRATION MODELS AT THE WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION.

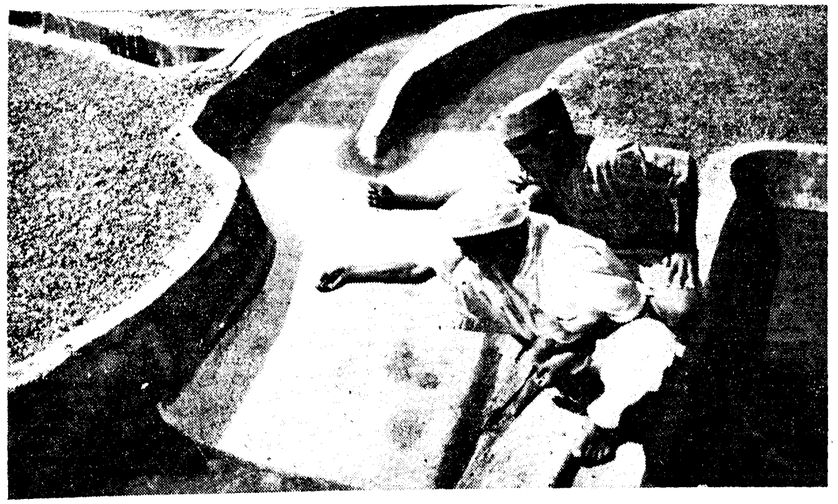
A proposal to increase the scope of the Indian Waterways Experiment Station at Poona and to re-organise it as the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Research Station with headquarters at Delhi and a branch at Poona was disclosed by Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, in his presidential address to the 16th annual meeting of the Research Committee of the Central Irrigation Board held at Simla on July 8. The meeting lasted six days.

"It will be the function of this Central Research Station," said Mr. Khosla, "to provide facilities on an adequate scale for comprehensive research in all branches of engineering connected with water problems of the country. Navigation research will be a special feature of this station."

Facilities for Training

Mr. Khosla also announced that Provinces and States, which have research organisations of their own, have agreed to provide facilities for training research personnel, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Central Irrigation Board last year.

Referring to the meetings of the Research Committee which provide an opportunity for the discussion of common problems, Mr. Khosla observed: "There are many items of research in connection with control works for the conservation and regulation of water which are common to other engineering and other allied



MODEL OF THE EASTERN NARA SHOWING THE APPROACH TO THE MITHRAO CANAL. IMPORTANT EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AT THE STATION TO PREVENT THE SILTING UP OF THIS CANAL.

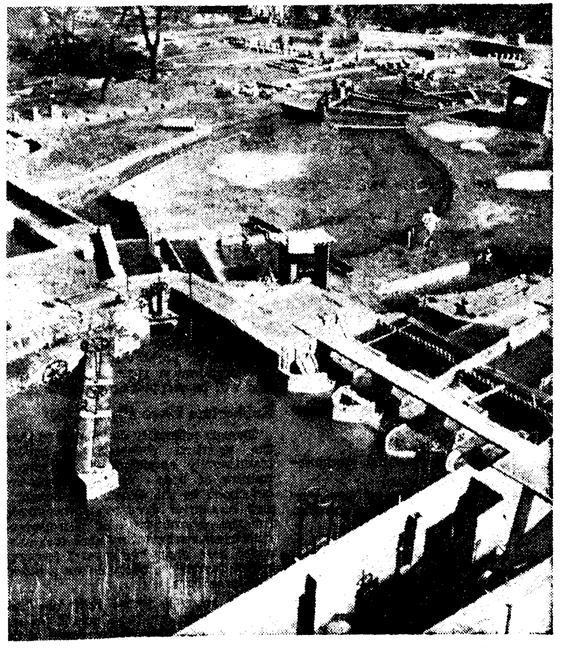
organisations; for instance, the subject of soil mechanics is of importance to the road and railway engineer; hydrology is as well the concern of the Meteorological Department, soil erosion affects equally the Forest Department; foundation problems and foundation treatment are of interest to the Geological Department." Representatives of these interests are taking part in the deliberations of the Research Committee."

NEW DEVICE FOR FLOOD CONTROL

A revolutionary device for flood control in dams, claimed to be an advance on American and other inventions and ranking as an important contribution from India to the science of hydraulic engineering, was discussed by the Committee which concluded its meeting on July 13.

The device, a Volute Syphon invented by Mr. Ganesh Iyer of Mysore and called after his name, is useful for getting rid of large quantities of flood water from storage reservoirs without endangering their safety. It is said to be automatic in action, inexpensive to erect and cheap to maintain.

The Committee has suggested to the various Governments interested in hydro-electric schemes that improvements and savings in cost may result in the construction of dams if the designs of foreign manufactured hydraulic machinery are put to model tests. It has also recommended local manufacture of hydraulic turbines, generators and allied machinery.



THE NUMEROUS RIVER MODELS AT THE STATION DERIVE AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF WATER FROM LAKE PIPE THROUGH THE SLUICES OF THE KHADAKWASLA DAM. PICTURE SHOWS A STILLING BASIN IN THE FOREGROUND.

The discussions of the Committee centred round the design and technique of constructing large earth dams embodying the latest theories in soil mechanics. It was felt that research in the behaviour of *Kankar* lime under treatments indicated the possibilities of reviving its use in preference to cement in certain new schemes.

The need for increasing the number of rain-gauge stations in the country and of improving the record and analysis of meteorological data with particular reference to irrigation and hydro-electric projects was stressed during the discussions on the subject of rainfall run-off.

Among other subjects examined were the theory of flow in channels, designs of various types of canal works, water requirements of crops, river-training and land reclamation.

The meeting was presided over by Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India. Besides irrigation experts, representatives of the Indian Army, Railway Board, India Meteorological Department, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Road Congress attended the session.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ABOLISHED

A notification published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated July 5 states that the Governor-General-in-Council is pleased to announce the abolition of the Department of Planning and Development with effect from the afternoon of July 4. Its work will be distributed as under:

(a) to the Industries and Supplies Department—

(1) Planning and development of industries generally;

(2) Planning and development of industries (federal aspect);

(3) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, Industrial Research Utilisation Committee and Directorate of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(b) to the Works, Mines and Power Department—

Mineral Planning, and

(c) to the Co-ordination Committee of Council—

General co-ordination of post-war planning and development.

Manufacturers of cloth to whom the Textile Commissioner has released artificial silk yarn are prohibited from selling or delivering it except under a general or special permission issued by him. An order to this effect has been issued by the Central Government under the Defence of India Rules and has been published in the Gazette of India, dated July 13, 1946.

INDIAN ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY HAS MADE SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENTS

THE Aluminium Industry, a war-born industry, has made spectacular developments during the past three years, and India has now a prominent place among the world producers of aluminium.

It is the only non-ferrous metal of which, so far as is known, India possesses large deposits. Rapid developments are taking place in the manufacture and utilisation of this metal. An article on recent developments and post-war possibilities in this connection appears in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

Production Operations

The year 1943 saw aluminium produced for the first time in India at the Alupuram (Travancore State) Reduction Works of the Indian Aluminium Company. Since then, spectacular developments have taken place. The whole of the wartime requirements were supplied by the Indian Aluminium Company. The rolling mills in Belur, Calcutta, and the manufacturing plants produced sheet metal, and components for aircraft parts, radio and field telephone equipment, range finders, field hospital equipment, etc.

From a technical point of view, production operations in the Travancore factory compare favourably with the large production units in Canada and the United States of America. Carbon electrodes required for aluminium reduction are produced in the Works. Arrangements are complete for the production of strong alloys of the duralumin type.

The Travancore factory will produce, when its power requirements are fully satisfied, 5,000 tons of aluminium per annum. The construction of the Aluminium Works for the treatment of Indian bauxite at Muri (Bihar) is nearing completion. This factory will have an ultimate capacity of 40,000 tons per annum. The Aluminium Corporation of India, Asansol, has now started working and produces at present about 1,000 tons of aluminium a year. This production will be stepped up shortly.

Rubberless Hose Pipes

Though primarily developed to meet the wartime shortage of rubber, traditionally employed in the manufacture of hose pipes, the process developed in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratories for the manufacture of petrol-proof, rubberless carburetter tubes and armoured hose pipes has several features, which favour its adoption as a standard procedure.

Test reports reveal that the hose manufactured by the Council process gives satisfactory performance under service conditions. The process utilizes materials abundantly available in India, and the equipment required for manufacturing the pipes can be fabricated in this country. The process is now open for commercial exploitation.

The Journal includes an article on paludrine, the new anti-malarial, contributed by Dr. D. S. Davey, one of the discoverers of this drug in the Imperial Chemical Industries Laboratories. The drug has been tested clinically on an extensive scale in several Army Research units, particularly in Australia, and its effectiveness in the treatment of all types of malaria has been fully established. What makes the drug superior to quinine is its action on the exoerythrocytic forms of the malarial parasite.

The drug has a true causal prophylactic action in human malignant tertian malaria, even in small doses. Quartan malaria also yields to paludrine treatment. This drug is remarkably free from unpleasant side effects at therapeutic doses.

REVISED PRICES OF IMPORTED PAPER

In pursuance of the conclusions arrived at the meeting of the representatives of importers held in Bombay on May 27, 1946, the Government of India have by a notification issued in the *Gazette of India* dated July 13, 1946, amended the Paper (Prices of Imported Paper) Control Order, 1941, and have issued a revised schedule of ceiling prices for different varieties of imported papers.

The ceiling prices in the revised schedule are based on the recent landed costs of different varieties and margins ranging from 25 per cent to 35 per cent have been added to these costs accordingly as the varieties are fast or slow selling lines or are special brands.

The ceiling prices which were in force previously were arrived at by adding 30, 40 or 50 per cent margins to the landed costs. The reductions made in the ceiling prices range from 6 pies per lb. in the case of ordinary printing paper to six annas 4 pies per lb. in case of manifold papers.

The revised ceiling prices will come into force on August 15, 1946. All paper, whether imported before or after August 15 1946, and whether or not labelled with old prices, will have to be sold at the revised prices from that date.

Intimation has been received by the Government of India that subject to supplies being available in Austria, exports of newsprint can be allowed to India.

Parties interested in the import of newsprint should apply to the Controller of Newsprint for necessary import licences, provided they secure firm offers from suppliers in that country.

SURVEY OF INDIA'S HISTORICAL RECORDS

From Earliest Times to Present Day

A HISTORY of the Survey of India in a series of volumes, entitled "Historical Records of the Survey of India," is being published by the Surveyor General of India. This series, the first volume of which covering the 18th Century has now been issued, is being collected and compiled by Col. R. H. Phillimore, formerly of the Survey of India.

It is designed to give a full and detailed account of the work of the surveyors and geographers of India, and has been prepared from official records of the department, of the Central and Provincial Governments, of the India Office and also from records of the British Museum.

These records reconstruct the history of surveys in India from the earliest days of their inception and simple beginnings in the 18th Century and aim at bringing it up-to-date.

Geography of India

"Up to the 18th Century there was little real knowledge of the geography of India; the many maps that had been published in Venice, Holland, France and England were based on tradition and on tales of mariners and travellers; in the absence of more sure foundation they borrowed the one from the other, acquiring variation and detail as fancy directed," says Col. Phillimore. "The earliest contribution to the geography of the mainland came from French Jesuit Missionaries, one of whom Father Bouchet sent home to Paris in 1719 a rough map of southern India with a few observed altitudes and longitudes and several detailed sketches, from which the great geographer, Bourgignon d'Anville, published his first map of south India in 1737."

Adventures of Surveyors

The first volume of these historical records describes the work of the 18th Century, "a period of romance and adventure." It describes the adventures and difficulties of surveyors "working in a vast country torn with strife; intersected with unexplored forests and unbridged rivers; a country of fierce heats and torrential rains; a country where dread diseases such as dysentery, cholera and malaria took heavy toll of Europeans and Indians alike." The work of surveyors and map-makers has been described in its close relation to the political history of the country.

Not only topographical or geographical surveys but also land surveys for revenue purposes and astronomical control have been dealt with.

The second volume will deal with the period (1800-1815) of the historical development of Indian surveys, when regular organisation and system was brought to the topographical surveys of the Madras Presidency by Colin Mackenzie and the foundation of the trignometrical survey of India was laid by William Lambton.

The third volume will cover the period (1815-1830), when all the surveys were co-ordinated under one Surveyor General of India and Lambton's trignometrical survey of the South Peninsula was extended as framework for the geography of the Continent at that period. A Revenue Survey Department was established to provide professional control for such surveys, and the great Atlas of India was started to cover the whole of India with a continuous map on a uniform scale.

ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Trade With the Union Prohibited

THE period of three months' notice required for terminating the Indo-South African Trade Agreement having expired, the Government of India have decided to proceed with further measures against the Union of South Africa, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on July 16.

It added: They have accordingly issued two Notifications, published in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated July 17, 1946, prohibiting, under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, all exports from India to South Africa and all imports from South Africa into India and laying down, under this section and section 134 of the same Act, a procedure designed with a view to preventing South Africa from obtaining supplies from India by indirect means, through neighbouring countries.

The first Notification prohibits the bringing by sea or by land into British India of goods from whatever place arriving which have been consigned from or grown, produced or manufactured in the Union of South Africa.

This prohibition will not, however, apply to goods which are the personnel effects of passengers or brought into British India before August 1, 1946, or the price of which has been wholly paid on or before July 17, 1946, and the importation of which has been specially authorised by the Central Government.

The Notification also prohibits the taking by sea or by land out of British India of goods from whatever place arriving which are destined for any port or place in the Union of South Africa or in respect of which the Chief Customs Officer is satisfied that the goods, although destined for a port or a place outside the Union, are intended to be taken to the Union.

The second Notification prohibits the transhipment at any port in British India of goods destined for any port in the Union of South Africa, as also transhipment to any port even outside the Union save with the permission of the Chief Customs Officer, who will not grant such permission unless he is satisfied that the goods to be transhipped are not intended to be taken to the Union ultimately.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION AND NATURALISATION BILL

A Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on July 5 stated:

The news of the passing into law of the Indian Immigration and Naturalisation Bill by the United States Legislature has been received with great satisfaction in India. The Foreign Secretary has written to the Commissioner of the United States of America to India in the following terms:

"I am directed to say that the Government of India have learnt with profound satisfaction that the Indian Immigration and Naturalisation Bill has now become law. They wish to convey to the Government of the United States their appreciation of the persistent and active support of the Administration, without which this happy result could not have been achieved. The new measure will be welcomed by all sections of opinion in India as fresh evidence of the desire of the Government and people of the United States to accord to India equality of treatment with the other free nations of the world."

EAST AFRICA THANKS INDIA

Appreciation has been expressed by a conference of East African Governors, of the efficient manner in which East African troops have been repatriated from India resulting in the last soldier leaving the country some weeks ahead of schedule.

"The conference of East African Governors," says an official message from Nairobi to the War Department, Government of India, "would be grateful if you would convey to the military authorities and the Government of India their thanks and appreciation for the prompt and efficient manner in which East African troops have been evacuated from India.

"This resulted in the last detachment leaving well in advance of the date arranged."

GRANT OF LONG-TERM LOAN OF RS. 5 CRORES TO SIAM

Formal Agreement to be Executed

ON the conclusion of negotiations between the representatives of the Governments of India and Siam, held in New Delhi, the Government of India have agreed by an exchange of letters to grant a long-term credit of five crores of rupees to the Government of Siam, said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, on July 14.

It added: It is expected that a formal Agreement will be executed shortly in New Delhi between the Government of India and the Government of Siam. The credit is for 20 years from 1946 and will carry interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

This credit will enable the Siamese Government to purchase goods in India (mostly war surpluses) in order to assist in the early restoration of normal conditions in Siam, which is essential for accelerating the procurement of the rice so urgently needed in India. This will also bring the two countries into closer economic relations.

The Siamese representatives who negotiated the terms of the loan were: Mr. W. A. M. Doll, C.M.G., Financial Adviser to the Government of Siam, and Nai Thong Yen Halilamien, Permanent Head of the Siamese Department of Finance. His Serene Highness Prince Viwat, Governor of the Bank of Siam, is now on a visit to India to discuss matters connected with this loan.

Exchange of Telegrams

The following telegrams have been exchanged between the Government of Siam and the Government of India:

From the Government of Siam to the Government of India:

I am requested by the Prime Minister of Siam on behalf of his government and the people of Siam to convey to His Excellency the Viceroy and to the Government of India an expression of the deepest gratitude for the assistance given to Siam in its task of rehabilitation by the grant on generous terms of a credit of five crores of rupees.

It is the earnest hope of the Prime Minister that the close trade relations permitted by the grant of this credit will lead to the growth of much more intimate connection between India and Siam in all fields, whether political, economic or cultural, and that the present agreement may inaugurate a new era of increasing community of interests to be the mainspring of the more assured maintenance of peace and friendship between the nations in this part of the world.

This is the aspiration and policy of the Siamese Government for a sympathetic answer to which Siam looks to India with hope and confidence.

From the Government of India to the Government of Siam:

The Government of India have received with gratification the message of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Siam. They much appreciate the friendly septiments expressed and share His Excellency's hope that the cordial relations established between Siam and India by the visit of the Siamese Delegation will be developed and strengthened to the mutual advantage of both countries and for the benefit of world peace.

REHABILITATION OF INDIA'S TRADE WITH JAPAN

The question of rehabilitation of Indian trade with Japan has been actively taken up by the Government of India in the Far Eastern Commission, with the United States Government as well as with the Occupation authorities in Japan. The Government of India are endeavouring to secure resumption of export of cotton to Japan, and they have asked for mill-stores, textile machinery, silk and other consumer goods in exchange.

In view of uncertain conditions still prevailing in Japan, it is not unlikely that the trade between the two countries will for some time to come have to be carried on on a government-to-government basis although the Government of India are anxious that private trade should participate as soon as this may be possible.

The Occupation authorities do not also appear to be in favour of an early return of Indian evacuees to Japan. The Government of India are, however, making efforts to arrange for a representative group of evacuee merchants to proceed to Japan to inspect their properties and to protect their interests. Claims for compensation on account of damage etc. to Indian properties are being registered with the Government of India's Director of Commercial Intelligence at Calcutta. The settlement of these claims must, however, await international agreement on the question of reparations.

The Government of India have by a Gazette notification dated June 22, further reduced the price of aluminium utensils and cast utensils by 4 annas per lb. and have fixed the ceiling price of hand made utensils at Rs. 2-8-0 per lb. These reduced prices will take effect from August 1, 1946 and not from July 1, 1946, as previously announced.

Fictitious Sales of Property in Italy

IT has come to light that before the declaration of war against Italy, certain nationals of the United Nations deliberately effected fictitious transfers of their properties in Italy to Italian subjects with a view to avoid the application of Italian War Legislation against such properties, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on July 4.

It added: To help these persons to regain their properties, the Italian Government have enacted a decree conferring certain privileges on the United Nations subjects in this matter. According to this decree, nationals of the United Nations who sold their property fictitiously, will be able to re-acquire it without paying any of the existing statal or other taxes for the transfer of real or moveable property, provided that:

(a) They will not be able to claim any refund for taxes lready paid for the original transfer.

(b) They will not be entitled to claim compensation for damages on grounds that the property never in fact ceased to be Allied owned.

Personal Fees

(c) The small personal fees which notaries are entitled to for conveyancing will still be payable.

(d) In case the fictitious purchaser turns out to be of bad faith and refuses to restore the property, the Italian Courts will have sole jurisdiction to decide whether the sale was bona fide or not, and whether the original Allied owner should be reintegrated in his rights or not.

As this decree will cease to have effect after December 31, 1946, those who wish to take advantage of it are advised to see expeditiously Italian legal assistance for securing restoration of property which they had fictitiously transferred to Italian subjects.

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on July 3 stated:

Evacuees from Burma who have not so far taken out their Identity Certificates from the local authorities and are still desirous of getting themselves registered should apply to the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India through the Provincial Governments concerned.

In addition to the other particulars required the applicant should state in his application the reasons why he was unable to obtain his certificate before July 15 from Calcutta or before June 30, 1946, from other districts in India.

INDIAN SOLDIERS SEE ATOMISED CITY



NARAYAN SINGH FROM ALMORA AND NARSAYA SWAMI TALK TO A JAP LIVING IN BOMB-SHATTERED HIROSHIMA.

Hiroshima, first city of the world to die beneath atomic power was seen in all its desolation by a mixed party of Indian Other Ranks from "Brindiv" recently. Once a leading city in Japan, Hiroshima was wiped out in the fraction of a second by one bomb.

Indian Other Ranks of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force saw the example which shook the world and revolutionised war, and even they, members of the victorious armies, were awe-struck by the power and frightfulness which the Atom bomb unleashed on Hiroshima.



NAIK BABU SINGH, HAV. HAZARA SINGH, JAGU GURUNG AND CHAKRA BAHADUR THAPA EXAMINE GLASS MELTED TO A SOLID MASS BY ATOMIC HEAT.



ONCE A LEADING CITY IN JAPAN, HIROSHIMA WAS WIPED OUT IN THE FRACTION OF A SECOND BY ONE ATOM BOMB. PICTURE SHOWS A PART OF THE RUINED CITY.

C.-IN-C. VISITS BALUCH REGIMENTAL CENTRE

During a recent visit to Karachi, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, inspected the Baluch Regimental Centre and presented a flag to the Boys' Company.



V.C.Os OF THE BOYS' COMPANY BEING PRESENTED TO THE C.-IN-C.





THE SENIOR BOY, UNDER OFFICER AWAL SADSHAH, AND THE COLOUR PARTY TROOPING THE FLAG BETWEEN THE RANKS OF THE BOYS' COMPANY.



FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, PRESENTING THE FLAG TO THE BOYS' COMPANY, (RIGHT) HIS EXCELLENCY HAB TEA WITH OFFICERS OF THE BALUCH REGIMENT.

LADY CARLISLE LEAVES INDIA

The Countess of Carlisle, who recently vacated her appointment as Director of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) left New Delhi by air for the United Kingdom on July 6.

Among those present at the Willingdon airport to bid her farewell were Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India; Controller Mrs. M.E. Dauglas, O.B.E., Director, Women's Auxiliary Corps (India); Chief Officer L. B. Campbell M.B.E., Assistant Director, W.R.I.N.S.; and the Hon'ble George R. Merrell, American Commissioner.

During her two years' tenure of office, Lady Carlisle reorganised the Corps, established a W.A.C.(I) Officers' School and was instrumental in founding the W.A.C.(I) Staff College. She secured many advantages for W.A.C.(I) auxiliaries, such as better accommodation, educational courses, increases of pay, war service increments, and ration and messing allowances.





(Right, above) Lady Carlisle bids farewell to Chief Officer L. B. Campbell, Assistant Director, W.R.I.N.S. (Right, below) The C.-in-C. (right) and Mrs. M. E. Douglas, Director of the W.A.C. (I), watch the plane taking off.

"SUTLEJ" ENTERTAINS INDIAN ARMY IN JAPAN

A number of Indian Servicemen V.C.Os and officers now stationed in Kure with the Headquarters of the British Indian Division in Japan were the guests of officers and ratings of H.M.I.S. *Sutlej*. They were overjoyed to meet "Jawans" from their own motherland. The crew of H.M.I.S. *Sutlej* recounted interesting anecdotes from their war history which were glamorous while the soldiers, many of whom were veterans of war in the East as well as in the West related their own experiences.

Many old memories were stirred when soldier and rating both hailing from the same peaceful village somewhere in India embraced each other on board the *Sutlej*.

Subedar Ghulam Farid of Chache Mahalla, Rawalpindi, Punjab, said "the navy was very hospitable and we enjoyed our short stay on the *Sutlej*". Sepoy Dada of Junagadh State said it was the first time he visited a battleship.

Having firmly established its repute as an adventurous sloop of the Royal Indian Navy, H.M.I.S. *Sutlej* is now helping to destroy Japanese naval power. She is assisting in the destruction of the remnants of the Japanese submarine fleet which had developed into a major menace in eastern waters.

CAPITAL GOODS REGISTRATION REVISED

IN pursuance of their general policy of relaxation of import controls, the Government of India have decided to revise the present list of capital goods for which Registration has hitherto been required before an import licence could be obtained, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India on July 11.

All items except those covered by Serial Numbers below under the heading, "Item Retained," are being removed from the list. It will not be necessary for importers to apply for Registration in respect of the items now excluded.

It will, however, still be necessary to apply for imports licenses for the capital goods, which have under the revision been removed from the purview of the Registration Scheme. Applications for import license for such capital goods should be hereafter made to the licensing authority concerned, and not necessarily to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi. Licenses will not, however, be necessary for import of certain items from the Sterling areas of the British Empire, which have been included in Open General License No. VII. The question of including more items in Open General License VII is also under active consideration.

Items Retained

The following Serial Numbers in the Schedules attached to the Commerce Department Import Trade Control Notification No. 23|ITC|43, dated July 1, 1943, and the Machine Tool Control Order (as amended up-to-date) will be retained:

(a) *Part I of Schedule*: Iron and steel structures (S. No. 20) and wire rope and wire strand only when required for ropeways, transmission lines and similar purposes (S. No. 29).

Part II of Schedule: Prime movers, locomotives, machines, apparatus and appliances and control gear, etc., included in Serial Nos. 36(1), 36(2), 36(3), and 36(4).

Part III of Schedule: Prime movers, locomotives, machines, control gear, etc. needed for textile industry other than jute and hemp, included in Serial Nos. 4(1), 4(2) with the exception of dyeing, bleaching, mercerising and calendering machines), 4(4), 5(1) (only the following machinery will be included in the Scheme:— looms, wool carding machines, wool spinning machines, hosiery machinery, coir mat shearing machines, coir fibre willowing machines, silk looms, silk throwing and reeling machines, silk twisting machines, cumbli finishing machinery, cotton carding and spinning machines, comber boards and picking bands).

Part V of Schedule: Prime movers, locomotives, machines, apparatus and appliances and control gear, etc. included in Serial Nos. 65(1), 65(2), 65(3), 65(4).

(b) All types of complete machine tools covered by the Schedule to the Machine Tool Control Order, 1941, with exception of items enumerated in Sections 22 and 23 of that Schedule. Machine Tool requirements of oil companies are, however, excluded from the purview of the Scheme, as these are screened by the Petroleum Division of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, London.

In respect of the items enumerated above, which are being retained under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme, precisely the same procedure will continue to be followed as at present - i.e., applications for Registration should be addressed to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi, for all plant other than Cotton Textile machinery, for which applications should be addressed to the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Bombay.

TRADING PERMISSION TO ENEMY NATIONALS IN INDIA

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on June 28 stated:

The Central Government have issued a notification under the Defence of India Rules allowing enemy nationals in India whose property is not vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property to have commercial and financial transactions with persons and concerns in all countries within the British Empire, the United States of America, all neutral countries in Europe, France (including Corsica), Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Greece, Italy (including Sicily), Finland, Denmark, Norway, Czechoslovakia and Yogoslavia, who are not for the time being classed as 'enemies' under clause (d) of Rule 97 of those Rules.

All transactions are subject to the existing export and import, postal and financial regulations in force in this country. This permission to trade, it is emphasised, does not extend to the enemy firms whose property continues to remain vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property for British India.

In addition to the claims from certain industries already referred to the Tariff Board, the Government of India have decided to forward to the Board applications received from the following industries, namely:

Machine Tools, Electric Motors (up to 30 H.P. capacity), Activated Fuller's Earth and Cotton Textile Machinery (Ring frames, Spindles and Spinning Rings).

Firms or persons interested in any of these industries or in industries dependent on the use of these articles, who desire that their views should be considered by the Tariff Board, should address their representations to the Secretary to the Board, Caltex House, Ballard Estate, Bombay 1.

HAJ PILGRIMAGE

Hints for Travellers

PILGRIMS are advised not to leave their homes until they get reservation cards. Every intending Haj pilgrim should carry with him his Reservation Card without which a steamer ticket will not be issued, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on July 11.

Applicants are further advised to preserve all receipts, including postal acknowledgments and produce them at the port of embarkation, if required by the Haj Booking Office. Pilgrims should obtain pilgrim passes free of charge from their districts. At the port of embarkation, they will have to pay *Rs.* 3 per pass.

Children up to one year of age will not be required to pay any charges; those between one and ten will be required to pay half the steamer fare and food charges. Children up to seven years of age are exempt from the payment of Jedda Sanitation dues, Kamaran Quarantine fee and boat hire; those above seven years will pay these charges in full.

Children between five and ten will pay Mutawwif dues, etc., and transport charges in the Hejaz at half rates; those up to five are exempt from paying these dues.

HAJ BOOKING OFFICE

Intending Haj pilgrims may please note that only a part of the Haj Booking Office has shifted to Bombay and Karachi temporarily to deal with the pre-Ramzan sailing arrangements. Correspondence relating to post-Ramzan sailings should not therefore be addressed to Bombay or Karachi but should continue to be addressed to the Haj Booking Officer, Council Chamber, New Delhi, till further announcement.

A Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I.), on July 15 stated:

In connection with the postal strike, it is announced at G.H.Q. that the Army is rendering such assistance as it is advised is essential to the life of the community and is permissible without giving substance to the charge that troops are being used for the purpose of strike-breaking.

For example, mails are being unloaded at Bombay and are being taken to places of safety and in various centres essential military mail is being collected and delivered. But the military are not being used either for sorting or for delivery of ordinary mail.

HELP FOR TANNING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Substitute for Wattle Bark

THE Government of India have taken the following steps in anticipation of the imports of tanning material from South Africa being stopped.

The Directors of Supplies at Calcutta and Bombay have now been given powers to freeze imports of wattle bark and extract arriving at ports and to arrange for their equitable distribution amongst the tanning industry of Northern India. A scheme of distribution based on stocks held and the consumption figure of the tanneries concerned has been set up and approved by the industry.

Allocation Committee

Since 1943, stocks of wattle bark and extract were being frozen and apportioned to the Tanning Industry in Madras by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Southern India Skin and Hides Merchants' Association. A new Allocation Committee has now been formed in Madras with the Deputy Director of Supplies as Chairman, a Central Government representative with the Board of Trade, H.M.G., three representatives of the South India Skin and Hides Merchants' Association, one representative of the Ranipet Tanners and Dealers Association, a representative of the European importers of wattle bark other than tanners and a representative of Indian importers as members.

The sale price will be fixed at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent of the landed cost.

Simultaneously, enquiries were instituted by the Government of India regarding availability of substitutes for wattle bark and extract and it was learnt that adequate supplies of Quebracho extract were available from the Argentine. The price was stated to be about 50 per cent higher than that of wattle extract.

The Tanning Industry were asked if they wished the Government to obtain the initial supplies required or if they wished to obtain supplies through ordinary trade channels. The industry preferred the latter course. It is learnt that supplies of Quebracho extract will soon be available to the Tanning Industry in India.

South Africa was the main source of supply of wattle bark and extract, between 30,000 and 35,000 tons being imported into India annually during 1939-44. In 1943-44, about 30,000 tons valued at Rs. 48,26,482 were imported. As compared with this, India imported 1,542 tons of tanning material from East Africa in 1943-44. The supply from East Africa from July to December 1946 is estimated at: wattle bark 1,200 tons and extract 1,500 tons only. Certain indigenous barks are also used to some extent for tanning purposes, but supplies are inadequate to meet the full demands of the tanning industry.

INDIA'S MINERAL WEALTH: INFORMATION BUREAU AND JOURNAL TO BE STARTED

A MINERAL Information Bureau is to be set up shortly in the Geological Survey of India to give information and advice to industries, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Works, Mines and Power, Government of India, on July 12.

It added: The main functions of the Bureau will be the dissemination in non-technical language of facts and correct information relating to Indian minerals, fuels, iron ore and ferro-alloy minerals, light and base metal minerals, precious metals, gems, minerals for chemical industries, industrial clays, sands and miscellaneous minerals.

Laboratory Tests

The Bureau will advise on the uses and processing of raw minerals and quantitative data on the availability and suitability of minerals for industries, and will help industrialists by carrying out laboratory tests and by recommending technologists for mine survey, geological survey, prospecting and opening up of economic deposits.

The Bureau will be under the supervision of Dr. D. N. Wadia, who will be assisted by the staff of the Geological Survey of India. The services of the Bureau will be free, though small charges may be levied for special analytical work. All enquiries should be addressed to the Director, Geological Survey of India, 27 Chowringhee, Calcutta.

A quarterly journal—*Indian Minerals* will also be published under the editorship of Dr. Wadia, which will contain articles written mainly in non-technical language on matters relating to the different aspects of mineral development in India, and short accounts of such developments in other parts of the world.

The Geological Survey of India was recently expanded in order to help India's mineral development. It has been publishing various technical records and bulletins giving geological information on commercial and other minerals. Enquiries from industrialists and the public were being answered by its small Information Section. The proposed Bureau and the Journal will, it is hoped, go much farther in meeting the increased interest in Indian minerals both inside and outside the country.

Engineers Are Architects of Future

A PLEA that India's constitution-making body should include a substantial proportion of engineers, economists and scientists so as to ensure the full economic development of the various units and of the country as a whole, is made in a leading article in a recent issue of the Journal of the Central Board of Irrigation.

Emphasising that engineers and men of applied science are the real nation-builders to-day and must be the architects of the future, the article says: "The people are looking forward in the new era, to the fulfilment of the very natural desire —'plenty for everyone'—to the establishment of everlasting prosperity and to the enjoyment of those amenities of life that make every countryman of ours look longingly towards his fellow-being in the West. This implies the development and utilisation to the best advantage of all the resources of the country, both agricultural and industrial.

Engineers' Work

Answering the question why engineers have not so far taken their right place in directing the fortunes of the country, the article quotes Prof. C. E. Inglis, F.R.S., President of the Institutions of Civil Engineers, London:

"Engineers in general don't talk much; with becoming modesty, though perhaps rather foolishly they are content to let their achievements to speak for themselves. I say foolishly because more often than not, their deeds maintain that masterly silence which is one of the more endearing characteristics of a giraffe. Much of the work of engineers is buried, and being out of sight is out of mind."

PASSAGE CERTIFICATES TO SINGAPORE AND MALAYA

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on June 20 stated:

The system of entry to the Colony of Singapore or the Union of Malaya by permits issued by the Colonial Office Representative in India has ceased. Permits already issued, however, and not yet used are still valid.

Persons not in possession of entry permits issued by the Colonial Office Representative in India should now apply to the Civil Passage Priority Controller for the Far East, Government of India, Commonwealth Relations Department, New Delhi, for Passage Registration Certificates.

These Certificates are sufficient warrant for any travel agent in India to register the holder for a passage. They should also be produced on landing for the purposes of identification.



LT.-GEN. SIR F. W. MESSERVY, COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT, INSPECTS THE GUARD OF HONOUR AT A CEREMONIAL PARADE OF THE 16TH LIGHT CAVALRY AT MALACCA.



LT.-GEN. MESSERVY DECORATED RISALDAR-MAJOR ABDUL RAZAK KHAN WITH THE O.B.I. AND THE M.C.

INDIAN TROOPS AT MALACCA

Lt.-Gen. Sir F. W. Messervy, General Officer Commanding, Malaya Command, inspected the 16th Light Cavalry Regiment at Malacca recently. General Messervy, who is Colonel of the Regiment, later took the salute at the March Past which was the last ceremonial parade in which the Rajputs, Kaikhains and Jats, who have served the Regiment so loyally and for so long, were to be seen. The Regiment has been selected by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief in India to be an all-Madrassi Regiment in order to implement the policy of All-India recruitment for the post-war Indian Army. A feature of the parade was the presentation by General Messervy of the O.B.I. and the M.C. to Risaldar-Major Abdul Razak Khan who has completed 33 years' service in the Indian Army.

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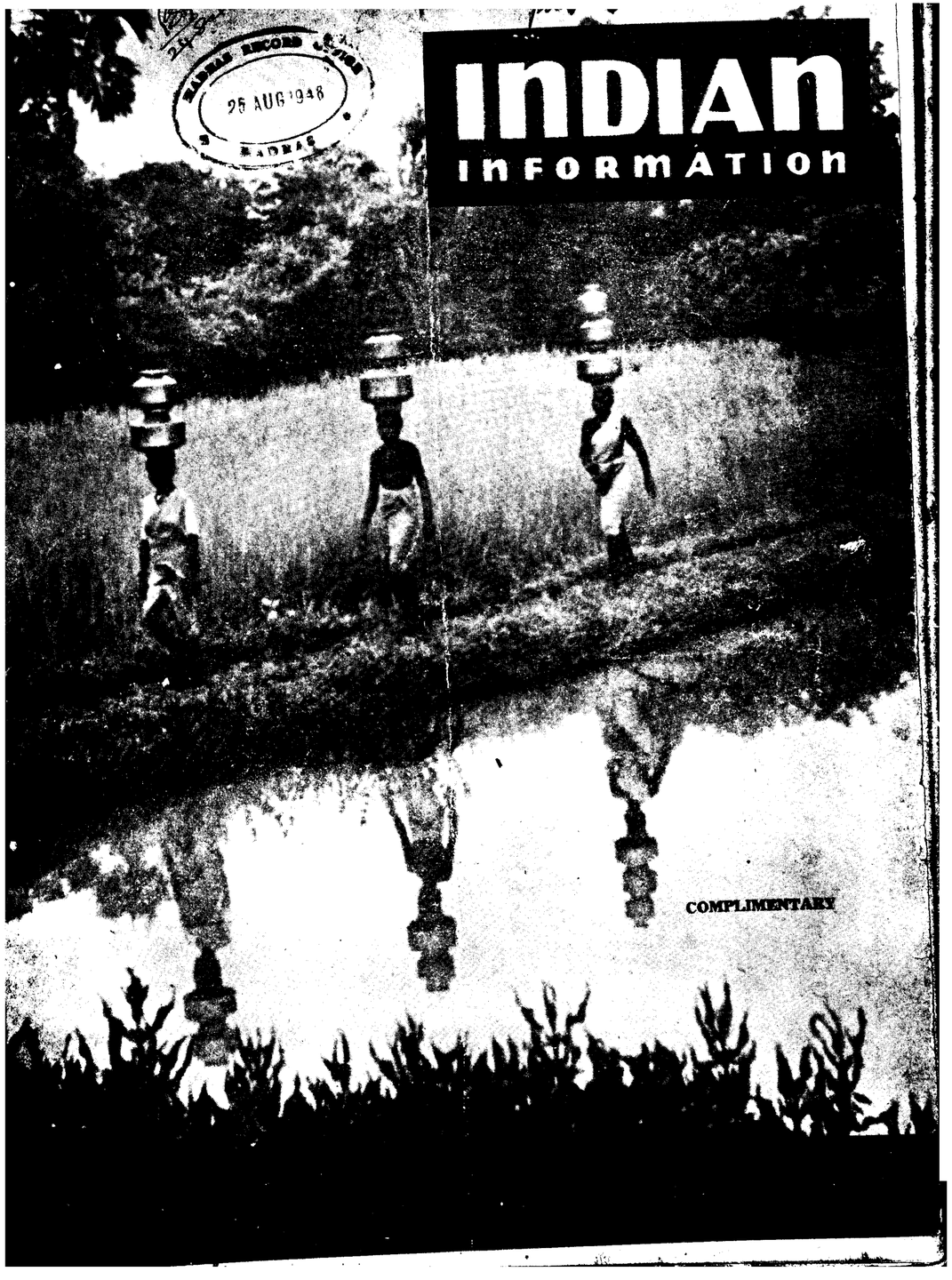


King and Queen Visit Indian Contingent

H.M. the King-Emperor with the Queen and the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose paid a visit to the Indian Army Contingent for the Victory parade in London at Kensington Gardens on June 6. They were met at the entrance by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C., India, and introduced to Brig. R. N. Chaudhuri, Commanding the Contingent, and other high ranking Army officers. The Royal party inspected the troops lined up on either side, and the King and Queen spoke to several officers and other ranks.

These pictures show (above) the Queen, conducted by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, talking to F/O Latif and (left) the King chatting with an officer of the R.I.A.F.

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FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK EXAMINES THE SWORD PRESENTED TO HIM BY SUB.-MAJ. KARAM ELLAHI GILL I.D.I. THIS SWORD, TO BE RENAMED THE "AUCHINLECK SWORD", WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY TO BE USED AS THE TROPHY FOR THE INTER-COLLEGE U.T.C. COMPETITION

Vol. 19, No. 190. INDIAN INFORMATION Aug. 15, 1946

AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

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

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

Edited by A. S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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MORE RELIEFS FOR P. AND T. EMPLOYEES

YOU will, I know, be anxious to have the latest information regarding the present strike, and threat of a further strike, in the Post and Telegraph services. You will be equally anxious to know the results of the efforts that Government have continuously been making to bring about a settlement. I am very glad to be able to state that the officials of the Federation of Postal and Telegraphs Unions who, while championing to the utmost the cause of their members have throughout exercised a restraining influence, have this evening informed me that the Council of the Federation have decided, in the light of their negotiations with Government to advise all Branches of the affiliated Unions not to go on strike as originally threatened.

I know that there are many loyal elements in the Post and Telegraph services who dislike the present strike as much as Government and the public do, and that to them the news of the Federation's decision will be most welcome. Many of these men have already returned to work and others will, I trust, follow their wise example and resume duty on receipt of this news.

Nature of Relief

I have received a large number of telegrams and letters, from people who emphasise the loss to which their own trade or business is being put and urge Government to grant the demands of the strikers so that they may avoid further loss. No one has been more anxious than Government to see the end of a strike which every

By the Hon'ble Sir Eric Conran-Smith, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India.

(A broadcast on the "Postal Strike Situation" from the Delhi station of A.I.R. on August 1.)

one must deplore, but quite clearly Government could not grant all the demands made on them, if for no other reason than that many of the demands made on behalf of different sections of the P. and T. services cut right across one another.

Although the Federation have resolved not to call a strike there are other seceding Unions who are at present on strike. I, therefore, consider it desirable to let them, as well as the public, know the nature of the relief which Government have agreed to give and its effect on the various sections of the P. and T. services. We have made it our earnest endeavour during negotiations to ascertain what, if any, genuine grievances of the P. and T. services



SIR ERIC CONRAN-SMITH.

still remain and how far they can be remedied. Moreover, it has been our object to ensure that any relief given, should spread as widely and uniformly as possible over all sections and all areas.

In my previous broadcast, I stated that Government were prepared to examine the award of the Adjudicator to see whether there were any anomalies arising therefrom which required to be adjusted. This examination has been made with the utmost expedition. But Government have gone further than that, and have carefully examined any grievances or anomalies not covered by the Adjudicator's award which have been brought to their notice during the course of negotiations. As a result they have felt justified in offering additional benefits designed to give relief where, in their view, a good case had been made out.

It must, of course, be clearly understood that the reliefs now offered are merely a temporary measure pending the orders of Government upon the recommendations of the Pay Commission to which effect is to be given from January 1, 1947. The following is a brief resume of these reliefs.

The most important of the additional reliefs offered is that retrospective effect shall be given to the grain compensation allowance of Rs. 3/12- per month recommended by the Adjudicator for all non-gazetted staff in places where the Department has no cheap grain shops. This will mean a lump sum of Rs. 63/12- for all concerned, but if preferred, payment may be received in monthly instalments.

I will give an example of the effect of this additional benefit in the case of a porter or letter box peon on the lowest pay in a place in C area for instance, Ambala, Saugor or Coimbatore. At present the total emoluments of such an official amount to Rs. 42 a month. Under the Adjudicator's Award he will receive an additional Rs. 9/4/- a month and a lump sum payment of Rs. 63. The further relief now proposed by Government will give him an additional lump sum of Rs. 63/12/- making a total of Rs. 126/12/-.

In Bombay and Calcutta, it is proposed to raise the present house rent allowance drawn by postmen and lower grade staff to Rs. 10 thus giving an increase of Rs. 3 per month in Bombay and Rs. 5 in Calcutta. The house rent allowance paid to clerks in these places will be not less than Rs. 10. For Calcutta where the non-gazetted staff now receive no compensatory allowance, an allowance of Rs. 5 per month for clerks, telegraphists, etc., and of Rs. 4 for lower grade staff as already given in Bombay is proposed.

By these concessions a postman in Calcutta in his fifth year of service whose present emoluments amount to Rs. 64/13/- will not only receive a lump sum of Rs. 93/6/- under the Adjudicator's Award and an additional pay of Rs. 5/3/- each month, but a further addition amounting to Rs. 10 by way of house rent allowance and compensatory allowance.

Other Benefits

Madras City where the housing problem justified it, the house rent allowance of postmen and lower grade staff not occupying free Government quarters is to be raised by Rs. 4, and it is proposed to pay house rent allowance to clerical grade, telegraphists, etc. at Rs. 10 p.m.

Let me also select an example of the total benefits now proposed to be given in Madras. A clerk or telephone operator in his 16th year of service, who at present gets Rs. 110 in pay and allowances stands to

ADJUDICATOR'S AWARD

The award of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the Posts and Telegraphs Department and its non-gazetted employees comes into force from to-day and will be binding on the Department and its non-gazetted staff for a period of six months, said a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated August 5, 1946.

Copies of the Adjudicator's Report, which will be available with the Manager of Publications, Delhi, are being sent to the eight Unions representing Postal employees.

receive under the Adjudicator's Award a lump sum of Rs 221-10- with additional pay and grain compensation amounting to Rs 16-1- per month. By the new proposals he will receive a further lump sum of Rs. 63-12- and house rent allowance of Rs. 10 per month.

Other benefits which Government propose to give, are an increase in the house rent allowance of postmen and lower grade staff in Delhi, an extension in all areas of good conduct pay to benefit non-gazetted staff not at present in receipt of it and an increase in the outstation allowance of the Railway Mail Service.

Members of the Post and Telegraph services, who are now on strike, will be given until the 7th of August to return to duty. Those who do so will receive the benefits which Government have agreed to give and the period of their absence from duty will be treated as leave without pay *i.e.*, there will be no break in their service. In the case of those who do not return by the 7th of August, their places will be filled as new hands become available and they will lose all the benefits.

It is, however, the earnest hope of Government that there will not be many so short-sighted or so ill advised as to throw away the substantial relief offered to them as well as the fruits of past service. I use the words "ill advised" deliberately because I am well aware that there are certain people who, for their own ends are either by force, intimidation or misrepresentation, preventing members of the P. and T. services from returning to their lawful avocations. Let the workers now use their own judgment and, by returning to, or remaining on, duty, restore to normal working a great public utility service with a record of which its members have every reason to be proud.

SOME FACTS ABOUT POSTMEN'S DEMANDS

In an earlier broadcast on the "Postal Strike" on July 21 Sir Eric Conran-Smith said:

My talk to-night is about the postal strike, which, partial though it has been hitherto, has caused and is causing a great deal of inconvenience and loss especially, as I shall explain later, to people belonging to the same walk of life as the strikers and people who are least able to protect themselves against the effects of this interference with a public utility service. That service has in the two great cities of Bombay and Calcutta and in certain other places been seriously disturbed during the last two weeks.

I have, like many of you, the greatest sympathy with those on whom the present economic conditions press most hardly and who are struggling to achieve for themselves a higher standard of living. But when, as in this case, Government have gone as far as they can to meet all reasonable demands pending the general revision of pay scales and allowances now under consideration by the Pay Commission then those who paralyse the essential services merely to gain temporarily some extra advantage for themselves forfeit all claims to sympathy. Whether such is the case in the present instance I would ask you to judge on the facts. These facts have been given publicity in the Press, but it is astonishing how many people apparently do not get beyond the headlines in the daily papers, and thereafter confine their reading to the sporting and financial news and to the murders. I am compelled, therefore, to recount the facts once more.

Unions of Postal Employees

First of all, as regards the various unions comprised of members of postal, telegraph and telephone services, many of you no doubt have found yourself bewildered with the names of the various bodies which are mentioned daily in the Press and in Government Communiques. Some of you may even go so far as to spare a little sympathy for Government who have to deal with so many organisations, certain of which are rival claimants for the support of the workers. I propose, therefore, to give you a brief account of these various bodies so that when you read about them, you may have some idea of what they are and what they represent.

There are 14 unions and associations in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and the membership of 11 of them is confined to the non-gazetted staff. Most of these bodies have provincial, divisional and district branches throughout India. The Federation of Unions of which Dewan Chaman Lal is the first President did not actually come into being late last year. It now includes six of the original unions or associations of non-gazetted staff.

At first, the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, which is chiefly responsible for the present strike, associated itself with the Federation, but during a period of less than a year, it has twice been withdrawn from that body. The All-India Telegraph Union which has called a lightning strike in Calcutta has also dissociated itself from the Federation and last week, the Calcutta Branch of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union, an important link in the Federation, broke away.

First Strike Notice

The relations of the various Unions with the Director-General and with Government in the past could correctly be described as most cordial, and the demands and difficulties of the staff have always been represented and discussed with the utmost frankness. In a long period of years there has not been a post and telegraph strike.

The first strike notice was served on Government towards the end of 1944 by certain branches of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union led by Bombay and Poona. Later in 1945, the newly formed Federation came to the conclusion that certain grievances regarding emoluments and terms of service of the non-gazetted staff, particularly those on the revised scales of pay introduced in 1931, justified a strike and entered into negotiations with Government.

The All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, which first stood with the Federation, broke away during the negotiations and sent a strike notice based on 12 demands. Strike notices were received from other members of the Federation at a later date. While discussions were in progress, there was an important debate in the Legislative Assembly upon a motion of adjournment regarding the threatened strike and following negotiations with the leaders concerned further substantial concessions were granted to the P. and T. staff.

In addition, Government referred to adjudication the question whether any further relief was justifiable for the non-gazetted staff on the 1931 scales of pay and announced the early appointment of a Post-War Pay Commission. All the strike notices were then withdrawn. The Adjudicator began his work at the end of March. Representatives of the various unions concerned remained in Simla throughout the period of the proceedings and the All-India Postmen and R.M.S. Union presented their case to the Adjudicator, Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha, separately from the Federation.

12 Demands

Towards the end of the adjudication proceedings, the Council of Action of this Union passed a resolution that, unless their General Secretary, Mr. Dalvi, was appointed a member of the Pay Commission, a strike would be called. I should add that Mr. N. M. Joshi, who is now the President of the Union, had already been appointed a member of the Commission.

After some correspondence and negotiations with the Director-General, the same Union served a notice of strike unless 12 demands some of which were made for the first time were met within 14 days. Five of these demands had already been included in the original strike notice of February which was withdrawn and were all matters for the Pay Commission. The other seven were of comparatively minor importance and were taken up by Government immediately for consideration.

The Director-General also expressed his willingness to meet the representatives of the Union at any time for a friendly discussion, and Mr. S. C. Joshi, the Chief Labour Commissioner, exerted all his influence to persuade the Council of Action of the Union to see reason.

I emphasise this point because it has been widely suggested in the Press that Government were unwilling to meet the leaders or to give any consideration to their demands. On July 11, five days before Government received the report of the Adjudicator the Union called a strike, thus flouting the Adjudicator in whose proceedings they had throughout participated.

On the majority of the seven demands referred to above, Government passed favourable orders at the same time as they announced their willingness to accept the Adjudicator's Award. Apart from this Government have undertaken to examine immediately certain features of one or two other demands now before the Pay Commission. That being the case, Government, three days ago, had no demands before them which were not either settled or covered by the Adjudicator's Award or before the Pay Commission.

Acceptance of Award

Two days after the Adjudicator's Award was received, Government announced their acceptance of the Award in its entirety and felt they had done everything reasonably possible to satisfy demands for relief during the period intervening before the orders to be passed on the Pay Commission's report would become effective Government had every reason to hope that the Award would be acceptable to the Unions.

It was, therefore, a matter of the gravest concern to Government that two days later representatives of the Federation of Unions which has throughout co-operated in the earnest attempt to resolve in a constitutional manner the difficulties between the Administration and the staff, informed us that the Adjudicator's Award which recommended a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 73 lakhs and recurring expenditure of Rs. 109 lakhs would be entirely unacceptable to their members unless benefits involving a further expenditure of Rs. 1½ crores of public money were granted to the staff. I must make it very plain that the additional demands for expenditure of Rs. 150 lakhs are entirely new and refer to matters which were not raised in discussion by the Federation until two days ago.

Government's Position

The Federation have, however, asked for orders upon this new demand within the next 21 hours from now; otherwise they threaten an All-India strike. Already the dissident All-India Telegraph Union has without any notice called out its members in Calcutta, Bombay, Agra, and one or two small places without any notice, while the Calcutta branch of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union called a doubly illegal strike at a few days notice based on demands which include a large increase in dearness allowance—a lump sum payment of six mouths' salary subject to a minimum of Rs. 300 in each case and a 36-hour week.

Government consider that they have done the right and proper thing in accepting as it stood the Award of the Adjudicator. A halt must be called somewhere to the expenditure of the tax-payers' money on what is only intended to be interim relief pending the report of the Pay Commission.

Judging by the further demands now made, there is no knowing where such demands will stop and no account is taken by the Federation or the dissident Unions of the effects on other services of granting their demands, an aspect of the matter to which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has drawn attention in his statement published this morning. Nor is there any guarantee that the payment of the additional Rs. 1½ crores now demanded by the Federation will result in the calling off the strike by dissident Unions.

It is not possible for Government to play a game of financial leap frog in which the members of each service demand the increases in pay and allowances which another service has secured and at the same time add further demands with which alone they will be satisfied and the various Unions outbid each other in a rivalry which takes no account of the tax-payer or the convenience of the public.

Government have dealt with the problem of pay and allowances in the only fair and sensible way by appointing a Pay Commission to make recommendations in regard to all their services. To revise the pays of members of one service only at a time when the Commission has already commenced its work would clearly cut right across the Commission's field and would be quite indefensible. Government have, therefore, rightly restricted themselves at present to the provision of interim relief particularly for those on the revised scales of pay.

Effects of Award

The decision of Government in this regard is to stand firm by their acceptance of the Award of the Adjudicator. They hope that wiser counsels will prevail with the Federation, and that they will not jeopardise the substantial relief already proposed to be granted especially since the period for which the extra relief is demanded is comparatively short. There may be certain details in the 257-page report of the Adjudicator which need further examination and certain anomalies involved in acceptance of his recommendations may require to be ironed out. This Government will do when the strike is called off.

In the brief time at my disposal, I can only quote a few examples showing how the Award affects certain grades. In Bombay, an R.M.S. porter or letter box peon on the lowest basic pay whose present emoluments including allowances and grain concessions amount to Rs. 63-5, will receive an additional Rs. 4 personal allowance and a lump sum payment of Rs. 72 for arrears. A man in a similar grade in Lucknow, whose present total emoluments are Rs. 45 will receive an additional Rs. 3 personal pay, Rs. 3-12 grain allowance and a lump sum payment of Rs. 67-8. In mofussil towns where the present total earnings in the grade are Rs. 40 p.m., the additions will be Rs. 3-8 personal allowance, Rs. 3-12 grain compensation allowance and Rs. 2 dearness allowance, making in all Rs. 9-4 a month with a lump sum payment of Rs. 63. The above is the effect in the case of man in the lowest scales of pay.

In the clerical grades, there is to be percentage increase on basic pay to men in the revised scales amounting to 15 per cent. Those in their first year or two will therefore receive an increase from Rs. 5-4 to Rs. 6-12 as well as Rs. 2 dearness allowance in the mofussil and Rs. 3-12 grain compensation allowance where there are no departmental grain shops. On top of this, they are to get lump sums varying from Rs. 94-8 to Rs. 121-8. Telegraph Masters in the new scales in the first year after their promotion will get as much as Rs. 19-8 additional pay and Rs. 351 arrears.

I would emphasise that the additional dearness allowance in the mofussil and the grain compensation allowances apply to staff whether on the old or on the new scales of pay.

The strike which began among the Postmen and Lower Grade Staff has, as listeners are aware, assumed serious proportions in the big cities of Calcutta and Bombay. Madras is also affected, so are Delhi and Simla and a number of other towns. Grave dislocation of business must be recognised. At the same time it is a fact that throughout the greater area in India, there is no strike at the moment although there are indications that the fever is spreading.

As I have observed at the beginning, the people hardest hit by the strike are those who can ill-afford to suffer from the stoppage of this public utility. Many of you must have seen the large number of people queuing up in front of money order windows in post offices during the first week of the month. The vast majority of them constitute people who send small remittances to their dependants in the mofussil. A few figures will be illuminating. In Bombay Circle in March 1946, about 660,000 money orders of a total value of nearly Rs. one crore were accepted at the counter. In the Punjab the figure for the same month is 548,000 money orders of a total value of Rs. 88.2 lakhs.

Department's Estimated Surplus

Government leave the public to judge the justification for the action which has been taken by the Leaders of the Unions concerned in these matters. The original demands made by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union alone would have involved expenditure of some Rs. ten crores which would more than fully absorb the estimated surplus of the P. and T. Department, and would benefit only one section of the staff amounting to about 43,500 men.

It must be remembered that of the estimated surplus of the Department for last year of Rs. 10 crores, 7½ crores were due to the various surcharges on postal, telegraph and telephone rates imposed as a war measure and now retained for reconstruction expenditure, while the

(*Continued on page* 103)

BRITISH CABINET MISSION'S WORK IN INDIA



MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH CABINET MISSION WHO VISITED INDIA RECENTLY TO DISCUSS INDIA'S FUTURE CONSTITUTION WITH INDIAN LEADERS, ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI.

Lord Pethick-Lawrence's Statement in House of Lords

"THE work upon which my colleagues and I have been engaged during some three to three and a half months in India has as I am quite sure you realise, been no light one. It is fraught with consequences of the greatest importance not only to India and to Britain but indeed to the whole world. If we have been able to reach even a partial solution of some of the problems presented to us and to help our Indian friends to find a way through their own difficulties to a great and prosperous future, then I am proud to have taken my part in this great work."

Thus said Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, replying to a request by Lord Templewood for a statement on Indian affairs in the House of Lords on July 18.

Lord Pethick-Lawrence said:

My Lords, I welcome the opportunity provided for me by the noble Viscount to give some account of my stewardship in India and to explain to your Lordships something of what I, in conjunction with my colleagues of the Cabinet Mission and with the Viceroy, tried to do in 3½ months of busy negotiations in India and the measure of our accomplishment. As there is so much to tell, I will say only one thing by way of introduction regarding the magnitude of the problem with which we had to deal.

If you take all the population of the United States, if you take all the population both in Europe and in Asia of the Soviet Union, and if you take all the people in the British Isles and all the white people throughout the British Empire and add them all together, even then you do not reach a total as great as that of the Indians in India. Not only so, but that vast sub-continent has great multiplicities of race, religion, language and culture. No wonder is it then that the Indian statesmen are deeply conscious of their responsibility and take divergent views as to the precise constitutional future of their country.

Two Great Parties

As your Lordships are, of course, aware, the two great parties in British India, the Congress Party and the Muslim League, who between them nearly swept the polls in the recent Provincial elections, are acutely divided on this matter. While the Congress Party have always stood for one united India, the claim of the Muslim League has been for a division of India into Hindustan and Pakistan. Therefore, while the first task of the Mission was to convince Indians of the sincerity of the British people in offering them independence within or without the British Commonwealth according to their choice, the second task was to bridge the apparently unbridgeable chasm separating the rival views of the two great Indian parties.

I think I can claim without fear of disagreement that as to the first we were entirely successful. All leaders of Indian opinion now realize that the British people mean what they say and will do their part to carry it into effect. As to the second, I believe that the facts as disclosed in these voluminous Command Papers which are now in the hands of your Lordships and which I hope to make more clear in the course of my remarks speak for themselves.

We began by getting into direct personal contact orally and by correspondence with most of the representative men and women in India not only of the great Indian Parties and of the States, but also of other sections and minorities in British India. Their views profoundly influence us in forming our opinion as to the best way in which to approach the problem.

The main difficulty lay in the fact that not only were the major Parties divided as to the character of the future constitutional structure of India, but these divergencies of view prevented them from agreeing on any Constitution-making machinery. The Congress wanted to have a single Constitution-making body, while the Muslim League desired two separate Constitution-making bodies, one for Hindustan and one for Pakistan. After considerable discussion with them separately, we decided to invite the Congress and the Muslim League to send four representatives each to meet us together in Simla and to consider a proposal to frame a Constitution on a three-tier basis. This they agreed to do while preserving complete freedom of action.

The Simla talks were marked by a welcome spirit of accommodation

shown by both Parties, and though final agreement was not reached the talks ended amicably and sufficient progress had been made to justify us in putting out a statement on May 16 (to be found in Command Paper 6821) which we felt was sufficiently near the views of both Parties to be likely of acceptance.

Probably most of your Lordships have read the statement either when it was originally issued or recently in view of this debate. I will, therefore, only say that it does not purport to lay down a Constitution for India: that is a matter entirely for Indians. What we did was to offer a framework of a Constitution and to invite Indians to join in the Constitution-making machinery on this basis. The three-tier basis is, therefore, nothing more than our recommendation to the Indian people, but as it is on this basis that we were asking the Parties to join in the formation of a Constituent Assembly it was necessary in a later paragraph in our statement, namely, Paragraph 19 (vii), to stipulate that the provisions of the earlier Paragraph 15 could not be varied without a majority of each of the two major communities.

In Paragraph 18 we gave our reason for adopting the population basis for elections to the Constituent Assembly and this method has met with general approval. But as we recognize that it did not give (and no scheme that might have been devised with any real justification could have given) real and effective influence in the Constituent Assembly itself to the smaller minorities, we proposed the formation of a special Advisory Committee for Minorities, which we believe will provide a substantial protection for them.

Paragraph 14 of the statement dealt with the question of the Indian States. I should say, perhaps, that we had already had a series of very interesting talks with the States' Rulers and their representatives as well as a good deal of correspondence, and we were most impressed by the helpful and co-operative attitude which they adopted throughout. The Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal, was very helpful and will, I am sure, contribute much to the solution of the problem of the Indian States.

Indian States

As I have said, our attitude to the States is expressed in Paragraph 14 of the statement of May 16, in which we record the willingness expressed by the States to co-operate and their helpful attitude as to the winding up of the Parliamentary Paramountcy relationship. This matter was further elaborated in a Memorandum handed by us to the Chancellor. The Memorandum is set out in Command Paper No. 6835; the views of those States for whom the Chancellor speaks are given in Command Paper No. 6862. In Document 4 it will be seen that a Negotiating Committee has been set up to arrange for the participation of the States in the Constitution-making body.

The May 16 statement as a whole had an excellent reception, although, of course, there were points in it that were criticized on many sides. Neither of the major Parties could achieve their whole objective through it, although the statement presented a practical and flexible compromise which we hoped they might both accept. After we had issued that statement, there naturally followed a period when all Parties in India were discussing among themselves our proposal and were weighing up in minute detail the pros and cons as they affected their own principles and the interests of their particular sections. There were also verbal and written interchanges between them and ourselves as to the Constituent Assembly, as will be seen from some of the earlier letters published in Command Paper No. 6861, and from the statement issued by the Mission on May 25 in Command Paper No. 6835.

Great Step Forward

Although I would be quite ready to go into greater detail, I am anxious to keep to the major lines because there is a great deal to tell and if I went into the byepaths I might easily weary your Lordships. On June 6 the All-India Muslim League Council passed a resolution which, while critical of the contents of our statement of May 16, particularly on the issue of Pakistan, and while reserving opinion on the point, definitely accepted the scheme put forward by the Mission. This was a great step forward and I pay tribute to the courage and statesmanship of Mr. Jinnah that in advance of any pronouncement by the Congress he should have introduced and carried through his Council acceptance of our proposals, although they differed substantially from the views held and vigorously expressed by his followers until then.

At that time the Congress did not come to any final decision. Perhaps I may anticipate events and tell you that on June 25, in a resolution and a letter to the Viceroy, which appears in Command Paper No. 6861, while expressing their view on interpretation, they announced their acceptance of the proposals set out in our statement of May 16. Thus in the end we have secured the acceptance of both the major Parties in India to those proposals.

The nominations and elections to the Constitution-making body have accordingly been proceeding during the present month, and from the news which reached me it would seem that some of the best human material in India is likely to be returned to take part in the deliberations. If my expectations in this respect are fulfilled, a most valuable start will have been made in the erection of the Constitutional structure for the future of India.

Before I leave this matter of the Constituent Assembly, I should perhaps say a few words regarding some recent reports from India as to the intentions of the Parties in joining the Constituent Assembly. We saw both Parties shortly before we left India and they said to us quite categorically that it was their intention to go into the Assembly with the object of making it work.

Of course, they are at perfect liberty to advance their own views of what should or should not be the basis of a future Constitution. That is the purpose of the Constituent Assembly, to hammer out agreement from diverse opinions and plans. Likewise, they can put forward their views as to how the Constituent Assembly should conduct its business. But having agreed to the statement of May 16 and the Constituent Assembly elected in accordance with that statement, they cannot, of course, go outside the terms of what has been agreed. To do so would not be fair to other Parties who come in and it is on the basis of that agreed procedure that His Majesty's Government have said they will accept the decisions of the Constituent Assembly.

Negotiating Committee

The States themselves need have no anxiety, since it is for them to agree freely to come in or not as they choose. It is for that purpose that they have set up a Negotiating Committee and I am sure that that Committee will have the wisdom to work out an acceptable basis for their co-operation in the Constituent Assembly. After all it is upon the free consents of the many diverse elements of the Indian people that the success of the new Constitution will depend. And I am confident from all that was said to me in India that all Parties appreciate this fundamental fact. Union cannot be by force: it must be by agreement; and it will be the task of the Constituent Assembly to attain that agreement which will be

I should also like to say a word with regard to the Indian statesmen with whom we came into contact. Although we were at times engaged in very acute controversy with them on political issues, our personal relationships always remained on a friendly footing and although sometimes we may have felt a little impatient at the delay, we had to bear in mind, and I think we must all bear in mind, that whereas from our point of view the change in the constitutional position of India will be an act which may have important repercussions in the future but which will to some extent simplify our problem, for the Indians the setting up of the Constitution will be the beginning of a very difficult chapter. It is most natural that they should want to think and think again and think still again of the actual framework under which they may have to live for centuries to come.

—Lord Pethick-Lawrence

possible if the majorities and minorities alike are tolerant and are prepared to co-operate for the good of the future of all India.

I will now come to the negotiations for creating an Interim Government what was in the end referred to in India as "the short-term plan". The negotiations were already begun by the Viceroy at Simla and he had discussions both with Mr Jinnah and with Pandit Nehru on certain possible bases for representation of the Congress and the Muslim League in conjunction with minority representatives in this Interim Government. I need hardly point out to your Lordships that during this interim period it is most desirable if possible to get an Interim Government which is in the nature of a coalition, in which at any rate the two major Parties in India are both represented.

No agreement was reached at Simla on this point or after our return to Delhi. But a number of relevant questions were dealt with. A very strong point with Congress, as will be evident from Document 3 in Command Paper 6861, related to the powers and status of the Interim Government and the treatment of it by the Viceroy. Letter 4 by the Viceroy contained his answer, which we were given to understand was regarded as substantially satisfactory. There was also some correspondence with Mr. Jinnah, which will be found in the same paper.

Interim Government

After some delay due to the absence of some of the negotiators from New Delhi, the question of the composition of the Interim Government was taken up again. The Congress took exception to parity between the two Parties and attempts were made to meet this by forming an Interim Government on the basis of six Congress representatives (five Caste Hindus and one representing the Scheduled Castes) five Muslims and two others. Mr. Jinnah might possibly have agreed, but Congress were not satisfied with this arrangement or suggestion.

We thus reached a complete deadlock and it seemed that the only possible way to break the deadlock was for the Viceroy, in consultation with the Mission, to choose a suitable Interim Government on the basis judged most likely to be acceptable to both Parties in view of their expressed opinions and make a statement publicly that he was going ahead on that basis.

Statement of June 16

There resulted the statement of June 16, which is Document 21 in Command Paper 6861. The proposed Government was built up on the basis of six Congress representatives, including one for the Depressed Classes, five Muslim League representatives, one Sikh and two others, 14 in all, the two others being a Parsi and an Indian Christian. I should say that the Viceroy had had unofficial and tentative lists of names from both sides and those were largely used in the selection of the 14 names.



MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE (CENTRE) LEADER OF THE CONGRESS PARTY IN THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY, WAS AMONG THOSE WHO MET THE CABINET MISSION

On this occasion Mr. Jinnah took up the position that he would await the Congress decision before giving that of the Muslim League. The Congress were very much troubled by the type of parity that still remained between the Muslims and the Caste Hindus and on a matter concerning the minority representation, but it might have been despite all the difficulties, that the Congress would have consented to this arrangement had there not at that moment been an unfortunate and widely publicised disclosure of certain letters written by Mr. Jinnah. The most important of those was No. 22 in Command Paper 6861, which contained the following sentence: "The Muslim League would never accept the nomination of any Muslim by you" (that was the Viceroy) "other than a Muslim Leaguer." This at once became the major issue.

The Congress had already suggested that in order to get over the parity idea they should be allowed to substitute a Muslim for one of their number which had been proposed by the Viceroy and they might have perhaps waived this suggestion had it not been that a public challenge was at this moment made to their right to do so.

I would remind your Lordships no doubt you already know that the Congress have, of course, always insisted upon the national character of their organisation and they have fully demonstrated this fact by nomination of personnel to those Provincial Governments where they are in the large majority. When I say "national charater", I mean as opposed to merely a communal character. Although it was made perfectly clear to Mr. Jinnah on more than one occasion that neither the Viceroy nor the Mission could accept his claim to a monopoly of Muslim appointments, we felt we could not at that stage accept this large alteration of the Viceroy's plan and force Mr. Jinnah to swallow it.

In order to explain the subsequent events, I must now return to the statement of June 16. In Paragraph 8 of that statement we have laid down the course which we should pursue in the event of both or either of the two major Parties being unable to accept a coalition Government on the basis there proposed. If either refused, the whole basis of the proposed coalition fell to the ground.

But we desired to protect any who had agreed to co-operate in the plan of May 16 that was the long-term plan for the Constituent Assembly and so we stated that in the event of failure to form a coalition on the lines set out in the June 16 statement, "it is the intention of the Viceroy to proceed with the formation of an Interim Government which will be as representative as possible of those willing to accept the statement of May 16."

Congress Decision

Up to June 16 this indicated the Muslim League only, as neither the Congress nor the Sikhs had up to that time given any decision. When Congress ultimately came to their final decision, to which I have already referred, to accept the statement of May 16, while unfortunately rejecting the Interim Government, they quite clearly became equally eligible with the Muslim League for inclusion in the representative Government.

Immediately we received from the Congress President the letter, numbered 31 in the Command Paper, we saw Mr. Jinnah and told him the position, giving him a copy of the letter and informing him that the scheme of June 16 had fallen to the ground since Congress had turned it down. We confirmed this the same evening in the letter numbered 33.

Up to that moment the Muslim League had arrived at no decision as to

their attitude to the proposal of June 16. As I have already pointed out, they had adopted the line that they must await the Congress decision before themselves deciding. In view of the Congress decision it then became too late for any decision of the Muslim League to be effective.

Mr. Jinnah went straight from this meeting with us to his Working Committee, who passed a resolution which is set out in Document 34 accepting the scheme of June 16. Presumably Mr. Jinnah told his Working Committee what had passed at the interview, though he does not make this clear in his letter of the 26th, numbered 35. Mr. Jinnah seemed to think that the acceptance by the Congress of the statement of May 16 had put him into a false position and that we should have proceeded forthwith to the formation of an Interim Government with the Muslim League alone. His arguments on this point are to be found in the statement he made to the Press (Document 39 of Command Paper 6861) and his letters to the Viceroy numbered 41 and 43. These were answered shortly in the letters numbered 42 and 44.

Temporary Official Government

It is easy to realize the disappointment of Mr. Jinnah that Congress had not accepted what apparently seemed to him the acceptable arrangement of June 16 for the Interim Government, while at the same time qualifying themselves for consultation upon the formation of some other Interim Government by agreeing to operate the plan of May 16. But I cannot see that any other interpretation was open to us than the one we put upon it.

The situation now is that the Viceroy, after a very short delay, will proceed to act under Paragraph 8 of the statement of June 16. I must make it quite clear that during this short delay, a temporary official Government has been set up. This is purely a temporary expedient to tide over the time until a representative Government can be formed.

The reason for the delay is entirely a practical one. No one desired an official Government had any other solution been possible. Only those who have carried through intensive negotiations during the summer months in New Delhi can realize how exhausted all the participants were. It was essential that there should be a short interval after 3½ months of intensive work and this necessity was emphasized by the fact that all the Congress Working Committee had to leave for the All India Congress Committee meeting at Bombay on July 8 and that both the Indian Parties wished to participate in the elections to the Constituent Assembly. So it was that this purely temporary expedient was adopted.

The next stage will be for the Viceroy to resume negotiations at the earliest practicable moment with the two major Parties for the formation of an Interim Government. This will, as your Lordships may well



SARDAR BALDEV SINGH, SIKH LEADER AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, PUNJAB, WHO PUT THE SIKH CASE BEFORE THE CABINET MINISTERS.

imagine, be an exceedingly difficult task, but we hope the fact that the Constitution-making machinery is now at last being launched will make both Parties realise the absolute necessity of a compromise on the question of the Interim Government.

This Government is, of course, no part of any permanent structure in India. It is to be a purely Provisional Government to carry on until such time as a new Constitution comes into operation. It would, therefore, seem inappropriate for either Party to delay its formation by insisting upon principles which may well be important enough from the long-term point of view, but which for a purely interim purpose will have no influence upon their future position.

The members of the Mission would, therefore, appeal to all those on both sides with whom they developed such true and friendly relations during their stay in India to put aside for this purpose their keen communal and Party feelings and to come together for the good of all India in this difficult time when an efficient and representative Government is so vital to her future welfare.

So far I have of necessity concentrated upon the position of the two major Parties, but although these represent a large proportion of the total population of British India there are other important elements which are entitled to the fullest consideration.

I have already explained what arrangement we have made for the participation of the Indian States. I now pass to the question of the Sikhs. It is a matter of great distress to us that the Sikhs should feel that they have not received the treatment that they deserve as an important section of the Indian people and that they appear to be standing out of the Constitution-making body. The difficulty arises not from anyone's underestimate of the importance of the Sikh community, but from the inescapable geographical facts of the situation.

Views of Sikhs

The views of the Sikhs are set out in Documents 1 and 3 of Command Paper 6862. From these it will be seen that what they demand is some special treatment analogous to that given to the Muslims. The Sikhs, however, are a much smaller community, 5,000,000 as against 90,000,000, and are not geographically situated so that any area as yet devised can be carved out in which they would find themselves in a majority.

It is, however, essential that the fullest consideration should be given to their claims, for they are a distinguished and important community whose culture and interests deserve protection. The most we could do directly was to nominate them in Paragraph 19 of the statement of May 16 as one of the more important communities, and this we did. But on the population basis which we had to adopt, they lose their weightage and consequently have only four out of a total of 28 seats in the Punjab or out of 35 in the North-Western section.

We hope that this situation will to some extent be remedied by their full representation in the Advisory Committee on Minorities set up under Paragraph 20 of the statement of May 16. Over and above that we have represented to the two major Parties, who were both most receptive in this matter, that some special means of giving the Sikhs a strong position in the affairs of the Punjab or in the North-Western group should be devised.

Depressed Classes

I now come to the Depressed Classes. The difficulty that arises here is that there are two claimants to represent this large body of Indians, one identified with the name of Dr. Ambedkar who has fought so strenuously for the rights of the Depressed Classes and the other which works in close association with Congress.

We naturally considered with great care what could be done to obtain representation for both organisations in accordance with their popular support in the country, but owing to the operation of what is known as the Poona Pact they have been almost entirely excluded from the Provincial Assemblies and it is, therefore, impossible to secure representation in the Constitution-making body if, as we decided, it has to be based on election from the Provincial Assemblies.

The Depressed Classes will, of course, have their full representation through the Congress affiliated organisation. We interviewed the leaders of this organisation and were convinced of their very genuine and strong desire to support the case of the Depressed Classes. Here again, however, we hope that the Advisory Committee on Minorities may provide an opportunity for the reasonable representation of both organisations and we very much hope that the majority of the Constituent Assembly in setting up that Advisory Committee will be generous in their allocation of seats to all the minorities and particularly to those who have little or no representation in the Constituent Assembly itself.

There are, as your Lordships are of course aware, other important minorities in India, of whom I need only mention to-day the Indian Christians and the Anglo-Indians, whose rights will, we hope, also be safeguarded by the Advisory Committee. I would remind your Lordships that in our statement of May 25 in Command Paper 6835, we have singled out "adequate provision for the protection of the minorities" as one of the two matters which are required in order that His Majesty's Government will recommend to Parliament that such action "as may be necessary for the cession of sovereignty to the Indian people." We express the well-founded belief that this will be non-controversial.

Tribute to Viceroy

That brings to the end the story I have to tell about our work in India, but before I sit down I may perhaps be permitted to pay a tribute to my Cabinet colleagues in the Mission without whose resources, initiative and wise judgment I could have done nothing and further to pay a tribute to the Viceroy who is held in such high esteem in India and who contrived, in spite of having to carry on his normal duties, to devote his great gifts to the furtherance of the work on which we were all engaged.

I should also like to say a word with regard to the Indian statesmen with whom we came into contact. Although we were at times engaged in very acute controversy with them on political issues, our personal relationships always remained on a friendly footing and although sometimes we may have felt a little impatient at the delay, we had to bear in mind, and I think we must



H. E. LORD WAVELL (RIGHT) IN ADDITION TO CARRYING THE FULL LOAD OF HIS NORMAL RESPONSIBILITIES JOINED THE BRITISH CABINET MISSION DAILY IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIAN LEADERS. PICTURE SHOWS HIS EXCELLENCY GOING TO THE COUNCIL ROOM TO JOIN THE MISSION IN THEIR TALKS WITH INDIAN LEADERS.

all bear in mind, that whereas from our point of view the change in the constitutional position of India will be an act which may have important repercussions in the future but which will to some extent simplify our problem, for the Indians the setting up of the Constitution will be the beginning of a very difficult chapter. It is most natural that they should want to think and think again and think still again of the actual framework under which they may have to live for centuries to come.

I am quite sure that your Lordships in discussing these matters with your accustomed judgment and restraint will bear in mind the critical and delicate state of the negotiations that are about to be resumed in India and I know I can count upon you, therefore, to refrain from any remarks that might make more difficult the task of the Viceroy in bringing those negotiations to a successful conclusion.

The work upon which my colleagues and I have been engaged during some three to three and a half months in India has, as I am quite sure you realise, been no light one. It is fraught with consequences of the greatest importance not only to India and to Britain but indeed to the whole world. If we have been able to reach even a partial solution of some of the problems presented to us and to help our Indian friends to find a way through their own difficulties to a great and prosperous future, then I am proud to have taken my part in this great work.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR NURSING TRAINING IN U. K.

Four candidates for Post-Graduate Industrial Nursing training in the U.K. will be sent by the Government of India early next year, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, Government of India, on July 3.

It added: The training is for a period of one year. Candidates will, on return, be required to serve the Government for a period of not less than three years in any industrial area to which they may be posted.

Candidates with some experience as staff nurses in a recognised hospital will be eligible for election. Intending candidates should ask for particulars from the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, New Delhi, immediately. Those in Government service should apply through proper channel.

The final selection will be made in September, 1946, and the selected candidates will be required to sail early in January, 1947.

"TRUST IN THE SINCERITY OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT"

Sir Stafford Cripps on the Changed Political Atmosphere in India

"THE one hope of a peaceful and friendly change of sovereignty was to offer the Indians their complete and unqualified independence, whether within or without the British Commonwealth. In that way alone was there a hope of retaining their friendship and ultimate co-operation," said Sir Stafford Cripps in the course of the India debate in the House of Commons on July 18.

Here is the full text of Sir Stafford Cripps' speech:

It is not an easy matter to bring within reasonable compass the report of our three months' negotiations in India, which covered a very wide variety of interests and communities. Although a majority of the time was spent in an effort to bring together the two principal Indian Parties, the Mission and the Viceroy paid the fullest attention to all those other problems which were raised by the representatives of the States, the Sikhs, the Depressed Classes and other important minorities.

Before attempting to give the House a general summary of the course of the negotiations and their results, I would like to refer to what I may perhaps term the surrounding circumstances. The House must, I am sure, be fully conscious of the fact that the circumstances of the spring of 1946 were vastly different from those of 1942 or 1939. India has shared to the full in the political awakening which is evident all over the world, and nowhere more than in the Far East the pressures which were sufficiently in evidence before the war and during the war have become greatly accentuated, and what might have been a reasonable speed of progress before the war would now be regarded as dilatory and inadequate.

Untrammelled Freedom

I have always personally believed that our best hope of maintaining the valued friendship and co-operation of the Indian people was to offer them their full and untrammelled freedom as to their own future and to help them to the best of our ability to achieve it as smoothly and quickly as possible. There is no doubt whatever that, since at any rate the early months of this year no other approach than this would have had the slightest chance of success, when the Mission first arrived in New Delhi the atmosphere for an agreement between the Parties was not propitious. We found a highly charged political atmosphere resulting from the elections which were still in progress in several Provinces and a deep suspicion that somehow or other our object would be to delay and frustrate the hopes of Indian independence.

The issue of "one or two India" was bitterly contested at the elections, and the two major Parties, the Congress and the Muslim League, had each of them almost swept the board in their respective constituencies. To some extent this outstanding success of the two major Parties simplified the matter, since the smaller Parties had been relegated to the background by the electorate. But, on the other hand, it had of course reinforced both the two major Parties in their directly opposed policies and there was another factor which had an influence and that was the weather. The summer in New Delhi is not the best place and time for negotiations, for the excessive heat and latterly in June the dampness make it difficult for all the Parties to maintain that atmosphere of calm and patient deliberation which is so very essential in dealing with complex negotiations.

Four Stages

Perhaps the House will permit me in this association to pay a very real and sincere tribute to the noble Lord who presided over our Mission and whose calm, patient and determined conduct of the negotiations was so largely responsible for the results that we are able to report.

In coming to the negotiations I would divide them into four periods: the first, from the time of our arrival to the end of April; the second, from the end of April until the 16th May, when we issued our first statement; the third, from the 16th May till the 16th June, when we issued our second main statement; and the fourth, from the 16th June until we left India on June 29th.

I will deal shortly with each of these periods, and at the same time with the more important of the documents to be found in the various White Papers which relate to each period.

First then, the initial month of the negotiations. During this period we arranged to see informal interviews all those communities, sections and individuals whom we felt could assist in solving the many problems. There was some criticism of the time we spent upon these interviews, but we were all convinced that they were well worth while, and they certainly enabled all of us to appreciate the feelings and the desires —the vastly differing desires—of the very diverse population of 400 million people, with whose representatives we were dealing.

In addition to the many interviews which we had, we received a host of written representations and I may



SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS (LEFT) WITH MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD.

add a very voluminous correspondence as well. It was at the termination of this first period that we left New Delhi for four days' holiday in Kashmir. We indicated our hope before leaving New Delhi that the two principal Parties might come together for negotiation during our absence.

Immediately upon our return, finding that nothing further had transpired, we set ourselves the task of bringing together the Muslim League and the Congress. We were determined not to lose any opportunity of reaching agreement. Apart from the difficulty of arriving at a common view as to the form of the Constituent Assembly and the composition of the Interim Government, there was in these initial stages a wide difference of approach on the part of the two Parties.

The Congress held strongly that the question of the Interim Government should first be settled, after which a settlement as to the Constituent Assembly should follow. The Muslim League, on the other hand, were equally firm that they could not discuss the composition of the Interim Government until the long-term question associated with the setting up of the Constitution-making machinery had been settled.

It appeared practicable to obtain a

settlement of both questions simultaneously, and we came to the conclusion that the best chance of ultimate agreement upon the whole matter was to deal with the long-term question first, and thereafter immediately to tackle the problem of the Interim Government.

It, therefore, became necessary to work out some basis upon which the two Parties would be prepared to meet for discussion of the long-term problem. Our difficulty here was that the Muslim League were committed up to the hilt to an independent, fully sovereign Pakistan as a separate entity, while the Congress were equally strongly pledged to a unitary India, though they had stated that they could not compel the people of any territorial unit to remain in an Indian Union against their declared will.

The second stage of our negotiations was thus introduced by a very intense period of personal interviews and conversations, during which a basis was worked out for a joint discussion, and ultimately both Parties, while making it clear that they were in no way bound, expressed their willingness to meet in Simla to discuss the matter. The basis is set out in the first letter in C.D. Paper 6829 the future constitutional structure of British India to be as follows:

"A Union Government dealing with the following subjects—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communications. There will be two Groups of Provinces, the one of the predominantly Hindu Provinces and the other of the predominantly Muslim Provinces, dealing with all other subjects which the Provinces in the respective Groups desire to be dealt with in common. The Provincial Governments will deal with all other subjects and will have all the residuary sovereign rights."

It was upon this purposely vague formula worked out in conjunction with the leaders of the two Parties that we were able to bring together to confer with us in Simla four representatives each from the Congress and the Muslim League. We were not over-optimistic regarding a final agreement at that stage, but what we hoped for, and in fact realised, was a much closer approach to a solution which would narrow the gap between the two Parties and so enable us subsequently to put forward to them suggestions for bridging that gap.

Parties' Rival Demands

Towards the end of the Simla talks, the two sides produced written statements as to their rival demands, which are to be found in Documents 19, 20 and 21 of C.D. Paper 6829. It will be seen from these documents that both sides had moved very considerably from their initial standpoints.

It was not possible to get the Parties any closer to one another at Simla, and so with their consent the meetings were terminated, having lasted a fortnight, and the Mission announced that it would return to

New Delhi and put out a statement of its own views. We had in fact worked very hard on the production of a plan while at Simla, adapting it in the light of the negotiations, and on our return to New Delhi we were able to finalise it quickly, so that it was issued on May 16.

It is perhaps worth stating that—contrary to allegations which were made in some quarters in India we had not gone out with any cut and dried plan. We went out with open minds, since our object was not to impose a plan on India, but to help the Indians to agree to a plan amongst themselves.

Statement of May 16

The statement is contained in C.D. Paper 6821. The first 11 paragraphs deal with introductory matters and express our view as to the impracticability of a wholly sovereign Pakistan—whether on the larger or smaller basis.

In Paragraph 12 we deal with the Congress suggestion of a particular type of limited Union, and in Paragraph 13 point out the impracticability of that scheme. Paragraph 14 deals with the position as to the Indian States, to which I will revert presently. Paragraphs 15–22 lay down our suggestions for the long-term solution and for the setting up of the Constituent Assembly.

Here I would ask the House to note particularly the method that we adopted and the reason for it. We did not desire in any way to interfere with the making of the future Constitution of India, which was, and is, a matter entirely for the Indians. On the other hand, as we were asking the different communities to join in the forming of a Constitution-making body on a certain basis which we believed to conform to the greatest possible common measure of agreement between them, we had to offer them some security that if they came in on that basis it would not be changed without their consent. So we adopted the following plan.

Three-Tier System

In Paragraph 15 we recommended a basic form for the future Constitution. These recommendations were the logical outcome of the Simla negotiations. I will not go into them in detail, since I have no doubt that they are now familiar to the House. The point to note is that this three-tier system as it has been christened is nothing more than our recommendation to the Indian people. But as it was on this basis that we were asking the Parties to join in the formation of a Constituent Assembly, it was necessary in Paragraph 19 (VII) to stipulate that the provisions of Paragraph 15 could not be varied without a majority of each of the two major communities. This was designed with, we were sure, the assent of the Congress to give a degree of security to the Muslims if they came in on the basis of our recommendations. Our reason for taking this step is set out clearly in Paragraph 16 of the statement.

In Paragraph 18 we give our reasons for adopting the population basis for the elections to the Constituent Assembly, and this method has met with very general approval. The results of that basis of representation are set out in Paragraph 19, which gives the details of our proposals for the Constitution-making machinery.

Protection of Minorities

In sub-paragraph (IV) of Paragraph 19 and Paragraph 20, we lay down the special procedure for the extra protection of minorities. To this we attach great importance. The straight population basis for the Constituent Assembly, with election by the single transferable vote, inevitably results in the minorities to some extent losing their existing weightage.

It was wholly impracticable to extend the population basis to all the minorities since their numbers are so divided up amongst the different Provinces that it would have resulted in practice in some of them not gaining any representation at all. We, therefore, took only three major divisions, Muslim, Sikh and General. In the latter category the Congress are, of course, the vast majority and if as I believe they are doing they provide adequate opportunities for the minorities to get elected, the minorities will gain and not lose by the arrangement.

But despite this we still felt that the minorities should have some special consideration, and we were sure from our negotiations that both the major Parties were anxious to give them good and fair treatment. We proposed, therefore, the Advisory Committee of Paragraph 20. This provides a way of initiating the recommendations for minority protection in a body which should consist mainly of minority representatives. We believe that this method is more likely to produce sound and just results than an insignificant minority in the Constituent Assembly, which is the most that could by any electoral device have been obtained for the minorities.

Paragraph 22 mentions the need for a treaty to regulate the matters remaining outstanding between the two countries on the transfer of power, and Paragraph 23 deals with the matter of the Interim Government, to which I will come presently.

Excellent Reception

This then was the document which on May 16, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, we presented to the Indian people as the next stage in the negotiations. It gained an excellent reception, though of course there were points in it that were criticised on many sides. Neither of the two major Parties could achieve in whole their objective through it, but it presented a practical and flexible compromise which we hoped that both might accept.

Before leaving this second period, I should add that during our stay at Simla the Viceroy had taken the opportunity of opening the discussions as to the formation of the Interim Government which, as we stated in Paragraph

23 of our Statement of May 16, we regarded as a matter of great importance.

We stated then, and we still take the view, that a Coalition Government having full popular support was necessary, and that we were anxious to settle its composition as soon as possible so that the two things—the Constitution-making machinery and the Interim Government—could go forward together. Moreover, it appeared clear at that time, as I have pointed out, that the Congress was unlikely to accept the long-term plan until a solution had also been found for the short-term problem of the Interim Government.

Elimination of Difficulties

We thus came to the end of the second period. There was then a time of waiting, which was essential in order to give the Party leaders time to consult, and we hope to persuade their followers. The Statement had to be assessed and weighed up by the Indian leaders and by public opinion, so that during this period of waiting there was a great deal to be done by way of explanation, elucidation and persuasion, to try and convince those responsible that they should agree to our suggestions and proposals.

Some of these activities are illustrated by the rather voluminous correspondence contained in C.D. Paper (IV) 6861. These letters must be read as progressive stages in a negotiation, and from them can be observed the gradual elimination of some of the difficulties which seemed insuperable to the Parties in the first instance. I need not trouble the House with them now, though I would emphasise that the difficulties were few and the general degree of acceptance was very great.

During this period the discussions on the Interim Government proceeded side by side with those relating to the statement of May 16. This led to a certain amount of admixture of the two issues, and to a growing sense on all sides of the inter-relation of the two.

League Acceptance

On June 6 the All India Muslim League passed a resolution which, while critical of the contents of the Statement of May 16, particularly on the Pakistan issue, and while reserving opinions on that point, yet definitely accepted the scheme put forward by the Mission. That was a great step forward and it must have required no little courage and determination on Mr. Jinnah's part in the light of the strong views held and so forcibly expressed by his followers to support and carry this resolution through the Muslim League.

The Congress, who met immediately after the All India Muslim League, were still anxious that the two issues should be dealt with together. There were a number of matters as regards the Statement of May 16 which disturbed them and as to which they sought assurances or alterations.

On May 25 the Mission, following upon a statement by Mr. Jinnah and a resolution by the Congress Working Committee, put out an explanatory

> *When we left India there had undoubtedly been a change of atmosphere. There was a trust in the sincerity of the British Government, which had formerly been absent, and a desire of willingness for co-operation in the solution of India's problems. That is the first positive gain and is something which we believe augurs well for our future relationship with an independent India, whether she chooses to remain within or to go without the British Commonwealth of Nations. Second, we have negotiated an agreement between the main Indian Parties acceptable to the Indian States which provides machinery for working out a new Constitution. It is not our task to make that machinery work. We must now stand aside, always ready and anxious to help if we are wanted, but determined not to interfere.*
>
> **—Sir Stafford Cripps**

document, which is Document A in C.D. Paper 6835. This covers a number of points raised by both sides. The Mission felt that after that they could not go further into the matter by way of formal explanation or elaboration.

There were two main points which the Congress were stressing as to the Statement of May 16. The first was as to whether the Provinces were compelled to come into the sections of the Constituent Assembly in the first instance or whether they could stay out if they wished. We made it quite clear that it was an essential feature of the scheme that the Provinces should go into sections, though if Groups were formed they could afterwards opt out of those Groups.

Grouping

A fear was expressed that somehow or other the new Provincial Constitutions might be so manoeuvred as to make it impossible for the Province afterwards to opt out.

I do not myself see how such a thing would be possible, but if anything of that kind were to be attempted it would be a clear breach of the basic understanding of the scheme.

The essence of the Constitution-making scheme is that the sections A, B and C mentioned in Paragraph 19 should have the opportunity of meeting together and deliberating upon the desirability of forming a "Group" and upon the nature and extent of the subjects to be dealt with by the Group. If when the pattern of the Group definitely emerges any Province wishes to withdraw from the Group, then it is at liberty to do so after the first election under the new Constitution, when with no doubt a wider electorate than at present that matter can be made a straight election issue.

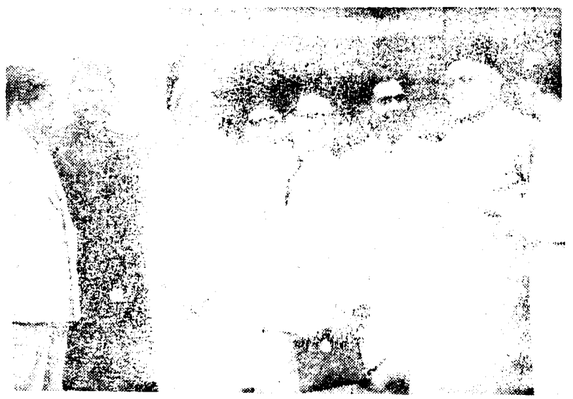
The second point, as to the European vote. The Congress took the view that as we had laid down that the Constitution was to be made by Indians for Indians, Europeans had no locus at all in the matter. So far as sitting in the Constituent Assembly was concerned this seemed clear, and while we were in India the European Party in the Bengal Legislature—which is the important case in point—expressed their clear intention neither to nominate nor to vote for any European (C.D. Paper (6) 6862, Document 6). Since our departure they have gone further and have decided to take no part in the elections at all (CMD 6862, Document 7). That matter has, therefore, been got out of the way, not by our decision but by the sensible and co-operative attitude of the Europeans themselves, who have throughout done their best to assist towards the working out of the new regime in India.

Interim Government

I must now take up the question of the Interim Government again, for as other difficulties were cleared away this gradually emerged as the crucial issue in this third period. The Viceroy had started his discussions in Simla on the basis of 5 representatives of the Congress, 5 from the Muslim League and 2 representatives of the Minorities. That basis was to some extent influenced by the discussions which he had conducted in Simla in 1945. As will appear from the correspondence in C.D. Paper (iv) 6861, the Congress took strong exception to parity between the two Parties and parity at this stage became the foremost obstruction to progress.

There are three possible forms of parity: first, between Muslim League and Congress on a party basis; second, between Muslims and Hindus on a communal basis; and, third, between Muslims and Hindus other than Scheduled Castes. We were aiming at a coalition of political parties and so were concerned with the first form of parity. We sought to overcome the difficulty about this by adding a Congress representative of Depressed Classes to their 5 representatives, thus making 6 Congress to 5 Muslim League, still retaining 2 other Minority representatives, one of whom would be a Sikh. This would have given an Interim Government of 13 in all, and not 12 as originally suggested.

This proposal Mr. Jinnah was prepared to put to his Committee, and it would, I think, have been accepted by them but the Congress were not satisfied with it. At this stage we tried to get a meeting between Pandit Nehru and Mr. Jinnah in the hope that at such a meeting a compromise could be achieved, but as will be seen from Letters 9, 10



LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION OF THE BOMBAY, UNITED PROVINCES, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES, ALSO MET THE CABINET MISSION. PICTURE SHOWS MR. MOHAMAD ISMAIL (MADRAS), SECOND FROM LEFT; CHAUDHRI KHALIQUZZAMAN (U.P.) THIRD FROM LEFT AND MR. I. I. CHUNDRIGAR (BOMBAY) SECOND FROM RIGHT.

and 11, that attempt proved abortive. There was apparently some misunderstanding by Mr. Jinnah as to the status of the original 5-5-2 proposal. This is shown by his letter of June 8 (Number 7) but this was cleared up by the Viceroy in his answer of June 9 (Document 8) which makes it perfectly clear that no assurance was even given upon this point. It was the basis of the negotiations upon which it was hoped that agreement might be reached, but nothing more.

Complete Deadlock

We [illegible] complete deadlock, as is shown by the letter of the Congress President, No. 19 in CD Paper 6861, and it seemed that the only possible way to break that deadlock was, for the Viceroy – in consultation with the Mission – to choose a suitable Interim Government on the basis judged most likely to be acceptable to both Parties, in view of their expressed opinions, and to make a statement publicly that he was going ahead on that basis. He so informed the Parties, telling Mr. Jinnah in Letter No. 17 that the Congress had not accepted the 6-5-2 basis. There resulted the Statement of June 16, which is Document 21 in CD Paper 6861.

The proposed Government was built up on the basis of 6 Congress (including one from the depressed Classes) 5 Muslim League, 1 Sikh and 2 others, a Parsi and an Indian Christian, thus making 14 in all. The Viceroy had had unofficial and tentative lists of names from both sides and these were largely used in the selection of the 14 names. Thus ended the third stage of the negotiations.

On this occasion Mr. Jinnah took up the position verbally that he would await the Congress decision before giving that of the Muslim League. This is confirmed by the letters 26 and 26A. The Congress were very much troubled by the type of parity that still remained between Muslims and Caste Hindus and also by the inclusion of Sir N. P. Engineer, not because of his personal qualifications which they admitted were of the highest, but because they considered that he was holding an official post which they thought gave him an official rather than a representative character.

The major problem, however, was still that of parity. It might have been that despite all the difficulties Congress would have consented to this arrangement had not there been an unfortunate and widely published disclosure of certain letters written by Mr. Jinnah at this moment. The most important of these was that Number 22 in the White Paper CD 6861, which contained the following sentence:

"The Muslim League would never accept the nomination of any Muslim by you (that was the Viceroy) other than a Muslim Leaguer." This at once became the major issue. Congress were in fact considering the possibility of asking for the substitution of one of their 6 by a Muslim in order to get over the parity idea. They might perhaps have waived this suggestion of nominating a Muslim had it not been that a public challenge was at this moment made to their right to do so.

Statement of June 16

Congress has, of course, always insisted upon the non-communal nature of it organisation and it has fully demonstrated this fact by its nomination of personnel to those Provincial Governments where it is in the large majority. It was made perfectly clear to Mr. Jinnah on more than one occasion that neither the Viceroy nor the Mission could accept his claim to a monopoly of Muslim appointments, though the Muslim League was certainly to be regarded as the major representative of Muslim interests.

In order to explain the subsequent events, I must now return to the Statement of June 16. In Paragraph 8 of that Statement, we had laid down the course which we would pursue in the event of both or either of the two major Parties being unable to accept a Coalition Government on the basis there proposed. If either refused, the whole basis of the proposed Coalition fell to the ground, but we desired to protect any who had agreed to co-operate in the plan of May 16 for the Constituent Assembly and so we stated that in the event of failure to form a coalition on the lines set out, "it is the intention of the Viceroy to proceed with the formation of an Interim Government which will be as representative as possible of those willing to accept the Statement of May 16". Up to June 16 this indicated the Muslim League only, as neither Congress nor the Sikhs had, up to that time given any decision.

Congress Decision

When Congress ultimately came to their final decision, they decided, I am glad to say, to accept the Statement of May 16, while unfortunately rejecting the Interim Government proposed for the reasons I have already stated. This appears from the Letter No. 31 and the Resolution No. 32. This was an act of statesmanship on their part, which enabled progress to be made towards the working out of the new Constitution.

Immediately we received the Letter No. 31, we saw Mr. Jinnah and told him the position, giving him a copy of the letter and informing him that the scheme of June 16 had fallen to the ground since Congress had turned it down. This was confirmed the same evening by the Letter No. 33.

Up to that moment the Muslim League had arrived at no decision as to their attitude to the proposal of June 16. As I have already pointed out, they had adopted the line that they must await the Congress decision before themselves deciding.

Mr. Jinnah went straight from his meeting with us to his Working Committee, who passed a resolution which is set out in Document 34 accepting the scheme of June 16. Presumably Mr. Jinnah told his Working Committee what had passed at the interview, though he does not make this clear in his letter of the 26th, No. 35.

Mr. Jinnah's Reaction

Mr. Jinnah seemed to think that the acceptance by Congress of the Statement of May 16 had put him into a false position and that we should have proceeded forthwith to the formation of an Interim Government with the Muslim League alone. His arguments on this point are to be found in the statement he made to the Press (Document 39 of CD 6861) and his letter to the Viceroy, numbered 43. These were answered shortly in two letters numbered 42 and 44.

It is easy to realise the disappointment of Mr. Jinnah that Congress had not accepted what apparently seemed to him the acceptable arrangement of June 16 for the Interim Government, while at the same time qualifying themselves for consultation upon the formation of some other Interim Government

by agreeing to operate the plan of May 16.

Mr. Jinnah was anxious to enter the Coalition Government laid down in the Statement of June 16, but as Paragraph 8 of that statement made the setting up of such a government dependent upon acceptance by both Parties, it was impossible to proceed upon that basis when one Party—and the major Party—had stated its unwillingness to accept.

Transitional Government

The situation now is that the Viceroy will proceed to act under Paragraph 8 of the Statement of June 16. There has been quite understandable criticism of the fact that a purely temporary official Government has been set up in the meantime. It was admittedly necessary to take some immediate steps as regards the Viceroy's Executive, as a number of its members had resigned, some of them having returned to this country.

There were only two possible alternatives, either to proceed at once with fresh negotiations with the two major Parties or else to appoint a purely transitional Government until such time as further negotiations could take place. For the purpose of a temporary Government, the only practical method was to set up a purely official Caretaker Government and, as the House knows, that is what has been done, and that Government is now functioning.

I must make it clear that this is a purely temporary expedient to tide over the time until a representative Interim Government can be formed. The deciding factor in the choice between the two alternatives was a purely practical one. No one desired an official Government, had any other solution been possible. Only those who have carried through intensive negotiations during the summer months in New Delhi can realise how exhausted all the participants were. It was essential that there should be a short pause after 5½ months of intense work and this necessity was emphasised by the fact that all the Congress Working Committee had to leave for the All India Congress Committee Meeting at Bombay on July 8 and that all Parties wished to participate in the elections to the Constituent Assembly.

Tribute to Viceroy

I must here pay a tribute to the amazing way in which the Viceroy carried the great load of these negotiations throughout all these months, during which he had the task of carrying on all his many day-to-day duties in the Government of India as well. It is not surprising that he too was feeling tired and needed a period of comparative rest. So it was that this purely temporary expedient was adopted.

The next stage will be for the Viceroy to resume negotiations at the earliest practicable moment with the two major Parties for the formation of an Interim Government. This will admittedly be a difficult task, but we hope that the fact that the Constitution-making machinery is being now at last launched will make both Parties realise the absolute necessity for compromise on the question of the Interim Government.

This Government is no part of any permanent structure in India; it is a purely provisional Government to carry on until such time as the new Constitution comes into operation and it would therefore seem inappropriate for either Party to delay its formation by insisting upon principles which may well be important from a long-term point of view, but which for a purely temporary purpose will have no influence upon their future position. The members of the Mission would wish to appeal to all those on both sides with whom they developed such truly friendly relations during their stay in India to put aside for this purpose their keen communal and Party feelings and to come together for the good of all India in this difficult time when an efficient and representative Government is so vital to her future welfare.

Position of Indian States

So far I have of necessity concentrated upon the position of the two major Parties, but although these represent a large proportion of the total population of British India, there are other important elements which are entitled to the fullest consideration. First, perhaps, I might deal with that large section of the Indian territory and population which comes within the Indian States.

The House will be familiar with our relationship with the Indian States described by the word Paramountcy. We had a series of very interesting talks with the representatives of the Princes and some of the leading States Ministers as well as a good deal of correspondence, and we were most impressed by the co-operative attitude which they adopted throughout. The Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal, was very helpful and will, I am sure, contribute much to the solution of the problem of the Indian States.

Our attitude to the States is expressed in Paragraph 14 of the Statement of May 16 (CD 6821), where we record the willingness expressed by the States to co-operate and also their receptive attitude as to the winding up of the Paramountcy relationship. This matter was further elaborated in a Memorandum handed by us to the Chancellor, which is Document B in CD 6835. I would particularly draw the attention of the House to Paragraph 3 of this Document, which stressed the need for immediate action by the States in order to prepare themselves for taking their place in the future Indian Union.

This statement of the position was accepted by the States representatives and in this respect I would ask the House to note Paragraph 4 of the enclosure to Document 4 in CMD 6862. The States are willing and anxious to co-operate and to bring their own constitutions into such conformity with those of British India as to make it possible for them to enter the Federal Union. There will, of course, have to be close negotiations between the Negotiating Committee which the States have set up and the major British Indian Parties, both as to the representation of the States in the Constituent Assembly and as to their ultimate position in the Union.

If the same reasonable temper continues to be shown about these matters as was the case while we were in India, we may well hope that an accommodation will be arrived at which will enable all India to come within the Union set up by the Constitution-making machinery.

Sikh Demand

I now pass to the question of the Sikhs. It was a matter of great distress to us that the Sikhs should feel that they had not received the treatment which they deserved as an important section of the Indian people. The difficulty arises not from anyone's under-estimate of the importance of the Sikh Community, but from the inescapable geographical facts of the situation.

The views of the Sikhs are set out in Documents 1 and 3 of the CD Paper 6862. From these it will be seen that what they demand is some special treatment analogous to that given to the Muslims. The Sikhs, however, are a much smaller community, 5½ against 90 millions, and are not geographically situated so that any area as yet devised can be carved out in which they would find themselves in a majority.

It is, however, essential that the fullest consideration should be given to their claims, for they are a distinct important community whose culture and interests deserve protection. The most that we could do directly was to nominate them in Paragraph 19 of the Statement of May 16 as one of the more important communities and this we have done. But on the populations basis adopted they lose their weightage and consequently have only 4 out of a total of 28 seats in the Punjab or out of 35 in the North-Western section.

This situation will to some extent, we hope, be remedied by their full representation in the Advisory Committee on Minorities set up under Paragraph 20 of the Statement of May 16. Over and above that we have represented to the two major Parties—who were both most receptive—that some special means of giving the Sikhs a strong voice in the affairs of the Punjab or the North-Western section should be devised. I feel most hopeful that if our Sikh friends maintain a single and undivided view and are patient, they will find their position is generally recognised and that they will be able with the other two Parties to work out some satisfactory arrangement.

I now come to the third element outside the two major Parties—the Depressed Classes. The difficulty that arises here is that there are two claimants to represent this large body of Indians, the one identified with the name of Dr. Ambedkar, who has fought so strenuously for the rights of the Depressed Classes, and the other which works in close association with the Congress Party. Dr. Ambedkar's organisation is somewhat more local in its character, being mainly centred in Bombay

and the Central Provinces; the Congress affiliated organisation is spread widely over the whole country.

We naturally considered with great care as to what could be done to obtain representation for both organisations in accordance with their popular support in the country. The House will remember that the electoral basis for the Depressed Class representatives was settled by what is known as the Poona Pact agreed to under pressure by Dr. Ambedkar, which lays down a most complicated system of election, in which there are primary elections by Depressed Class electors alone in which four candidates are nominated, from which subsequently in a second election one is chosen by the general electorate.

Whether this is a good or bad system it is one to which the parties agreed and which is in operation, and as a result of it at the last Provincial elections Congress made practically a clean sweep of the whole of the Depressed class constituencies. That is the fact, and as it was almost universally agreed that the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies formed the only possible electorate for the Constituent Assembly, it was not possible, even had we desired to do so, to arrange for Dr. Ambedkar's organisation to have any special right of election to the Constituent Assembly. It had failed in the elections and we could not artificially restore its position.

Other Minorities

The Depressed Classes will, of course, have their full representation through the Congress affiliated organisation. We intreviewed the leaders of this organisation and were convinced of their very genuine and strong desire to support the case of the Depressed Classes. Here again, however, the Advisory Committee on Minorities can provide an opportunity for the reasonable representation of both organisations and we hope very much that the majority of the Constituent Assembly in setting up that Advisory Committee will be generous in their allocation of seats to all the minorities and particularly to minority organisations which, though they have a considerable following, may have little or no representation in the Constituent Assembly itself.

The other minorities, though of course each important in their own field, do not I think raise any major questions with which I need here deal. They will all, we hope, be fully represented on the Advisory Committee.

I should perhaps draw the attention of the House to one other matter in this respect. Members will observe that in Paragraph 20 of the Statement of May 16 we deal not only with the rights of citizens (fundamental rights) and of Minorities, but also with the Tribal and Excluded Areas. Here again it was impossible to arrange any worth while representation for these particular interests in the Constituent Assembly, and in consequence we felt that having regard to the very special nature of the problems raised it was far better for them to be dealt with by a more specialised body. We hope that the Advisory Committee will appoint small committees of specialists to deal with these matters in the various areas so that the Constituent Assembly may have the best possible advice before it comes to any decisions.

Cohesive Team

I have attempted in what I fear is a rather long review of our negotiations to cover some of the major points. I hope that Members will not think that because I have omitted to mention them there were not a mass of other matters to which we gave most careful attention. We met daily, including Sundays, and often two or three times a day, so that we might consult fully upon every point that arose and despite the heat and the long hours I can, I am sure, say on behalf of myself and my three colleagues that we were a most cohesive and good-tempered team and we certainly did not shirk any single issue that was brought to our attention.

Before coming to a short summing up of the situation as I now see it, I want to pay a sincere tribute to all those with whom we negotiated. It would be invidious to mention names, but I am convinced that every single person with whom we dealt was genuinely anxious to arrive at a solution of these most difficult problems. They each rightly pressed and pressed strongly the particular views of their community or Party, but also they one and all made very considerable compromises which were especially difficult in view of the very pronounced election propaganda period which had immediately preceded our visit. We are most grateful to them for their contribution as well as for the very friendly and helpful way in which they received and entertained us in their country.

The First Great Step

We were sent to India to try and work out with the Indian Parties a way of completing the structure of Indian independence which has long been planned and contemplated. Every step that has been taken before and since the first World War has been in that direction, but so far it has not been possible to bring to full fruition those plans and promises.

There is no doubt that at the time of our arrival in India there was a universal and dangerous spirit of frustration and disillusionment. The first great step to clear away this fog of doubt and hesitation was taken when the Prime Minister made his speech in this House on March 15 last. That speech, which was accorded a friendly reception from every quarter of the House and by all the British Press, had a profound effect in India. We quoted some of the more important phrases from it in the opening paragraph of our Statement of May 16 and it was upon that foundation which had been accepted by all sides of the House and the country that we tried to build.

In this statement of Government policy the Prime Minister in one respect, and in one respect only, went further than any British Government had gone before. In the offer of 1942, India was promised the position of a Dominion and it was then expressly stated on instructions from the Coalition Government that should India desire so to do once she had achieved her independence she would be free to go out of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Since 1942 conditions had changed. What was then rejected would have been 100 times more certain of rejection in 1946.

The one hope of a peaceful and friendly change of sovereignty was to offer the Indians their complete and unqualified independence, whether within or without the British Commonwealth. In that way alone was there a hope of retaining their friendship and ultimate co-operation.

It was largely this change in approach announced by the Prime Minister on March 15 that made it possible for our Mission to make headway towards a settlement. Without it our visit to India would have been pointless and fruitless.

Mission's Gains

When we left India there had undoubtedly been a change of atmosphere. There was a trust in the sincerity of the British Government, which had formerly been absent, and a desire and willingness for co-operation in the solution of India's problems. That is the first positive gain and is something which we believe augurs well for our future relationship with an independent India, whether she chooses to remain within or to go without the British Commonwealth of Nations. Second, we have negotiated an agreement between the main Indian Parties acceptable to the Indian States which provides machinery for working out a new Constitution. It is not our task to make that machinery work. We must now stand aside, always ready and anxious to help if we are wanted, but determined not to interfere.

No one would be so foolish as to imagine that the course of Constitution-making will be a smooth one. The rival Parties will not give up their deeply held convictions in a moment of time, but we have succeeded in doing what it has often been suggested was necessary. We have negotiated a means of bringing the representatives of the Indian people together without our presence -- to settle for themselves their own exceedingly difficult problems. We believe that given the accommodation which both sides have shown in agreeing to the plan, it will not be impossible to work out a solution for the many problems that confront the Constituent Assembly.

One factor is encouraging, and that is that all Parties are trying to get the very best persons elected to the Constituent Assembly, including many who are not Party men at all. There is every hope that that body when elected will represent the best of every element of Indian life.

Unfortunately we did not succeed in accomplishing the second task which we regard as of great importance, that is, the setting up of a representative Interim Government. We did not fail because of any difficulty between the Viceroy of the British Government and the Indians. We have failed because so far we have not been able to devise a composition of Government acceptable to both Parties. In the ultimate stages the issue came down to a very narrow one upon which neither Party were prepared to give way, whether the Congress could nominate a Muslim as one of their representatives in the Interim Government.

It would obviously be undesirable for me to comment on that situation which is one with which the Viceroy will have to deal in the forthcoming negotiations, nor, as I am sure the House fully realises, would it be helpful if Members were to canvass one or other of the contentions put forward. On both sides the convictions are deeply held and honestly held and both Parties attach great importance to this issue.

There can be no doubt in any of our minds that the course of the Constituent Assembly will run more smoothly if a representative Government can be set up at the Centre, nor have we any doubt whatever that the circumstances of India to-day demand the setting up of such a Government as an urgent matter. Both the major Parties equally agree that a Coalition Government is highly desirable and indeed necessary. After a short respite from negotiation we hope that both Parties may find a way out of this dilemma, for no one can contemplate with any equanimity the breakdown of the progress to Indian independence because of the method of allocating a single seat in the Interim Government.

Success Within Grasp

The magnitude of what we are trying to accomplish cannot be over-estimated. It is nothing less than the transfer by peaceful means of the sovereignty to over 400 million people situated in many diverse territories of differing religions and different races. To achieve such an aim would be to revitalise the faith of the world in peaceful methods and human reasonableness. Success though not yet by any means certain, is within the grasp of ourselves and our Indian friends and we may hope that in this realisation the remaining difficulties may be overcome.

There is one thing of which I feel certain, that every person in this House and this country will desire their most heartfelt wishes for success to be conveyed to those representatives of the Indian People who will shortly be meeting in their Constituent Assembly. May God bless their labours and may they achieve for India upon a sound and lasting basis that freedom for which all her people long.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CABINET MISSION AND INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

THE following further correspondence in connection with the British Cabinet Mission's proposals for India's future Constitution between the Cabinet Mission on the one hand and the Congress Party, the Muslim League, the Sikhs and the Indian States on the other has been taken from two White Papers presented to Parliament.

Letter from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to the Secretary of State for India, dated May 20.

My Committee have carefully considered the statement issued by the Cabinet Delegation on May 16, and they have seen Gandhiji after the interviews he has had with you and Sir Stafford Cripps. There are certain matters about which I have been asked to write to you.

European Members' Position

As we understand the statement, it contains certain recommendations and procedure for the election and functioning of the Constituent Assembly. The Assembly itself, when formed, will, in my Committee's opinion, be a sovereign body for the purpose of drafting the Constitution unhindered by any external authority, as well for entering into a Treaty. Further that it will be open to the Assembly to vary in any way it likes the recommendations and the procedure suggested by the Cabinet Delegation. The Constituent Assembly being a sovereign body for the purposes of the Constitution, its final decisions will automatically take effect.

As you are aware some recommendations have been made in your statement which are contrary to the Congress stand as it was taken at the Simla Conference and elsewhere. Naturally we shall try to get the Assembly to remove what we consider defects in the recommendations. For this purpose we shall endeavour to educate the country and the Constituent Assembly.

There is one matter in which my Committee were pleased to hear Gandhiji say that you were trying to see that the European members in the various Provincial Assemblies, particularly Bengal and Assam, would neither offer themselves as candidates nor vote for the election of delegates to the Constituent Assembly.

No provision has been made for the election of a representative from British Baluchistan. So far as we know there is no elected Assembly or any other kind of chamber which might select such a representative. One individual may not make much of a difference in the Constituent Assembly, but it would make a difference if such an individual speaks for a whole province which he really does not represent in any way.

It is far better not to have representation at all than to have this kind of representation which will mislead and which may decide the fate of Baluchistan contrary to the wishes of its inhabitants. If any kind of popular representation can be arranged, we would welcome it. My Committee were pleased, therefore, to hear Gandhiji say that you are likely to include Baluchistan within the scope of the Advisory Committee's work.

In your recommendations for the basis form of the Constitution (this refers to Paragraph 15 of the Statement of Cabinet Delegation of May 16, 1946) you state that Provinces should be free to form groups with executives and legislatures and each group could determine the Provincial subjects to be taken in common. Just previous to this you state that all subjects other than the Union subjects and all residuary powers should vest in the Provinces. Later on the statement, however, on page 5, you state that the Provincial representatives to the Constituent Assembly will divide up into three sections and "these sections shall proceed to settle the Provincial constitutions for the Provinces in each section and shall also decide whether any group constitution shall be set up for these Provinces."

There appears to us to be a marked discrepancy in these two separate provisions. The basic provision gives full autonomy to a Province to do what it likes and subsequently there appears to be a certain compulsion in the matter which clearly infringes that autonomy. It is true that at a later stage the Provinces can opt out of any group. In any event it is not clear how a Province or its representatives can be compelled to do something which they do not want to do. A Provincial Assembly may give a mandate to its representatives not to enter any group or a particular group or section.

Question of Indian States

As sections B and C have been formed it is obvious that one Province will play a dominating role in the section, the Punjab in section B and Bengal in section C. It is conceivable that this dominating Province may frame a Provincial constitution entirely against the wishes of Sind or the North-West Frontier Province or Assam. It may even conceivably lay down rules, for elections and otherwise, thereby nullifying the provision for a Province to opt out of a group. Such could never be the intention as it would be repugnant to the basic principles and policy of the scheme itself.

The question of the Indian States has been left vague and, therefore, I need not say much about it at this stage. But it is clear that State representatives who come into the Constituent Assembly must do so more or less in the same way as the representatives of the Provinces. The Constituent Assembly cannot be formed of entirely disparate elements.

I have dealt above with some points arising out of your statement. Possibly some of them can be cleared up by you and the defects removed. The principal point, however, is as stated above, that we look upon this Constituent Assembly as a sovereign body which can decide as it chooses in regard to any matter before it and can give effect to its decision. The only limitation we recognise is that in regard to certain major communal issues the decision should be by a majority of each of the two major communities. We shall try to approach the public and the members of the Constituent Assembly with our own proposals for removing any defects in the recommendations made by you.

Gandhiji has informed my Committee that you contemplate that British troops will remain in India till after the establishment of the Government in accordance with the instrument produced by the Constituent Assembly. My Committee feel that the presence of foreign troops in India will be a negation of India's independence.

India should be considered to be independent in fact from the moment that the National Provisional Government is established.

I shall be grateful to have an early reply so that my Committee may come to a decision in regard to your statement.

Letter from the Secretary of State for India to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, dated May 22.

The Delegation have considered your letter of May 20 and feel that the best way to answer it is that they should make their general position quite clear to you. Since the Indian Leaders after prolonged discussion failed to arrive at an agreement, the Delegation have put forward their recommendations as the nearest approach to reconciling the views of the two main parties. The scheme therefore stands as a whole and can only succeed if it is accepted and worked in a spirit of compromise and co-operation.

You are aware of the reasons for the grouping of the Provinces, and this is an essential feature of the scheme which can only be modified by agreement between the two parties.

Protection of Minorities

There are two further points which we think we should mention. First, in your letter you describe the Constituent Assembly as a sovereign body, the final decisions of which will automatically take effect. We think the authority and the functions of the Constituent Assembly and the procedure which it is intended to follow are clear from the statements. Once the Constituent Assembly is formed and working on this basis, there is naturally no intention to interfere with its discretion or to question its decisions.

When the Constituent Assembly has completed its labours, His Majesty's Government will recommend to Parliament such action as may be necessary for the cession of sovereignty to the Indian people, subject only to two provisos which are mentioned in the statement and which are not, we believe, controversial, namely, adequate provisions for the protection of minorities and willingness to conclude a treaty to cover matters arising out of the transfer of power.

Secondly, while His Majesty's Government are most anxious to secure that the interim period should be as short as possible, you will, we are sure, appreciate that, for the reasons stated above, independence cannot precede the bringing into operation of a new Constitution.

The substance of this letter and certain other points were the subject of the Delegation's statement of 25th May, 1946.

Viceroy's Letter to Mr. Jinnah

Letter from H. E. the Viceroy to Mr. M. A. Jinnah, dated June 4.

Personal and Confidential. (This letter is published with Mr. Jinnah's agreement).

You asked me yesterday to give you an assurance about the action that would be taken if one party accepted the scheme in the Cabinet Delegation's statement of May 16, and the other refused.

I can give you on behalf of the Cabinet Delegation my personal assurance that we do not propose to make any discrimination in the treatment of either party; and that we shall go ahead with the plan laid down in the statement so far as circumstances permit if either party accepts; but we hope that both will accept.

I should be grateful if you would see that the existence of this assurance does not become public. If it is necessary for you to tell your Working Committee that you have an assurance, I should be grateful if you would explain to them this condition.

Mr. Jinnah's Reply

Letter from Mr. M. A. Jinnah to H. E. the Viceroy, dated June 12.

I am in receipt of your letter of 12th June.

I have already informed you by my letter dated 8th June, that our decision accepting the scheme embodied in the Statement of the Cabinet Delegation was based on your formula of parity, as one of the most important considerations which weighed with the Working Committee and the Council of the Muslim League in finally arriving at their decision.

I understand that the Congress have not yet given their decision, and, it seems to me that until they decide it is not advisable to discuss how best either the personnel or the portfolios should be adjusted. I agree with you that the important portfolios should be equally distributed between the two major parties and we should get the best possible men suited for those portfolios. But I am of the opinion that no use or purpose would be served until the Congress have given their decision with regard to the scheme embodied in the Statement of the Mission of the 16th May, 1946.



MR. M. A. JINNAH, MUSLIM LEAGUE PRESIDENT.

If you wish to discuss anything further I shall be glad to see you alone.

Letter from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to H. E. the Viceroy, dated June 14.

In the course of our talk to-day you mentioned that among the Muslim League nominees suggested for the Provisional Government was one from the North-West Frontier Province, who had recently been defeated at the Provincial Elections. This was said by you confidentially and we shall of course treat it as such. But I feel I must inform you, to avoid any possibility of misunderstanding, that any such name will be considered objectionable by us. This objection is not personal, but we feel that the name is suggested for entirely political reasons and we cannot agree to any such course.

Viceroy's Reply

Letter from H. E. the Viceroy to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, dated June 15.

This is in answer to your confidential letter of 14th June about one of the Muslim League nominees.

I am afraid that I cannot accept the right of the Congress to object to names put forward by the Muslim League, any more than I would accept similar objections from the other side. The test must be that of ability.

Letter from Mr. M. A. Jinnah to H. E. the Viceroy, dated June 18.

In the course of my interview with you this evening, you informed me that the Congress proposed to substitute Dr. Zakir Hussain for one of the Caste Hindus invited by you to join the Interim Government although you expressed the hope that they would not do so. I told you that the reaction of Muslim India would be deadly against such a substitution and the Muslim League would never accept the nomination of any Muslim by you other than a Muslim Leaguer.

I placed the matter before my Working Committee and it has unanimously endorsed this view and considers it vital and fundamental.

Letter from Mr. M. A. Jinnah to H. E. the Viceroy, dated June 21.

I thank you for your letter of the 20th June, 1946.

With regard to Paragraph 2 of your letter, I regret I am unable to agree with the view that you take.

As regards your request whether you should send copies of the questions 4(A) and 4(B) in my letter, and Paragraphs 4 and 5 of your letter, under reply to the President of the Congress, I have no objection, if you think it proper to do so.

Letter from H. E. the Viceroy to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, dated June 27.

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th June.

The Cabinet Delegation and I very much regret that the Congress Working Committee have not been able to accept the proposals in the Statement of 16th June since if they had done so it would have been possible to complete the work to which we and the Indian Political Leaders have devoted ourselves during the last three months. We are sorry if there was a misunderstanding about the treatment of major communal issues in the Interim Government.

Coalition Government

We certainly thought that you had accepted it as a self-evident proposition, as indeed it is, that in a Coalition Government it would not be possible to force through issues of this kind in the face of the opposition of either of the main parties.

The Delegation and I are, however, glad to learn from the last paragraph of your letter that the Congress Working Committee accept and are prepared to work the proposals for framing a Constitution for India which were put forward in the Delegation's Statement of the 16th May. You say that you adhere to the views and the interpretation of that Statement which were set out in the Congress Working Committee's resolution of the 24th May, and in correspondence and interviews with ourselves.

At our interview yesterday we drew your attention to Paragraph 8 of our Statement of 25th May. We emphasised that the procedure for dividing up into sections can only be altered by a resolution of the Constituent Assembly passed by a majority of both communities under Paragraph 19 (vii) of the Statement of May 16th. We were glad to hear at this interview that it is the intention of Congress to enter the Constituent Assembly in a constructive spirit.

We also informed you that in view of the inability of the Congress to co-operate in the Interim Government proposed in our Statement of 16th June, a situation had arisen in which Paragraph 8 of that Statement took effect. Accordingly I shall shortly make a further attempt to form an Interim Government as representative as possible of the two main parties. I have, however, decided that as the negotiations have already been protracted, and as we have only recently failed to reach agreement, it would be desirable to have a short interval before the matter is taken up again, and have therefore decided to form a Caretaker Government of officials to carry on the administration temporarily.

Letter from H. E. the Viceroy to Mr. M. A. Jinnah, dated June 29.

Thank you for your letter of yesterday. In regard to your Paragraph 3, I refer to the opening sentence of Paragraph No. 5 of my letter of June 20th which reads as follows: "On the points which you desire to make clear, in connection with the Government to be formed under our Statement of June 16th, I give you the following reply after consultation with the delegation."

I have underlined the relevant words. It was clear from this sentence that the assurances given applied only to the particular Interim Government proposed in the Statement of June 16th.

I have no objection to your publishing your letter of the 28th June suggesting the postponement of elections to the Constituent Assembly or your letter under reply.

Master Tara Singh's Letter

Letter from Master Tara Singh to the Secretary of State for India dated May 25.

Since the British Cabinet Mission's recommendations for the future constitution of India have been published, a wave of dejection, resentment and Indignation has run throughout the Sikh community. The reasons are quite obvious.

The Sikhs have been entirely thrown at the mercy of the Muslims. Group B comprises the Punjab, the N.-W.F. Province, Sind and Baluchistan; and the representatives given to each community will be Muslims 23, Hindus 9 and Sikhs 4. Can anybody expect from this Assembly, constituted as it is, any consideration of justice for the Sikhs?

The Cabinet Mission recognises "the very genuine and acute anxiety of the Muslims lest they should find themselves subjected to a perpetual Hindu majority rule." But is there no "genuine and acute anxiety" among the Sikhs lest they should find themselves subjected to a perpetual Muslim majority rule?

Sikh Anxiety

If the British Government is not aware of the Sikh feelings, the Sikhs will have to resort to some measures in order to convince everybody concerned of the Sikh anxiety in case they are subjected to a perpetual Muslim domination.

The Cabinet Mission has not only put under Muslim domination the non-Muslim areas of the Punjab and Bengal, but the whole Province of Assam where the non-Muslims are in overwhelming majority. This is evidently done to placate the Muslims. If the first consideration of the Cabinet Mission's recommendations is to give protection to the Muslims, why should the same consideration be not shown for Sikhs. But it appears that the Sikhs have been studiously debarred from having any effective influence in the Province, a group of Central Union. I refer to Section 15(2) and Section 19(7) in which it has been definitely provided that the majority of both the Hindus and Muslims is necessary for certain purposes. The Sikhs are entirely ignored, though they are as much concerned as the other Communities.

Sikhs Seek Clarification

This is how I read the recommendations of the Cabinet Mission. But as the issues are very grave and momentous the Sikh representatives assembled here to-day to consider the situation created, have advised me to seek clarification from you and find out if there is any hope of such amendments as may save the Sikhs from perpetual domination.

So I put three questions:—

(1) What is the significance of recognising the Sikhs as one of "the main communities"?

(2) Suppose the majority of Section B frames a constitution under Section 19(5) but the Sikh members do not agree. Does it mean deadlock or does the opposition of the Sikh members mean simply disassociation?

(3) Is there any hope of obtaining for the Sikhs the same right as is given to the Muslims and the Hindus under Section 15(2) and 19(17)?

Secretary of State's Reply

Letter from the Secretary of State for India to Master Tara Singh, dated June 1.

Thank you for your letter of 25th May.

The anxieties of the Sikhs were kept prominently in mind when we were drafting the Cabinet Mission's Statement and I can certainly claim that of the various alternatives open to us the best one from the Sikh point of view was chosen. You will, I am sure, admit that if India had been divided into two sovereign states, or if the Punjab had been partitioned, either of these decisions would have been far less acceptable to the Sikhs than the one which was actually reached.

I have considered carefully the detailed points you raise at the end of your letter. I fear the Mission cannot issue any addition to, or interpretation of, the Statement. There is, however, no intention whatever to prejudice the position of the Sikhs in the Punjab or in the North-West Group, nor do I think their position has been prejudiced, for it is inconceivable that either the Constituent Assembly or any future Government of the Punjab will overlook the special place in the Province of the Sikhs.

The estimate of the importance of your community would never depend on the number of seats that you held in the Constituent Assembly.

The Viceroy has told me that he will be glad, in view of the anxieties you have expressed on behalf of your community, to discuss the position of the Sikhs specially with the leaders of the main parties when the Constituent Assembly has been formed; he hopes he may be able to persuade them, if persuasion is needed, that the interests of the Sikhs should on no account be overlooked.

If you and Sardar Baldev Singh would care to see the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy in the first week of June, we shall be glad to see you.

Nawab of Bhopal's Letter

Letter from H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, to H. E. the Viceroy, dated June 19.

The Standing Committee of Princes gave most careful consideration at their recent meetings in Bombay to the proposals of the Cabinet Mission and Your Excellency in regard to the long-range constitutional arrangements and for the interim period. Their views are embodied in the enclosed statement which has been released to the Press and of which an advance copy was forwarded to Sir Conrad. (Sir Conrad Corfield, Political Adviser to the Viceroy in his capacity as Crown Representative).

I would invite your Excellency's particular attention to the attitude taken by the Standing Committee of Princes on the question of internal reforms in the States as indicated in Paragraph 4 of the Press statement.

The Standing Committee desired me to convey to the members of the Cabinet Mission to Your Excellency their grateful appreciation of the genuine efforts made by them, notwithstanding obvious difficulties, to reach as far as possible an agreed settlement of the Indian Constitutional problem.

The Standing Committee are of the view that the plan provides the necessary machinery for the attainment by India of independence as well as a fair basis for further negotiations. They welcome the Declaration of the Cabinet Mission in regard to Paramountcy but consider certain adjustments necessary for the interim period which have already been indicated by them. Final decisions of the States and of the Standing Committee, as will doubtless be appreciated, will depend on the completed picture which may emerge from the proposed negotiations and discussions.

Negotiating Committee

The Standing Committee desire in particular to convey their gratitude to Your Excellency for your valuable advice and assistance during these negotiations to safeguard the legitimate interest of the States, and they would request that their grateful thanks may also be conveyed to Sir Conrad Corfield who, as Your Excellency knows, has been very helpful. The Committee feel confident that with your support the various matters which have been left undefined or for future negotiations and discussions will be settled on merits to the satisfaction of the States.

The Standing Committee have decided, in response to Your Excellency's invitation, to set up a Negotiating Committee whose personnel is given in the enclosed list. (This list is not reproduced as it is at present confidential). The Committee did their utmost to keep the number small as desired by Your Excellency but they felt that it would not be possible for them to reduce that number. I shall be grateful if I am informed as early as possible of the time and place when this Committee is expected to meet, and the personnel of the corresponding Committee which may be set up by the representatives of British India on the Constituent Assembly.

The result of these negotiations are proposed to be considered by the Standing Committee of Princes, the Committee of Ministers and the Consultational Advisory Committee whose recommendations will be placed before a General Conference of Rulers and Representatives of States. The decision on the question whether the States should or should not join the Constituent Assembly will be taken by that Conference and will depend on the result of the forthcoming negotiations.

Exercise of Paramountcy

A list of representatives of the States for the proposed Committee on matters of common concern to British India and the States is also enclosed. It was necessary to accommodate on it various important interests and regions of States and to include persons with special knowledge of subjects which are likely to be taken up at the deliberation of this Committee.

It is understood, however, that all the members of this Committee would not be required to attend every meeting, and that ordinarily not more than five or six, whatever the number from British India, would be invited by the Chancellor to participate in the discussions according to the nature of subjects on the Agenda.

Provision will also have to be made for the co-option of representatives from any State or group of States, not directly represented on the Committee, when any special questions particularly affecting them are under discussion. Draft rules for the conduct of business and other details relating to this Committee will be discussed with Sir Conrad and it is believed that Your Excellency may also have to consult the Interim Government in regard to these matters.

In the meantime, as desired by Your Excellency, questions relating to the exercise of Paramountcy in the interim period are proposed to be pursued with Sir Conrad and any outstanding points will be submitted to Your Excellency. The Standing Committee have authorised me to conduct further negotiations in regard to these matters with a view to reaching early decisions.

Viceroy's Reply to Bhopal Ruler

Letter from H. E. the Viceroy to H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, dated June 29.

I am much obliged to Your Highness for your letter of 19th June, in which Your Highness informs me of the conclusions reached by the Standing Committee of Princes as a result of their deliberation at Bombay in the second week of June.

The Cabinet Mission and I welcome the attitude which the Princes have adopted towards the plan which we have proposed for the solution of India's constitutional problem, and we particularly appreciate the action of the Standing Committee in endorsing the suggestions we made in regard to the manner in which States could best fit themselves to make their due contribution to India's new Constitutional structure. We are confident that, when the time comes for the States to make their final decision, that decision will be characterised by the same sense of realism and the same spirit of accommodation as have already been manifested.

I greatly appreciate the sentiments expressed by the Standing Committee in regard to myself and my Political Adviser. I should like to assure Your Highness and the Standing Committee that we shall continue, during the forthcoming negotiations, to give such assistance as is in our power to the promotion of agreed conclusions satisfactory alike to the States and to British India.

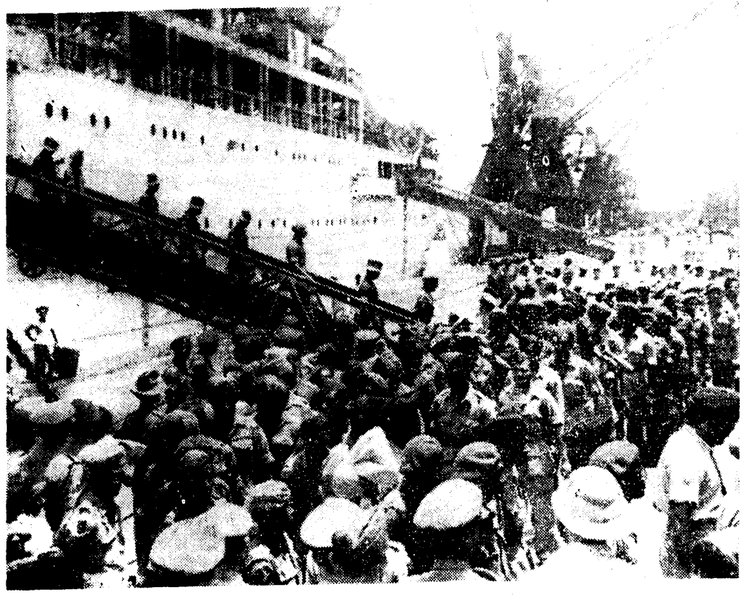
I have taken note of the personnel selected by the States to represent them on the Negotiating Committee. I will inform Your Highness, as soon as I am in a position to do so, of the time and place of the Committee's meeting. The composition of the corresponding committee from British India cannot, I think, be determined in advance of the preliminary session of the Constituent Assembly.

Consultative Committee

I understand from Sir Conrad Corfield that he is already engaged in active discussions with the authorities of the Central Government about the machinery for giving effect to the Princes' proposal for a Consultative Committee to deal with matters of common concern to British India and the States. Sir Conrad will, no doubt, keep Your Highness fully informed of the progress made in these discussions, and I myself intend, at a later stage to place the proposal before the Interim Government.

I shall be grateful if Your Highness will convey to the Standing Committee of Princes my appreciation of the helpful attitude they have adopted towards the complex constitutional problems with which India is confronted. Under Your Highness's presidency, the Standing Committee have given a lead which will, I trust, be followed by all Princes of India.

According to a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated July 27, the Government of India have prohibited stock-holders from acquiring or disposing of iron and steel except under a general or special written order of the Iron and Steel Controller or any other officer authorised by the Central Government. This Notification follows the recent announcement by the Government of their intention to restore the licensing system of iron and steel which was abolished in April 1946.



MEN OF THE INDIAN VICTORY CONTINGENT DISEMBARK FROM S. S. "CARTHAGE" IN BOMBAY.

INDIAN VICTORY CONTINGENT BACK HOME

More than 600 members of India's Victory Contingent have just returned home after taking part in London's Victory celebrations. The Contingent visited several cities in England and Scotland, and a party also toured the British Occupation Zone in Germany.



W.A.C.(I) PERSONNEL OF THE INDIAN VICTORY CONTINGENT ON BOARD THE "CARTHAGE" IN BOMBAY.



INDIA'S CIVIL PIONEERS IN THE MAKING MEN OF THE CIVIL PIONEER FORCE TAKING EXERCISES WHICH KEEP THEM FIT. THESE MEN WILL BE CALLED UPON TO BUILD ROADS, CONSTRUCT OR DEMOLISH BUILDINGS OR PERFORM OTHER DUTIES THAT GOVERNMENT MAY CONSIDER NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC WELL-BEING.

TRAINED LABOUR FORCE FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Civil Pioneer Units Under Provinces

IN accordance with a scheme of the Central Labour Department, four units of the Civil Pioneer Force are working under the Punjab and Bengal Governments for carrying out civil works.

The object of the scheme is to provide the Provincial Governments with a trained labour force for public works and at the same time keep the Civil Pioneers in employment.

The maintenance and control of these units will be by the Provincial Governments themselves. The necessary amendments to the Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance and the Rules and Regulations under it have been published in a notification in the *Gazette of India*, dated July 15, 1946.

The Central Government have agreed to bear the loss under the scheme, if any, subject to a maximum of Rs. 57,625 per annum per unit. One of the units in Bengal will be engaged on National Highways.

The present scheme will end on September 30, 1946, when the Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance lapses.

CIVILIAN PASSAGES TO UNITED KINGDOM

A Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on July 11 stated:

The embarkation of over 3,000 civilian passengers for the U. K. during June practically cleared the waiting list. It is also anticipated that all those wishing to sail in July and August will obtain accommodation.

Persons registered for passage in September and subsequent months, who now wish to accelerate their departure, are invited to instruct their travel agents accordingly.

Civilian passengers booked to sail in July or August who do not expect to be able to accept passage in those months are earnestly requested to inform their travel agents of their change of plan as soon as possible and without waiting to be offered accommodation. This will help the authorities not only to find substitutes, some of whom may have to travel considerable distances to the port of embarkation, but to make more accurate bids for shipping space.

REHABILITATION OF DISABLED SERVICEMEN

TO rehabilitate approximately 60,000 men of the Indian Defence Services disabled during the late war, an ambitious scheme has been jointly undertaken by the War and Labour Departments of the Government of India.

The scheme falls under three main heads: completion of hospital treatment; educational and vocational training at Services Convalescent Rehabilitation Centres (S.C.R.C.'s); and training at special centres organised by the Labour Department.

S.C.R.C.s have been set up at Bangalore, Moradabad, Kirkee, Secunderabad, and Bareilly. Two more are to be established at Rawalpindi and Lahore. The first four have accommodation for 1,000 trainees and the remainder for 500.

Object of Training

The scheme, which is entirely voluntary, applies to disabled men still in the services and to those who have been discharged. Discharged persons, if accepted for the scheme, will continue to draw their disability pensions and receive an allowance equal to the difference between their disability pension and their pay at the time of their discharge. After February 28, 1947, those on the active list will be discharged from the Services. All those under training will then be given Rs. 10 monthly plus disability pensions granted. Rations, clothing and accommodation will continue to be supplied free.

Subjects taught at S.C.R.C.s include carpentry, rope and string making, weaving, tailoring, basket-making, agriculture, clerical work and leather work.

The object of this training is to restore a man's confidence in his working ability and to assist the Labour Department's Rehabilitation Officers to decide whether a man, after his instruction, is fit for immediate employment or whether he should receive further training at a Labour Department centre. Three such centres have been opened at Jallahali (near Bangalore), Aundh and Coconada. It is proposed to establish three more in Bombay.

A Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. on July 3 stated:

Reports appearing in the Press that valuable Navy and Army stores are being dumped in the Arabian Sea, near Bombay, by the Royal Indian Navy are wholly incorrect.

Only smoke floats and ammunition which it is not economical to break down are being dumped into the sea.

No Lend-Lease material is being dumped.

Punjab Governor Visits Employment Exchange

AN Employment Exchange at work was seen by H.E. Sir Evan Jenkins, Governor of the Punjab, when he visited the Sub-Regional Employment Exchange at Ambala on July 29. His Excellency saw a soldier recently demobilised come to the Exchange for assistance and being questioned about his qualifications, training and experience in any particular trade or occupation and his preference for any particular type of employment.

The Punjab Governor also met a number of employers who were present at the Exchange, most of whom had sent requisitions for men, some offering clerical jobs and others skilled and unskilled positions in factories. To them Sir Evan said: "Any help you can give would be welcome."

After going through the various sections of the Exchange and seeing how they worked, His Excellency met a number of men belonging to the Indian Army Veterinary Corps who were expecting their release from the Army in about a week's time. The men had come to the Exchange to seek advice regarding their future. Sir Evan questioned them about the type of training they had in the Army. He told them that the Punjab had an ambitious post-war scheme for the expansion of its veterinary services which should absorb a large number of ex-soldiers who had worked in the Veterinary Corps.

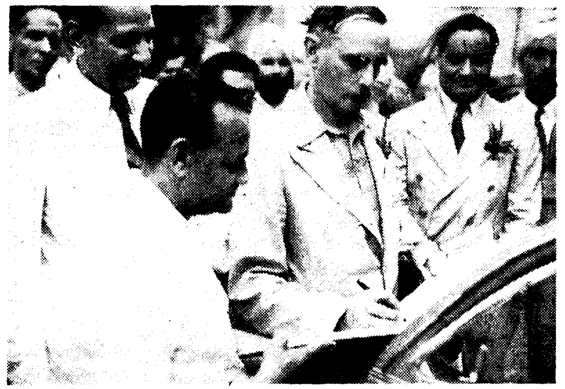
Another group of 40 men released from R.I.A.S.C. were then introduced to His Excellency. These men have formed a Co-operative Union with the object of running transport services. The Exchange had helped them in forming a Union and was now negotiating to find them a fleet of lorries and to secure them the necessary licences to run the services.

The Employment Exchange at Ambala is one of the eleven Exchanges set up in the Punjab by the Directorate of Resettlement and Employment, Government of India. The Exchange which is housed in a spacious building, has its own Information Bureau and reading room for the visiting soldiers. A separate room is provided for the employers who visit the Exchange, looking for men they need.

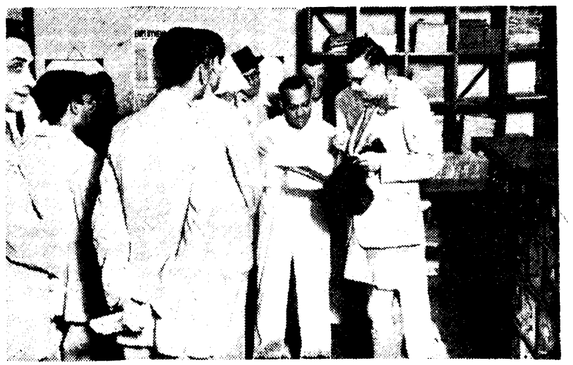
Since it started functioning about six months ago, the Ambala Employment Exchange has placed on its registers 2,954 ex-servicemen and discharged war workers. Already 361 have been found suitable employment excluding ex-servicemen who have been re-enrolled in the Indian Army through the Exchange. The Exchange has another list of 82 men who were disabled in war and are seeking employment. Of these, 13 have found suitable jobs. The manager of the Exchange has an advisory committee to help him.



H. E. SIR EVAN JENKINS, PUNJAB GOVERNOR, RECENTLY VISITED THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE AT AMBALA, WHERE HE MET MEN OF THE I.A.V.C. ABOUT TO BE RELEASED FROM THE ARMY.



THE PUNJAB GOVERNOR SIGNING IN THE VISITORS' BOOK AT THE EXCHANGE.



CAPT. A. H. SHEIKH, MANAGER OF THE EXCHANGE, EXPLAINS TO HIS EXCELLENCY ENTRIES MADE IN AN EMPLOYER'S CARD IN THE 'SUBMISSIONS ROOM' OF THE EXCHANGE.



MUSA KHAN LEARNS CALICO PRINTING AT THE I.A.M.C. RESETTLEMENT CENTRE, RAWALPINDI.

PRE-RELEASE TRAINING CENTRES PREPARE SOLDIERS FOR CIVIL LIFE

FORMED in January, 1946, the Pre-Release Training Centre of the Indian Signal Corps, at Jalahalli near Bangalore, has succeeded in teaching more subjects to more troops than many similar establishments which have been in operation for a longer time.

Students, who are all Madrassi personnel but not necessarily from the Indian Signal Corps only, are taught nothing they are unable to do when they return to their own villages. No expensive and modern equipment is used and in the cottage industries section, for example, all machinery and tools are home-made and can easily be copied by the students. On the agricultural demonstration plot fowl houses and hen runs are made from scrap material.

Cottage Industries

In all, 20 cottage industries are taught. These include hand-loom weaving, calico printing, mat weaving, pottery, sign writing and masonry. Students may also learn dairy farming, animal husbandry and poultry farming.

One of the most popular subjects taught at the Centre is the maintenance of the internal combustion engine. A short course in driving is also given. Successful students are presented with a booklet explaining engine faults and how to trace their origins.

Already, 134 Madrassi soldiers have been trained at the Centre. At present there are more than 100 men undergoing instruction.



COMPOST MAKING AT THE ROYAL GARHWAL RIFLES CENTRE, KOTDWARA.

CHAKWAL EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

More than 5,000 ex-Servicemen have joined the Chakwal Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association, recently inaugurated at Chakwal, Jhelum district, Punjab. The Association, a non-communal and non-political organisation is planning for the economic uplift and social welfare of ex-Servicemen and their dependents and will work in close touch with the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board and with the local Labour Exchange.

"Self Help" is its motto and this Association is forging ahead with a programme which includes employment information bureaux, an institute and a hostel for ex-servicemen's sons.

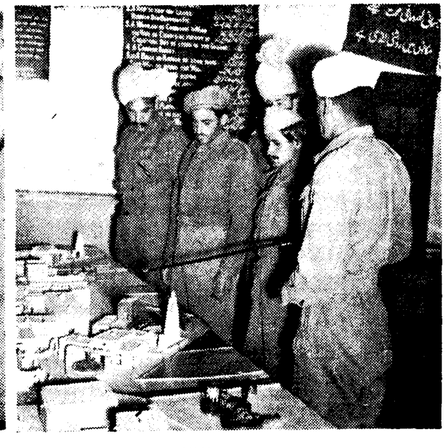
Another step towards "Self Help" is the Chakwal Ex-Service Co-operative Sale Society Ltd., which is to stock and sell to ex-Service personnel controlled articles and farming items. It will also collect and market ex-Servicemen's produce both agricultural and industrial.

So far Rs. 50,000 have been subscribed to the Society, membership of which is restricted to ex-Servicemen, including officers. A Motor Transport Co-operative Society is also to be started and a Construction Co-operative Society is being planned.



ALL OVER INDIA, PRE-RELEASE AND RESETTLEMENT TRAINING CENTRES HAVE BEEN OPENED FOR MEN OF THE INDIAN ARMY. THE OBJECT OF THESE CENTRES IS TO TRAIN MEN FOR THE SWITCH-OVER FROM SERVICE LIFE TO THAT OF PEACEFUL LIVING AGAIN. THE SUBJECTS COVERED IN THE CENTRES ARE NUMEROUS AND THE DIFFERENT COURSES INCLUDE EVERY ASPECT OF AGRICULTURE AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES. PICTURE SHOWS HAV. PHOOL SINGH WATCHING THE MEN BUILDING AN ARCHWAY AT THE 1ST. PUNJAB REGIMENTAL CENTRE, JHELUM.





CHICKEN FEEDING AT THE ANIMAL TRANSPORT REINFORCEMENT CENTRE, JULLUNDUR. (RIGHT) A CLASS ON RURAL UPLIFT AT THE 13TH FRONTIER FORCE RIFLES CENTRE, ABBOTTABAD.



ASSEMBLY WORK ON A NEW LOCOMOTIVE BOILER IN PROGRESS IN AN INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

RS. 982 LAKHS ROLLING STOCK PROGRAMME FOR 1947-48 APPROVED

Locomotive and Wagon Manufacture in India

THE Railway Standing Finance Committee met on July 17 and 18 under the Chairmanship of Mr. I. S. Puri, Financial Commissioner of Railways. All members except Mr. Nauman were present.

The first day's discussion centred round two important questions, *viz*, abolition of the Lower Gazetted Service and the Rolling Stock programme for 1947-48. The Committee recommended that the proposal to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service should be referred to the High Power Committee which they had proposed to be set up in a previous meeting. They also recommended that there should be no further recruitment of Europeans from the U.K. except for short-term appointments to specialist posts in technical services.

Locomotive Manufacture

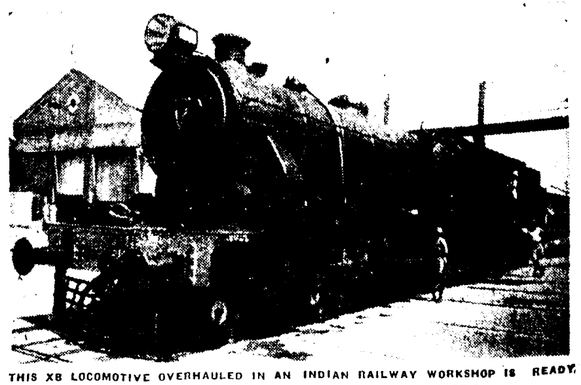
The Committee approved of the Rolling Stock programme for 1947-48 which provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 982 lakhs. The programme includes the manufacture of 40 metre-gauge passenger locomotives in India, the construction in India of 1,953 units of B.G. and M.G. coaching stock (in terms of 4-wheelers) at a cost of Rs. 591 lakhs and also of 3,300 broad-gauge wagons (in terms of 4-wheelers) at a cost of Rs. 306 lakhs.

The Railway Board also contemplate to purchase, from the War Department surplus stock, of 5,000 general service metre-gauge wagons and 374 special type wagons (20 broad-gauge and 354 metre-gauge). Provision for this will be made in the final budget estimates when the terms of purchase will be finalised. There is no provision in 1947-48 for any broad-gauge locomotives as it is not expected that it will be possible either to manufacture any in India or to import from abroad.

At its meeting on July 18, the Committee approved of the order placed in the U.K. for the purchase of 100 broad-gauge express passenger locomotives. They also agreed to the Railway Board's proposal to reserve capacity for a further 200 passenger locomotives for delivery by 1950, with the recommendation that the search for this capacity should not be limited to the U.K. alone nor even to the sterling area, but that capacity should be reserved wherever available and wherever locomotives could be obtained more cheaply.

The Committee approved of Rs. 1.98 crore programme for additions to and replacement of machinery and plant in 1947-48. The first stage of the scheme for improving facilities in the Bokaro, Karanpura and Barawadih coalfields, estimated to cost Rs. 21.72 lakhs, met with the Committee's approval. After considerable discussion, the Railway Board's scheme for the re-arrangement of the Demands for Grants was adopted. This scheme is designed to meet the criticism made in the Public Accounts Committee regarding the existing scheme of Demands for Grants, and to secure a more rational and effective control over Railway expenditure. Other proposals approved included those relating to the categories of works the cost of which is to be met hereafter out of the Betterment Fund.

The consideration of the Railway Board's proposals to make certain temporary gazetted posts permanent was deferred till the High Power Committee had reported. The proposals in connection with the re-organisation of the Stores Department of the O.T. Railway were referred to a Sub-Committee consisting of Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha and Pandit Balkrishna Sharma.



THIS XB LOCOMOTIVE OVERHAULED IN AN INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP IS READY FOR A TRIAL RUN BEFORE BEING PUT BACK INTO TRAFFIC.

GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Standing Finance Committee's Grants

THE establishment of a Higher Technical Institution in Calcutta and of the Power Engineering Department at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; the expansion of the Imperial Agricultural Institute and the establishment of a Central Agricultural College; the taking over of the Hindustan Aircraft Limited as a civil factory; preparations for a number of river development schemes and the building of a fertiliser factory at Sindhri near Dhanbad these are some of the items approved of by the Standing Finance Committee, when it met in New Delhi on July 29 and 30 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Eric Coates, Finance Member, Government of India.

Education Department's Proposals

One of the most far-reaching proposals sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee relates to the early establishment of the Eastern Technical Institution somewhere near Calcutta to provide facilities for instruction for about 2,000 undergraduate and 1,000 post-graduate students.

The Sarkar Committee, set up early in 1945, had recommended the establishment of four such higher technical institutions, one each in the East, West, South and North of the country, a recommendation endorsed later by the All-India Council for Technical Education, which was set up to advise Government on effective organisation and planning of higher technical education on an All-India basis.

The establishment of the Eastern Higher Technical Institution may, therefore, be regarded as a start in Government's programme of technical education, and it is understood that it will cater for the needs of all the Provinces pending the establishment of the three other institutes.

The scheme will involve in the current financial year a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 4,25,000 and a recurring one of Rs. 1,62,000, while the estimates for the three subsequent years, are, non-recurring Rs. 91,00,000, Rs. 1,01,50,000 and Rs. 1,05,20,000 and recurring *Rs. 10,97,700*, Rs. 26,79,300 and Rs. 39,52,000 respectively.

Rapid Industrialisation

For the rapid industrialisation of India as envisaged in post-war plans, a large number of trained Power Engineers will be urgently needed. It has been accordingly decided to start a Power Engineering Department in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, which possesses special advantages for such a course of training both because of the post-graduate departments in allied sciences and technology which it has, and because of its proximity to several Hydro-Electric Power Stations.

The proposed Department will be provided with adequate laboratory equipment and also with an installation of heavy power plant, on which the students will do the work of operation, maintenance and repairs, in order to obtain complete training as Power Engineers.

The estimated total cost of the Department is Rs. 40,00,000 with a recurring expenditure of Rs. 70,000 in 1946-47. It is expected that the recurring expenditure in 1947-48 will remain at the level of Rs. 70,000 but will go up to Rs. 2,00,000 in 1948-49 and Rs. 3,00,000 in 1949-50. The Indian Institute of Science will, however, do its utmost to make the scheme self-supporting within four years of its inception.

Another significant item included by the Education Department is intended to implement a five-year scheme for the development of Anthropological survey, which is estimated to involve a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 50,000 in 1946-47 and a recurring one of Rs. 87,730 in the current year and of Rs. 1,75,000 in subsequent years.

The impending changes in the social and administrative services in India will require expert guidance from a properly developed Anthropological Survey Department, if the country is to assimilate about 25 million of the aboriginal and tribal people in a healthy manner into her general system. The present proposal is, therefore, aimed at ensuring the steady growth of an adequate Anthropological Survey Department.

Damodar Valley Scheme

It has now been decided to conduct investigations preliminary to implementing the recommendations of the Central Technical Power Board and the Technical Mission invited from the United States on the multi-purpose development of the Damodar River. At a joint conference of the Central Government and the Government of Bengal and Bihar, it had been agreed that the project, which would eventually result in irrigating 800,000 acres and providing electric power up to installed capacity of 350,000 K.W., might be commenced with the construction of the Maithon and Tilaiya dams. A grant now sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee involving a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 25,00,000 is intended to cover the cost of preliminary investigations to be made in connection with these dams. The whole Damodar Valley Scheme, it may be recalled, has been estimated to cost nearly Rs. 55 crores.

A similar scheme for developing the potentialities of the Kosi River to provide perennial irrigation covering three million acres in Nepal and Bihar, to provide navigation facilities, and to generate cheap hydro-electric power to the extent of over one million K.W., is foreshadowed in the grant (non-recurring) of Rs. 31,44,000 during 1946-47 and 1947-48 for carrying out preliminary investigations.

Investigations are also being conducted by the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission for the multi-purpose development of the Mahanadi, which is the largest river in Orissa with a catchment of 51,000 square miles. A non-recurrent grant of Rs. 16,90,000 has been made for the purpose of carrying out preliminary investigations.

Manufacture of Aircraft

The conversion of the Hindustan Aircraft Company at Bangalore into a civil factory for the manufacture of aircraft constitutes one of the main items in Government's present scheme of industrial expansion.

The Indian Aircraft Mission which came to India in 1946 had made its recommendations regarding the technical aspects of the establishment of an Aircraft industry in India. The recommendations were accepted by Government, who have undertaken the present scheme. The factory will not only manufacture aircraft but also undertake the repair and overhaul of engines and aircraft on behalf of commercial carrying companies.

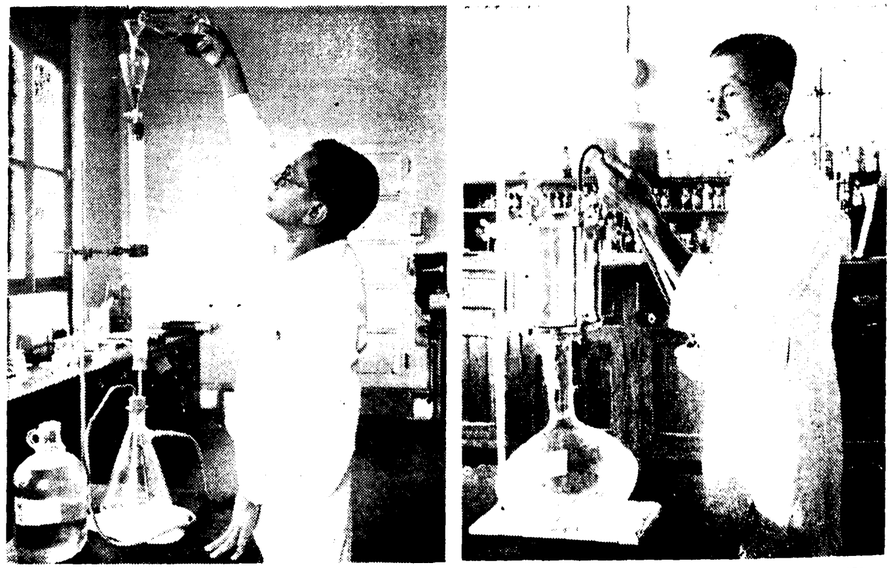
It is also proposed to manufacture railway coaches in the factory and the Railway Board have promised an order of 100 coaches per annum, subject to the satisfactory production of a sample coach. The total expenditure involved in the entire Hindustan Air Factory Scheme will be recurring Rs. 87,03,000 and non-recurring Rs. 23,80,000. It will be necessary to credit to the Defence Services the value of the assets by Government, the precise extent of which is yet to be assessed. The Government of Mysore have agreed to resume active partnership in the factory from April 1, 1946, and the extent of their liability is also yet to be precisely determined.

Ammonium Sulphate Factory

The construction of an Ammonium Sulphate Factory at Sindhri, Bihar, is another major Government undertaking on which commitments so far entered into amount to Rs. 4.07 crores. The factory is intended to produce 335,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate per annum. The total estimated cost of this project exceeds Rs. 10 crores.

It is proposed to form a statutory corporation on which the Centre

(*Continued on page* 99)



EXPERIMENTAL WORK ON THE COMMERCIAL MANUFACTURE OF PENICILLIN IS BEING CARRIED OUT AT THE HAFFKINE INSTITUTE, BOMBAY. (LEFT) PURIFICATION OF PENICILLIN BY FILTRATION THROUGH A GLASS COLUMN FILLED WITH SPECIAL GRADE ALUMINIUM OXIDE. (RIGHT) THE FINAL SOLUTION OF PENICILLIN IN WATER SUITABLE FOR ADMINISTRATION IS BEING MADE STERILE BY FILTERING IT THROUGH A "SEITZ-FILTER".

PENICILLIN PRODUCTION IN INDIA

AT a meeting of the Central Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Coal Tar Advisory Committee convened by the Director-General, Industries and Supplies, at New Delhi on July 22, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Waugh, Member for Industries and Supplies, Government of India, it was decided to set up two Sub-Committees to advise the Government of India on the development of the manufacture of superphosphates and D.D.T. in the country.

The Committee also considered various other problems connected with the chemicals and drugs industry. In view of the desirability of having an equalised price throughout India for alcohol, it was recommended that Provincial Governments should be consulted on the matter as soon as possible.

Necessary Equipment

As regards the production of penicillin, it was mentioned that a delegation was at present visiting the U.K. and the U.S.A. exploring the possibilities of getting the necessary equipment. It was also mentioned that the report of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Mission, which recently toured Britain and America, would be released shortly.

Some of the other subjects discussed were the import of plant and equipment from abroad, the export of drugs and medicines made in India, and proper selection of candidates from inside the industry for higher technical training in foreign countries. In respect of the export of drugs and medicines, the Director-General explained that, except for a few items, there was now no restriction on export.

The following members will constitute the Sub-Committees mentioned above: -

Superphosphates:

Mr. L. Gupta (Shambunath Acid Factory, Amritsar).

Mr. W. R. Davis (Parry and Co. Madras).

Dr. Ramaswami (Mysore Chemicals and Fertilisers).

Mr. Paranjpye (Dharmsi Mrarji Chemical Co.).

Mr. S. P. Sen (Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works).

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Imperial Chemical Industries).

Mr. D. R. Sethi (Agriculture Department Government of India).

Dr. J. N. Ray (Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India) Convener.

D. D. T:

Dr. U. P. Basu (Bengal Immunity Co.).

Mr. R. P. Amin (Alembic Chemicals).

Mr. K. K. Raman (Mettur Chemicals).

Prof. R. C. Shah (of Bombay University, to be coopted).

Dr. J. N. Ray (Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India) Convener.

PAPER AND BOARDS FROM U.K.

Information has been received that the Paper Control Authorities in the United Kingdom have as before made an allocation of 2,210 tons of plain paper for export to India during the 22nd licensing period from June 30 to October 26, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on July 21.

This allocation comprises writing and printing papers other than newsprint, coated papers, packing and wrapping papers including cigarette paper, blotting paper, carbonising and copying tissue and pasteboards of all sorts.

Import licences are required by importers in India in respect of boards of all kinds but all other items are covered by the Open General Licence No. VII.

Importers in India are advised to place orders for the varieties covered by the allocation as quickly as possible.

NEW ANTI-MALARIA DRUG: PALUDRINE SUPERIOR TO MEPACRINE

THE work done so far seems to indicate that Paludrine in every respect is superior to Mepacrine in the treatment of malaria.

This was the opinion formed by the Malaria Advisory Committee which met recently in New Delhi, along with various other Advisory Committees of the Indian Research Fund Association, and considered the researches carried out on Paludrine and other synthetic drugs used in the treatment of malaria.

The Nutrition Advisory Committees discussed the question of food fortification with Vitamins and recommended that research on the subject should be continued. The Committee reviewed the nutrition work done in Provinces and States viz., Bihar, the Central Provinces, the Punjab, Bombay, Madras and Hyderabad Deccan and stressed the importance of encouraging the production of Vitamin A concentrates from shark liver oil.

The Filariasis Advisory Committee reviewed the work done on Filariasis at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, and recommended that, besides research work, control measures should be undertaken in some selected areas where Filariasis is endemic.

Research Scholarships

The Scientific Advisory Board endorsed the recommendations of these Advisory Committees.

The Board also interviewed candidates for the award of five research scholarships of the value of Rs. 250 p.m. tenable for two years. The Indian Research Fund Association apart from financing research on problems of health in Medical Colleges and Research Institutes all over the country awards scholarships to medical and science graduates for carrying on research work.

HINDI AND URDU PROGRAMMES ON A.I.R.

THE All India Radio Hindi-Urdu Standing Advisory Committee met in Broadcasting House, New Delhi, on July 17, 18 and 19.

After a full and detailed discussion on the question of adequate and fair representation of Hindi and Urdu in A.I.R.'s programme, it was agreed that before coming to a final decision some important aspects of the matter should be referred to certain well-known authorities in India.

It is hoped that at its next meeting, which has provisionally been fixed for the first week of September, the Committee will be in a position to give its advice on this question.

Progress was also made with regard to the choice of a common vocabulary for the Hindustani news bulletins of All India Radio and this work will be continued at subsequent meetings.

The price control of Khandsari sugar has been removed by a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated July 20.

Free movement of Khandsari sugar within the United Provinces will now be permitted, but exports outside the United Provinces will not be allowed except under permits issued by the Provincial Government in consultation with the Sugar Controller for India.



A.I.R. HINDI-URDU STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN SESSION IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT BROADCASTING HOUSE, NEW DELHI. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) PRINCIPAL SHRIMAN NARAIN AGARWAL, PANDIT MAULI CHANDRA SHARMA, MAULVI SYED HASHIMI FARIDABADI AND (7TH FROM LEFT) MR. A.S. BOKHARI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, A.I.R.

Allocation of German Merchant Shipping

THERE seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding about the actual position of India regarding the allocation of German merchant shipping to Allied countries by way of reparations. In terms of the Paris Agreement on German Reparations each Government is entitled to receive a share of German merchant shipping in proportion to its overall losses of merchant shipping on a gross tonnage basis, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on July 27.

After taking into account the shipping losses of claimant countries, the Assembly of the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency decided that India's share should be 0.24 per cent of the total available German shipping of 769,125 gross registered tonnage.

The Government of India instructed their representative to emphasise that the proportion which the total shipping loss suffered by any country bore to its total tonnage should also be taken into account and to press for a minimum allocation of 15,000 tons G.R.T. or 25 per cent of its losses, whichever is higher, to each country with a share of less than three per cent. India's representative on the Agency also made a bid for some of the ships available which were considered suitable for Indian waters.

India's Claim

The Inter-Allied Reparations Agency however could not see its way to accept India's proposal and the Marie Leonhardt, a cargo vessel built in 1922 of 2,594 G.R.T., was ultimately allocated to India.

In view of the inadequacy of tonnage allotted to India and also of the unsuitability of the ship actually offered for Indian waters, the Government of India decided to reject the offer and did not choose to avail themselves either of the offer made by His Majesty's Government to exchange the Marie Leonhardt with one of the ships allotted to them, or to resort to arbitration which was not likely to secure any of the ships which India had asked for.

The Government of India, therefore, have decided to claim alternative capital goods, preferably shipbuilding machinery instead.

By a notification issued in the *Gazette of India* dated July 27, the Government of India have amended the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order 1945.

The effect of the amendment is to prohibit manufacturers from spinning yarn out of cotton or cotton waste not owned by them and supplied by others. Sizing, bleaching, dyeing and mercerising of yarn not spun by the manufacturers themselves are also prohibited.

The Textile Commissioner is, however, vested with powers to grant general or special permissions in this regard.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF WORKERS

Standing Labour Committee Meeting

THE Central Department's proposals to revise the Indian Factories Act so as to secure better working conditions for industrial labour have been unanimously accepted by the Standing Labour Committee which met in New Delhi on July 25 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India. The meeting lasted two days. The proposals envisage the registration and licensing of factories and inclusion of specific provisions regarding the health, safety and welfare of the workers in the Act itself.

The Committee then considered the question of regulating the conditions of employment in business houses and commercial undertakings in urban areas and agreed to the proposal that a Central Act should be legislated in order to secure uniformity in all Provinces.

Committee's Resolution

The Industrial Housing Sub-Committee's Report was then taken up for discussion. The minimum standards proposed in the Report, namely, that workers' houses should have at least two rooms of a total area of 240 sq. ft. with proper ventilation, lighting and sanitation were accepted as generally suitable. Discussions on this subject had not concluded when the Committee adjourned to meet the following day.

Emphasising that special steps should be taken for obtaining building materials which are still in short supply, the Committee at its meeting on July 26 adopted a Resolution expressing general approval of the Report of the Industrial Housing Sub-Committee.

According to the Resolution, Government subsidy for construction of workers' houses should be increased, and in view of the fact that the rent charged to the workers will be uneconomic, the deficit should be shared equally by the Central Government, Provincial Governments and the employers. The minimum standards laid down in the Report are accepted as suitable and the early formation of a National and Regional Housing Boards is urged.

I. L. O.

The composition of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and the recruitment of I.L.O. staff formed the subject of another Resolution passed by the Committee. This Resolution calls for adequate representation for Asiatic and African countries on the Governing Body, taking population into account. It also advocates equitable international representation on the staff of the I.L.O. and puts forward the claim of India for higher representation, in view of its industrial status, the large contribution it makes to the I.L.O. and the needs and problems of the country.

Other items discussed were the I.L.O. questionnaire on medical examination of young workers and minimum standards of social policy and the revision of the Indian Mines Act. The Committee also reviewed the progress of the Resettlement and Employment Directorate.

Besides Central Government officials, representatives of the Provinces, States, workers and employers, including Messrs. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister, Bombay, V. V. Giri, Minister for Labour, Madras, N. M. Joshi, Miss Maniben Kara, Mr. A. P. Benthall and Sir Shri Ram attended the meeting.

NATURALISATION OF SUBJECTS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

IN 1940, in war conditions the Government of India suspended the naturalisation under the British Nationality and status of Aliens Act of subjects of European countries save in most exceptional circumstances. The position has now been reviewed and applications for naturalisation will again be considered, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India on July 18.

The grant of naturalisation cannot be claimed automatically on completion of the minimum period of residence prescribed under the Statute; it is granted only when, after careful enquiries, it is established that the applicant is worthy of British citizenship.

Such enquiries must take time but in order to minimise the inevitable delay a questionnaire has been prepared, copies of which can be obtained on application from the Home Department, New Delhi. These forms should, on completion, be forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, New Delhi.

Prescribed Formalities

When these forms have been scrutinised, if it is considered that an applicant is not 'prima facie' ineligible for naturalisation, he will be asked to insert an advertisement in the papers announcing that he has applied for naturalisation and the Provincial Governments will be requested, when this has been done, to institute the usual inquiries and to require the applicant to comply with the prescribed formalities.

INDIA'S EXPORTS TO SUDAN

The existence of a few Indian business houses in the Sudan playing a considerable role in the import trade of that country and the need that exists there for more imports from India are revealed in a Report received from the Indian Trade Commissioner in Egypt.

The main demand is for cotton piecegoods from India, whose present quota is regarded in that country as insufficient. The problem of insufficient supply, it is complained, is complicated further by occasional indifference on the part of Indian exporters to the quality of the material exported and to efficient packing.

There appears to be a fair scope for exporting Indian wood to the Sudan in 1947 for the purpose of railway construction. Normally the Sudan uses one million cubic feet per annum, the production in the country being only a fifth of that quantity. Other articles normally in demand include aluminium vessels and canvas shoes.

There are no Indian films exhibited in Sudan at present, but export of films from India needs encouragement.

INDO-IRANIAN TRADE

"Trade enquiries received from Iranian importers and exporters related to import into Iran of textiles and finished goods of all sorts, tea, sugar, spices, etc. and to export from Iran to India of rice, wheat, foodgrains, dried fruits, etc." observes the Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Iran in his Report for May, 1946.

As regards imports into Iran, the Trade Commissioner writes that in the last month of 1945, India occupied the first place among the suppliers of various articles including tea, spices, grasses and seeds of medicinal and industrial value, various kinds of gums and grass extracts, paints and other dye-stuffs, cotton textiles of all descriptions and ready-made clothing.

India received in exchange substantial quantities of dried fruits, stem and leaves of buglars saffron, red rose, gum, grasses and seeds of medicinal value, hairs, untreated skins and hides and carpets.

REPATRIATION OF AUSTRIAN REFUGEES

The Allied Control Commission in Austria are anxious to facilitate the return to Austria of Austrian refugees wishing to return to that country, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on August 6.

Applications from Austrian refugee nationals giving full particulars of their previous and proposed occupation in Austria, present address in India, and last address in Austria should be sent to Home Department, Government of India, New Delhi, so as to reach them before September 1, 1946. These applications will then be referred to the Control Office, Austria, for decision.

RELAXATION OF IMPORT CONTROLS

Fresh Applications for Licences

"IN accordance with the declared policy of the Government of India to progressively relax Import Controls in order that the procurement of the necessary raw materials may be facilitated and the consumers' demands met more fully, it has been decided to grant import licences more liberally in future." said a Press Note issued from the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports on July 23.

"Importers are, therefore, requested wherever possible, to make fresh applications treating the old correspondence as closed. Thus, where licences have been refused or when it is felt that certain applicants should have been more liberally treated, it is no use pursuing the case for reconsideration. It is better to make a fresh application. This procedure will save time, which would otherwise be needlessly spent in tracing old records.

"Applications for items falling under Part II of the Import Trade Control Schedule are dealt with by the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Calcutta; those under Part III by the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Bombay; those under Part IV by the Import Trade Controllers at Karachi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta; and, those under Part V by the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi.

"Intending applicants should, therefore, present or post their applications only to the authorities concerned. If they are addressed to the wrong authorities, it may cause delay and disappointment. This rule should, therefore, be strictly observed."

Another Press Note issued the following day said:

It has been decided to grant licenses for a number of imports from all sources including difficult currency countries. As the object is to facilitate supply of raw materials to Indian industries and to afford greater relief to consumers than at present available, a large number of items falling in Part IV of Import Trade Control Schedule will now come under the purview of this free licensing scheme.

Items of Import

Main items of imports thus permitted are included in a list given below. Import Controllers at ports will grant licenses for these goods to established importers freely on application and to newcomers on applications supported by definite offers of supply. Such offers should ordinarily be from suppliers in the foreign country concerned and should state the definite quantity and the period of delivery, if possible.

Items which will thus be freely licensed and fall in Part IV of the Import Control Schedule, include stearline, tallow, vegetable non-essential oils, saccharine, essential oils, natural and synthetic, hides and skins tanned or dressed, writing paper, printing paper, other than newsprint and paper not otherwise specified excluding cigarette paper, wrapping and packing paper, old newspapers in bags and bales, silk raw and waste, artificial silk yarn and thread, cotton twist and yarn, second-hand clothing, umbrellas, typewriters and their parts, excluding type-writer ribbons, domestic sewing machines and their parts, component parts of wireless reception sets, X-ray films, artificial teeth, clocks and watches, synthetic stones, zip fasteners and fountain pens.

IMPORT DUTIES REMOVED

The Government of India have decided that the import duties on the following articles which are raw materials for Indian industries, should be removed with immediate effect —

(i) lead scrap;
(ii) copper scrap;
(iii) brass ingot; and
(iv) brass scrap.

This decision is subject to revision on receipt of the Tariff Board's Report on the Non-ferrous Metals Industry.

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

(*Continued from page 95*)

as well as Provinces and States contributing over a fixed minimum of capital or guaranteeing a fixed minimum offtake will participate. Capital contribution to the extent of Rs. 4.75 crores and offtake of 259,467 tons have already been promised by Provinces and States. As the Fertilizer Factory will produce some 900 tons of calcium carbonite sludge per day, it is proposed to start a cement factory which will not only utilise that bye-product as a raw material but will also be able to cater for the big demands for cement which will arise in that area when the Damodar Flood Control Scheme comes to be carried out.

A scheme is also under consideration for erecting a coke oven suitable for coking second class coal. This, if successful, will result in economising first-class coal from which metallurgical coke is manufactured.

Patents Advisory Committee

A Patents Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of Central Government Departments, will be formed shortly in the Industries and Supplies Department, to decide how inventions of research institutes under Government control should be dealt with and to advise research institutes and workers regarding the patent aspects of their inventions.

There are about 20 such institutes under the Central Government Departments, carrying on research in natural science, agriculture, livestock, health, nutrition, minerals and other subjects. Whether the inventions and researches developed in these institutes should be patented and commercially exploited or should be thrown open to the public without royalty, how patents should be disposed of, how the inventors should be rewarded, and other similar questions will be decided by this Committee.

The formation of this Committee will lead to speedy handling of inventions of research institutions controlled by the Government of India and to uniformity of policy and procedure.

The Committee will be assisted by two Technical Advisers, a Scientist and an Engineer, and a Secretary.

WOODWORKING TOOLS DECONTROLLED

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India, on July 20 stated:

The Imported Engineer Stores Control Order, 1943, has been cancelled and the following woodworking tools have been decontrolled: Cutter (Power-driven), Circular Saws, Machine Frame Saws, Bandsaws, Pitsaws, Web Saws, Saw Files and Wood Rasps. Importers of these tools are no longer required to submit to the Directorate-General of Industries and Supplies, returns of fresh arrivals of these tools, or to apply for release authority for their sales.

The Supply Department, Government of India, was till recently distributing woodworking tools to private consumers through Provincial or State Forest Officers. This arrangement has since been terminated. There are at present in the country sufficient stocks of wide Bandsaws (4" to 6" and 8" wide), Web Saws and Saws Files (except Featheredge and Pit-Saw Files).

It is, therefore, not the intention of Government to grant any licences in respect of these items until the existing stocks are liquidated. Those who require these tools can place their demands on the Directorate-General of Disposals, New Delhi. Government indentors will, however, continue to adopt the existing procedure.



VILLAGERS TAKING THEIR MADHURI KHUNDD CALVES HOME IN A U. P. VILLAGE.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN ASSAM

THE progress of schemes formulated by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, other development schemes and agricultural conditions in Assam were amongst the subjects discussed by the Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India during his recent tour of Assam. The Animal Husbandry Commissioner visited the veterinary headquarters at Gauhati and the disease investigation laboratory and veterinary hospitals and cattle farms at Shillong and Sylhet.

The cattle breeding policy to be followed in Assam is to up-grade the stock in order to increase the yield of milk. The cattle there are generally small-sized, yielding scanty milk, which does not materially increase with feeding. Large cattle are unsuitable for work on the small segments of Assam's bunded land.

Up-Grading of Stock

The use of Sindhi sires for up-grading would materially increase the milk yield of the cows and would not adversely affect the work bullocks. The use of these sires is likely to be popular where there is a market for fresh milk. European strains of dairy cattle are already established in and around Shillong and their use is recommended in other localities similarly situated.

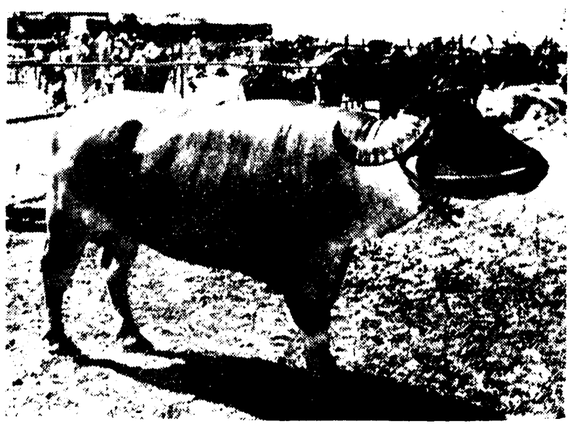
About 500 cows have been purchased from the Military authorities; and although, says the Animal Husbandry Commissioner, they may not be very useful for immediate milk production, their daily output being very small, they would help to make up the shortage which is said to exist and if they are used for breeding with Sindhi or Tharparkar bulls, their progeny should be distinctly superior. It would, however, be cheaper and not as effective if this grading work were entrusted to private cultivators on certain conditions, and not done on Government farms.

The buffaloes at the Sylhet farm could be up-graded with the Murrah type and thus made to yield fairly good supplies of milk. These animals could be fed on aquatic plants supplemented with concentrates.

Poultry farming is on the increase in Assam, but it should be borne in mind, says the Animal Husbandry Commissioner, that above a certain level poultry population competes with human population for cereals. With bountiful supplies of water and presumably aquatic food, ducks should be cultivated in larger numbers.

The solution of the animal food problem in Assam appears to be in the exploitation of the uncultivated grasses and in the encouragement of leguminous crops. Research on these aspects is in operation.

In addition to the common Indian contagious animal diseases, bovine pleuro-pneumonia is prevalent and is peculiar to the Province. Control or elimination of contagious diseases would afford a greater measure of relief to the livestock owner than would any other benefit. With this end in view, the development schemes in Assam contemplate a fourfold increase in the number of veterinary surgeons



A FINE SPECIMEN OF A BUFFALO FROM SURAT (BOMBAY).

TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND AFRICA BANNED

Exports to and imports from South Africa by sea and by land have been prohibited by a notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on July 17, 1946.

In this connection, attention is invited to rule 55(1) of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1920, according to which no person in any aircraft entering or departing from British India shall carry or allow to be carried in the aircraft any goods of which the import or export by sea or by land is prohibited under any law for the time being in force. It is, therefore, notified for general information that the prohibition in regard to exports to and imports from South Africa (direct or indirect) is applicable to transportation by air also.

ANTI-INDIAN DRIVE IN E. AFRICA

Mr. Amritlal Kanji's Broadcast

"IT appears that the European settlers, having once tasted blood by the promulgation of these prohibitions on Indian immigrations, have prevailed upon the Colonial Office and are now almost on the threshold of achieving their age-old ambition of stopping any further immigration of Indians into East Africa," observed Mr. Amritlal Kanji, Honorary Secretary of the Africa and Overseas Merchants Chamber, speaking on behalf of the East African Indian delegation in a broadcast from All India Radio, New Delhi.

While sketching the history of India's relationship with these East African territories, he said: "These territories, which have a total area of 700,000 square miles, consist of Kenya, a crown colony, Uganda, a protectorate, Tanganyika, a mandated area since the first World War and Zanzibar, which is a Sultanate under the British protection.

"These areas approximate to about the same as the combined areas of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Central Provinces and Berar and the Punjab, yet the population of this vast and potentially rich country is only about 13 million native Africans, 150,000 Indians, 40,000 Europeans and a few thousand Arabs.

India's Contact with E. Africa

"India's relationship with these territories is not of a recent growth. India's contact with East Africa has been close and cordial since the Puranic days; and all through the mediaeval ages when Vasco da Gama arrived in Mombasa in 1498 and discovered a flourishing Indian community of settlers. Till as late as 1920, the Indian rupee was the legal tender there. The procedures in courts of law were the same as those operating in Bombay. In 1860, when the British were seriously thinking of settling colonists in East Africa, Colonel Rigby found that almost all the shops in Zanzibar were in the hands of Indians.

"Sir John Kirk, Counsel-General at Zanzibar from 1866 to 1887, while giving his evidence in 1910 before the Sanderson Committee of Indian Emigration, stated that the entire trade of Zanzibar at that time was in the hands of Indians and that British trade hardly existed. He added I am quoting now "But for the Indians we should not be here now. It was entirely through gaining possession of these Indian merchants that we were enabled to build up the influence that eventually resulted in our position".

"The Kenya and Uganda Railway was built primarily by Indian labour. In his book, "My African Journey", Mr. Churchill has given the most generous praise possible for the work of the Indian pioneers in those lands. He says—'It is the Indian trader who penetrating himself in all sorts of places to which no white man would, or to which no white man could earn a living, has more than any one else developed the early beginnings of trade and opened up the first slender means of communication. It is the Indian banker who supplies perhaps the largest part of the capital yet available for business and enterprise, and to whom the white settlers have not hesitated to look for financial aid. The Indian was here long before the first British officer. He may point to as many generations of useful industry on the coast and inland as the white settlers can count years of residence.'

How Troubles Started

"Our troubles began with the increase in size as well as in numbers of the European settlers. All promises given about equal rights and opportunities for everybody were violated, and by the end of the first World War the situation so far as the Indians were concerned became quite desperate. Several deputations were sent to the United Kingdom and India to represent our grievances and secure redress. Thanks to the help rendered by the Indian public as well as the Government we were successful to some extent.

"The Colonial Office issued a White Paper containing the decisions of the British Government in 1923, whereby the interests of the Africans were rightly stated to be paramount. Five out of 26 seats were allotted to Indians in the legislature although it was by racial franchise only. To our sorrow and dismay the best highlands were reserved for Europeans, but at least in the townships segregation was abandoned.

Defence Regulations

"As regards immigration, a problem which has brought us to Delhi, now, the British Government then categorically stated, this was in 1923, that His Majesty's Government would not countenance the introduction of any legislation involving racial discrimination among immigrants from different parts of the British Empire. In 1927, in another White Paper, His Majesty's Government reaffirmed this policy. But the European settlers never reconciled themselves to working on equal terms and status with Indians; or for that matter even with superior status to this.

"A God-sent opportunity seemed to have come to them during the recent war years when the British Government was busy in a life and death struggle. They were able to utilise this opportunity by hastily promulgating in 1944 the Defence Regulations which resulted in virtual prohibition of Indian immigration. When we protested, the local administration as well as the Colonial Office gave us assurances in unambiguous terms, that these provisions were only temporary and would be withdrawn as soon as the war emergency was over. The war has been over for almost a year. Now we are told that these prohibitions would remain until a permanent measure to deal with immigration is enacted.

"A Bill has been prepared by the Administrations of these territories making it very difficult for Indians to either go or settle there or colonise these lands.

"In other words, European settlers want to monopolise these sparsely populated and potentially wealthy lands, and their object is to drive out all others. All the pioneering efforts, splendid sacrifices and immense contribution towards the economic betterment of these territories made by the Indians are to be ignored and only the self-interest of the 40,000 Europeans and their would-be kinsmen is to prevail."

Responsibility of Colonial Office

After describing East African Indians' cordial relations with other races, Mr. Amritlal Kanji pointed out that there was plenty of scope for all races in developing the East African lands just emerging from pioneering stage.

He added: "Before I conclude, I would like to state that the public, the Press and the Government of India have always in the past given us the best help and assistance possible under the prevailing circumstances. The Government of India have always helped by their strong and vigorous advocacy of our cause. I feel quite sure that even on this occasion the Government of India's representation on our behalf will be effective.

"These areas are more or less under the control of the Colonial Office and their political status is in no way on a par with the self-governing Dominions like South Africa, and I feel quite certain that unless the Colonial Office gives the approval, these Administrations cannot carry out any strong discriminatory legislation. It is, therefore, for the Colonial Office to state in plain language that it would not tolerate any discrimination, open or veiled, between the members of the Commonwealth."

RELIEF TO RAILWAYMEN

The Government of India have accepted the proposals of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation that the interim relief of 9 crores agreed upon should be distributed at the flat rate of Rs. 4-8 p.m. for all staff drawing up to Rs. 250 p.m. with retrospective effect from July 1, 1945, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Board on August 1.

PAY COMMISSION'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Suggestions Invited on Salary Scales

"WHAT is your opinion as to the fairness of the present standards of remuneration for different grades and categories of Government employees?" asks a Questionnaire issued by the Central Pay Commission. It continues, "If you are not satisfied about it, on what lines and to what extent would you suggest revision of the existing scales of remuneration, in respect of the different grades and the different Departments of Central Government employees?"

The questionnaire, contains six sections with 45 questions in all, which seek to elicit comprehensive information and opinion on all points relating to Government servants' remuneration, their leave and retirement benefits and the machinery suitable for resolving differences between them and Government.

Though addressed principally to Governmental organisations and associations of Government employees, the questionnaire, however, possesses a wider interest to students of public affairs and especially economists, as the questions imply an attempt to rationalise Government servants' salaries and remuneration in general conformity with the needs and capacity of the entire national economy.

Main Question

The main question for the Pay Commission to decide on is: What tests and standards would be appropriate bases to be adopted in fixing the salary or remuneration of the various grades of employees? Will it be a valid suggestion, for example, to recommend in India salaries not more than those paid to corresponding services in the United Kingdom? Or is it sound policy to pay Government servants only the market value and nothing more? If this principle is applicable at all, to which classes of Government servants is it applicable and how do these employees fare at present compared to non-Government servants doing similar work?

The crux of the whole problem being to fix the pay of public servants on the basis of a fairly stable level of the cost of living, the Commission call for reasonable forecasts as to when such stability will be resumed during the next few years and at what level, compared to the level of 1932, a year in which there was a general revision of salaries in many Departments.

Suggestions are also invited for devising a method by which pay for certain classes of Government servants can be varied and adjusted according to fluctuations in the cost of living, and it is further asked that the classes of Government servants requiring such readjustment may be specified.

Talking of the immediate future the Commission enquire whether the present arrangement of granting dearness allowances is working satisfactorily and whether the allowances may be absorbed in part or full in future scales. The Commission further ask whether the remuneration of any classes of Government servants is so inadequate for the purpose of maintaining themselves and their families in a reasonable state of health, comfort and efficiency, that it should be upgraded for reasons of general equity apart from that of a steep rise in the cost of living.

Uniformity in Pay Terms

Rates of pay for unskilled labour is the subject of another important question, which first enquires on what basis unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour should be differentiated from one another and then raises the question as to the manner in which the daily-rated employees may be ensured fair wages and fair terms. Suggestions are invited on such other general conditions of service as hours of work, payment of overtime and other allowances, the working of the daily rate system and the piece-work system and holidays for public servants.

A number of items in the questionnaire refer to the desirability or otherwise of establishing uniformity in pay terms, as between different Departments of the Central Government and also as between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments. Opinions are also sought on the results of the working of the time scales in Indian services, especially on the degree of incentive afforded by it to efficiency and initiative.

Leave Terms

Two of the questions relate to the need or otherwise of differentiation in pay between women and men in the same services and between employees of commercial and industrial Departments and other employees of Government. What, again, should be the relation between the remuneration to non-Indian employees recruited outside India and the remuneration to Indians for similar services fixed on certain standards? And to what extent should the pay scales allow or make special provision for a liability to serve in all parts of the country or a liability to serve overseas?

To what extent leave terms can be rationalised and simplified is the subject of a question in the section on 'Leave', which invites suitable suggestions to make leave terms adequate for affording sufficient recuperation to staff and for affording facilities for those desirous of doing so to improve their professional qualifications.

Adequacy of the existing provision for a Government servant and his family against the two eventualities of retirement and death is the basis of a number of detailed enquiries about the need or otherwise of changing present rules governing retirement. Suggestions are invited for a method by which to ensure family provision in the case of employees dying in harness or dying soon after retirement. The question invites opinions on four ways of achieving this, three of which relate to making adjustments in pension or Provident Fund or both while the fourth is a suggestion for compulsory State Insurance. A question is asked how far the recommendations made by the (Whitley) Royal Commission on labour in India have worked for the benefit of Railway employees.

The final section of the questionnaire relates to the machinery, which will be needed for conciliation between employees and Government and for securing proper redress of Government employees' grievances. While the desirability of introducing the Whitley Council system in regard to Government services is the subject of a specific question, opinions and suggestions are also invited for forming any other suitable machinery.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Government of India would like to repeat the warning already given to Government sponsored students selected for Overseas Scholarships that the prospects of their securing admission to British and American Institutions during the coming year are not bright, though Government will continue to do their best to secure admission for as many as possible, said a Press Note issued by the Education Department, Government of India on July 22.

It added: They, however, can give no guarantee as to when they will be in a position to send these scholars abroad. Selected students should not, therefore, resign their present positions which they may be holding until they learn officially that necessary passage and admission have been secured. Meanwhile the selected candidates will be expected to look after themselves and Government will not be responsible for any maintenance or other allowances.

Severe Restrictions

In view of the severe restrictions on admission, seats offered to Government sponsored students should be fully availed of. Candidates for whom admission is secured are, therefore, informed that they will be required to pursue courses of instruction at the institutions which have already been selected for them and that no change can be permitted on their going abroad.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY OF JAPAN

"FOR us in India there is a great lesson to be learnt from the Japanese. If we aspire to an important position in the Textile World, not only have employers to be more alert to all the new technical developments, but they have also to take a more sympathetic and comprehensive view in the treatment of their labour, not only in providing better conditions of work within the factories but also looking to the welfare of the workers outside the factories. The workers, on the other hand, have to develop greater sense of responsibility. And last of all, the Government must help the industry, specially in the manner of not only obtaining modern textile machinery from abroad but also in helping the manufacture of textile machniery in the country."

Thus said Mr. Bharat Ram, Government of India's representative on the International Textile Mission, which recently visited Japan, in a broadcast on "The Textile Industry of Japan" from the Delhi station of A.I.R., on July 22.

Two Million Spindles

"It is very difficult to say," observed Mr. Bharat Ram, "what the future of the Japanese Textile Industry will be. Whether Japan would again attain the same position in the world cotton trade would depend upon the policy of the Allied Nations. With the tremendous capacity of Japan for production of textile machinery and her innate capacity for hard work, Japan could easily regain her position in a very short time."

Continuing Mr. Bharat Ram said: "In January 1939, the Japanese cotton industry stood fourth in world spindlage, following Great Britain, the United States and Germany. Japan, however, had a large number of textile factories in China and Manchuria, having more than two million spindles; and if we include these spindles, Japan would rank third, being exceeded only by the United Kingdom and the United States.

"In the consumption of raw cotton, Japan ranked second in the world, being exceeded by the United States only. Similarly, Japan was also the second largest producer of cotton cloth before the war attaining a peak of 4.2 billion sq. yards in 1937. Since 1933, Japan has been the largest exporter of cotton piecegoods, exporting an average of about 2.6 billion sq. yards annually from 1933 to 1939.

"India was the largest single importer of Japanese cloth, importing nearly 500 million sq. yards per year.

"The study of Japanese textile industry is of special importance to India inasmuch as not only has Japan been India's best customer of her cotton, but it has also been India's biggest competitor in cloth. Japan's average import of cotton between 1928 and 1932 was about 35,92,000 bales annually out of which India supplied about 14,67,000 bales annually. Similarly in 1937, out of a total import of 45,60,000 bales of cotton, India supplied 23,39,000 bales.

"The Japanese textile industry not only expanded at a rapid pace but it was able to produce goods at such cheap prices that it became a menace to the textile industry of the rest of the world, though in the larger interests of the consumer, especially of the poorer countries in the East, and Middle East, it was a great boon. England, America and India had to raise high tariff walls against the import of Japanese cloth into these countries from time to time.

"It has been often argued by the American, Indian and British manufacturers that Japan's sweated labour was responsible for the low prices at which Japan was able to produce cloth. My observation is that the Japanese worker is extremely well treated. Eighty-five per cent of the workers in the Japanese textile industry are girls engaged at the age of about 15 or 16; they work in the factories for about five or six years until they are of marriageable age when they leave the factories. These girls are housed in beautiful dormitories. They are given free education which includes the study of domestic science, sewing, painting, music, dancing, etc. They are provided with healthy food and clothing by the employers and invariably the girls have better living conditions than even in their own homes.

"It is true that Japanese labour is cheaper than British or American labour but it is not much cheaper than Indian labour. The reasons, however, for the cheapening of Japanese goods are much deeper than merely cheap labour. In spite of the fact that the Japanese entered the field of textile industry much later than England or America, Japan was quick in adopting the latest methods of production.

Automatic Machinery

"Japanese industry employs more automatic machinery than England or India, with the result that a worker is able to produce more cloth than a worker in England or India. For example, while in England and India a worker is able to handle only two to four looms each, a Japanese worker looks after 40 looms. In fairness to America, it must be said that while their factories employ automatic machines even more than in Japan, the high prices in America are largely due to the extremely high wages, and also to the much superior and expensive cotton they use. Japan with her high technical skill has been able to employ automatic machinery without the use of high grade, expensive cotton.

"The character and outlook of the Japanese worker is also responsible to a great extent for making the Japanese textile industry such a success. There is no worker in the world who has such a great sense of responsibility as the Japanese worker. I am convinced that it was not sweated labour which was responsible for the cheap Japanese goods, but the great capacity of the Japanese for organisation, their will to progress, their high technical skill and the unity of action, developed by their conception of the family, the group, and the state without any emphasis on the interest of the individual.

"The main reason for cheap Japanese textile goods was the fact that Japan was producing most of the textile machinery herself which being cheaper than British or American machinery reduced the capital outlay considerably. The Japanese textile industry has undergone a lot of changes during the war. Although the damage to the textile industry by air raids during the war has been negligible, the present capacity of the Japanese cotton textile industry is only about 25 per cent of its pre-war capacity. The main reason for this reduction in capacity has been the shortage of steel for war requirements. The Japanese Government was forced to scrap 70 or 75 of its textile machinery in order to obtain steel for war production with the result that Japan now possesses less than 3 million spindles as compared with nearly 12 million spindles in 1939.

"In spite of the fact that Japan was not able to import any cotton during the war it was able to keep its industry going by mixing all sorts of fibres like staple fibre, silk waste, wool waste and flax waste. This speaks very highly of Japanese technical skill. Another change has been that while before the war there were nearly 80 companies managing the cotton textile industry, during the war, in order to facilitate Government control, and also due to the reduction in spindles, the present industry is owned and managed by only 10 big companies."

SIR E. CONRAN-SMITH'S BROADCAST

(Continued from page 73)

balance is attributable to the growth of traffic much of which originates from Government Departments, and was nearly Rs. 3 crores. The estimate at surplus for the current year is only just over Rs. 8 crores, owing to the reduction of the postcard from nine pies to six pies, which has reduced the estimated revenue by Rs. 1¼ crores.

Government have great faith in the good sense and devotion to duty of the staff of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs who rendered yeoman service throughout the testing period of the War and about 5,000 of whom went on field service. They have every hope, therefore, that wise counsel will prevail and that, remembering the duty which they owe to the public, those who are now absenting themselves from their posts will return to work and that the spread of the strike will be arrested.

In the meantime, so long as the strike continues, Government will do everything in their power to maintain essential services. For this purpose, I look to the public for the continuance of the co-operation which has already been forthcoming in many places as Government gratefully acknowledge. The ready response to the call for volunteers by members of such bodies as the W.V.S. and the Boy Scouts Association as well as by many others of all grades of society encourages us in the confidence that, pending a settlement, inconvenience to the public may be reduced to a minimum.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS STORES

SURPLUS stores are declared by the Services to the Directorate-General, Disposals, in the Department of Industries and Supplies for disposal. The Director-General is the chief executive officer for disposal of surplus stores. Policy is formulated by a Disposal Board consisting of the Secretaries of the affected Departments. The Directorate-General handles declarations through Commodity Divisions and Directorates to which concurrent financial advice is available.

Regionally there are sales offices incharge of Regional Commissioners at Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore and Lahore. Advisory bodies of particular trades, business or manufacturers are associated with the disposals organisation to advise on policy generally and to serve as a link between the Department and commercial communities in the form of a Central Advisory Committee whose Chairman is the Director-General and Regional Advisory Committee at Bombay and Calcutta whose chairmen are the respective Regional Commissioners.

In the purchase of surplus stores priority is given to Departments of the Central Government, to Provincial Governments and States, to quasi-Government organisations such as Port Trusts and to public utilities. Catalogues of surplus stores will be issued monthly. Priority customers will receive their copies directly from the Publicity Office of the Directorate-General and the general public through their Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations.

Methods of Sale

The accepted methods of sale to the public are open tender, limited tender, negotiation and auction.

The method of disposal, the quantities to be disposed of from time to time, prices, channel of disposal and other details are decided by the Headquarters Organisation in accordance with the policy laid down by the Government of India. Stores which must be disposed of on an all-India plan are handled by the Headquarters Organisation. Otherwise the policy is to have the maximum decentralisation of executive functions and the Regional Commissioners are used to the fullest extent.

It is the intention of Government to form Advisory Panels of particular trades, businesses or manufacturers and to consult such Panels from time to time with reference to price formulae, the procedure to be adopted in disposals, the quantities that may be disposed of and the rates of distribution. Customary trade channels of distribution will be used as far as possible wherever they are available.

Increase in Petrol Ration

AS a result of the ratification of the American loan, it has been found possible, in consultation with the supply authorities, to make a substantial increase in the supply of petrol for civil consumption in India, said a press note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on August 3.

The basic ration for private cars and motor cycles has been doubled as from August 1, 1946, and roughly 25 per cent more petrol will be provided for other motor vehicles. The overall increase for the August-October 1946 quarter will be approximately 30 per cent.

While however dollar scarcity and the present global shortage of petrol and tankers still restrict the petrol available to India, there are two important factors which set a limit to the petrol that can be released in India at present. These are transport capacity and bulk storage facilities.

Special Arrangements

Special arrangements made during the war for the movement of motor and aviation spirit by pipeline do not help to solve present difficulties in regard to transport capacity and bulk storage of civil petrol. Moreover, with the extra petrol released in the current quarter, the volume of petrol supplied to civil consumers will be considerably greater than it was before petrol rationing was introduced, so the inadequacy of transport and storage arrangements can well be appreciated.

Allowing for the extra petrol now released, the limit of railway transport capacity will be reached and the reserve storage in the interior of the country will be reduced to a point below what is, normally considered safe. This decrease of reserve storage may cause temporary shortage from time to time when there is a disturbance in the regularity of supply of petrol.

The Government of India feel, however, that the public would prefer to risk such temporary inconvenience to the alternative of reducing the supply of extra petrol released to a lower figure which would be more strictly in keeping with the limits of safe storage cover. Active steps are in hand to increase transport and storage capacity but immediate results cannot be expected.

The Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, London, have awarded the Science Research Scholarships for 1946 to Mr. G. N. Ramachandran, M. Sc., of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Mr. K. R. Surange, M. Sc., of the Lucknow University, Lucknow, said a Press Note issued by the Education Department, Government of India, on July 23.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO PEACE CONFERENCE

THE French Government, on behalf of the Council of Foreign Ministers, has extended an invitation to India to participate in the Peace Conference to be held in Paris from July 29, 1946, said a press communique issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on July 27.

It added: India will initially be represented by Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India in London, as Leader, and by the Hon'ble Malik Sir Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, Premier of the Punjab, and Sir Joseph Bhore, Prime Minister of Bhopal State, as Members with a staff of Advisers. The Rt. Hon'ble Dr. M. R. Jayakar was also invited to join the delegation but for private reasons was unable to accept.

It is unlikely that all the present members of the delegation will be able to continue to serve on it for any lengthy period. Sir Samuel Runganadhan's urgent duties as High Commissioner for India in London do not permit of an unduly long absence, while Sir Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana's responsibilities as Premier of the Punjab are likely to prevent his remaining in Paris beyond the opening stages of the Conference. It is, however, intended on the formation of the Interim Government to enlarge the delegation.

E.P.N.S. AND FANCY UTENSILS

It has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that brass and copper utensils in common use are being sold at exorbitant prices with some electro-plating or art work on them intended merely to secure the exemption granted for such articles, under the Brass and Copper Control Order 1945.

The examination of E.P.N.S.-ware and Art ware from the provision of the Control Order appears to be abused through the sale of utensils of ordinary use as fancy-ware. The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Supplies have therefore by a Gazette notification made it clear that the exemption in question is applicable only in respect of articles not mentioned in Schedule I and II appended to the Brass and Copper (Control) Order 1945.

The Government of India have been advised that applications by Indians for positions in the U.N.O. Secretariat should now be addressed to the United Nations Organisation Headquarters, Box No. 1,000, New York, U.S.A. and not to London as previously announced, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on July 19.



FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK INSPECTING THE BOYS' COMPANY OF THE 15TH PUNJAB REGIMENT.

C.-IN-C. INSPECTS BOYS' COMPANIES AT AMBALA

HUNDREDS of boys were on ceremonial parade on July 22 when Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, presented flags to the Boys' Company of the 15th Punjab Regiment and the Boys' Battery of the Mountain Artillery Training Centre at Ambala. The C.-in-C. was met at Ambala airport by Brig. W. D. Edward, Sub-Area Commander.

"Your regiment has a long-standing battle tradition on the frontiers of India and elsewhere. You must uphold the good name gained by your predecessors," said His Excellency after presenting a flag to the Boys' Battery of the Mountain Artillery Training Centre. He then took the salute as the boys marched past.

Addressing the men of the 15th Punjab Regiment, Field Marshal Auchinleck paid a great tribute to their exploits in Libya, Eritrea and elsewhere in the late war. He then presented a flag to Boy Gul Nawaz, of the Regiment's Boys' Company. After being inspected by the C.-in-C., the boys marched past to the music of their regimental band.

In the course of his tour, Field Marshal Auchinleck also inspected the Boys' Clubs and saw for himself the many amenities provided for them. Among those who accompanied him were Lt.-Gen. R. A. Savory, Adjutant General in India; Major-General M. E. Dennis, Major-General Royal Artillery; Major-General B. H. Chappel, Major-General Infantry; Brig. J. R. Reynolds, Director of Weapons and Equipment; Brig. A. A. Rudra, Director of Morale; and Lt.-Col. N. R. Hoskot, U. S. Military Observer Group.

10,000 BOYS NOW IN BOYS' COMPANIES

More than 10,000 Indian lads are now under training in Boys' Companies at the various Indian Army regimental centres scattered throughout the country.

Adopted at the instance of the C.-in-C. in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, the Boys' Company scheme was introduced to turn out potential leaders and specialists for the post-war Indian Army. In training, great stress is laid on the development of character, determination, initiative and imagination. Particular attention is paid to physical fitness and ability at games, especially boxing, which has proved one of the most popular of boys' sports.



THE C.-IN-C. PRESENTING A FLAG TO GUL NAWAZ, BOYS' COMPANY, 15TH PUNJAB REGIMENT.

Boys are recruited at the age of 15 —a time in their lives when they are particularly receptive to new influences and physically capable of undergoing the training which will turn them into efficient recruits. Many of these lads' families have had a martial history and the boys often join regiments in which their fathers, or other relatives, have served.

At least two hours a day are devoted to education in which the target is the 2nd Class Indian Army Certificate and the 3rd Class English Certificate. The boys also receive a thorough grounding in drill and field-craft and are encouraged to take an interest in hobbies and handicrafts in their leisure hours.

During training the boys are paid Rs. 10 a month with an additional Rs. 2 for educational proficiency. When they take their place in the ranks as potential leaders, at 17 years of age, they have a backrgound which stands them in good stead for the military career ahead of them.

PERMANENT AND SHORT-TERM COMMISSIONS IN ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

THE next examination for the recruitment of candidates to the permanent cadre of commissioned ranks in the Royal Indian Navy will be held in Delhi on September 27, 1946, and on subsequent days.

There will be three vacancies in the Executive Branch and one in the Supply and Secretariat Branch. The total number may be increased up to eight. Candidates who apply for all the three branches Executive, Engineering, and Supply and Secretariat – should indicate the order of their preference.

Candidates must have been born not earlier than April 2, 1927, and not later than April 1, 1929. The last date for receipt of applications by the Federal Public Service Commission is July 30, 1946.

Rules

Copies of the rules and application forms, etc., are available from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Simla. Further details about the examination are published in the *Gazette of India*, War Deptt. Notification Nos. 1495 and 1496 dated June 22, 1946.

Government servants whether permanent or temporary may complete. Candidates who appeared in June, 1946, but whose results have not yet been announced may also apply. If they are successful in the June examination, their applications for the September examination will be cancelled.

SHORT-TERM COMMISSIONS

Scheme of Short-Term Commissions in all branches of the Royal Indian Navy has been introduced for officers of the R.I.N.R. and R.I.N.V.R. who are either British subjects of Indian domicile or descent, or subjects of Indian States.

Officers released from the Service since May 8, 1945, are also eligible.

Applicants must have rendered at least one year's service in the Reserves and be of the rank of Sub.-Lt. or above. Commissions may be either for five years or for three years followed, in either case, by three years on the Emergency List.

Special Branch Officers

Both types of commission may be extended at officers' request beyond the originally prescribed periods, at Government discretion. Candidates must be between 20 and 35 years of age for a five-year commission, and between 20 and 42 for a three-year commission. They must be medically fit.

Applications of serving Reserve Officers are to be submitted through the normal service channels, but those of officers already released should be sent direct to Naval Headquarters. Officers must state whether they are prepared to accept an alternative type of commission if the type for which they apply cannot be offered to them. Suitably qualified Special Branch Officers may be considered for commissions in branches appropriate to their qualifications.

Detailed conditions of service will be announced in due course.

DIRECT COMMISSIONS FOR V.C.Os, I.W.Os AND I.O.Rs

Under a new scheme to be introduced towards the end of this year, certain appointments in the Indian Army will go to officers granted commissions by selection from serving Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, Indian Warrant Officers and other ranks. Such personnel granted commissions will not undergo further training.

The object of the scheme is to give additional opportunity for outstanding V.C.O.s and other ranks to gain enhanced status and assume more responsibility. The scheme will also provide another source for officering the post-war Indian Army and will ensure that the best use is made of available experience which is of particular value in certain types of appointments.

Terms of service, promotion, pay, under this scheme will assume such appointments as quartermaster, assistant quartermaster, assistant adjutant and records and accounts section officer.

Terms of service, promotion, pay, pensions and details of selection will be published later this year.

CENTRAL COMMAND TO BE ABOLISHED

Further changes in the reorganisation of India Command, which involve the elimination of Central Command and the division of its territory between Northern, Southern and Eastern Commands, are announced by General Headquarters.

During August, the post-war layout of the Sind Military Area will be completed. This will include the Quetta and Karachi Sub-Areas, the latter comprising the Province of Sind, the States of Bahawalpur, Jaisalmer and Khairpur, Ajmer-Merwara and the whole of Rajputana.

On October 1, the reorganisation of the three Commands to their final external boundaries will be completed by the transfer of the United Provinces Area to Eastern Command, and the Nagpur Area to Southern Command.

Intelligence Tests For N.C.Os

TO help commanding officers to select N.C.Os and other ranks for special training for promotion, a system of intelligence tests is being introduced in the Indian Army, it is an official announcement from General Headquarters.

Simple tests to gauge the basic intelligence of potential N.C.Os have been prepared. These tests do not replace existing ones for professional efficiency nor those which may be laid down in the future.

Though initially the scheme will be limited to the selection of potential naiks and lance-naiks in training centres and major units of the Indian Armoured Corps, the Royal Indian Artillery, the infantry and the R.I.A.S.C., it will later be extended to all arms and services of the Army.

Unit Testing Teams

Unit testing teams, each consisting of a regular officer of the Indian Army and three Viceroy's Commissioned Officers selected from each major unit and each training centre, will carry out these tests.

Officer-members of such teams will be given a fortnight's special training at G.H.Q. After completing the course, they will train V.C.O.s of their teams.

On instructions from commanding officers, unit testing teams will test prospective candidates for promotion. Results will be taken into consideration when making selections.

G.H.Q. SIGNALS' WORK

Beginning six years ago with only one wireless set operated by four men, General Headquarters Signals has developed into an organisation dealing with more than 250,000 words a day. During the last 29 months of the late war this unit handled over 215 million words in 3,500,000 messages, about one tenth of which were in cypher.

Among a few of the wireless circuits which carried these messages were those working to London, Singapore, Melbourne, Nairobi, as well as to centres in India and Ceylon. The monthly wartime average of words received and despatched by the G.H.Q. Signal Office was just under 8,000,000.

During the closing stages of the war in Burma signal traffic soared high and on August 4, 1945, it reached its peak of 514,043 words.

British and Indian personnel of G.H.Q. Signals work in close co-operation. Men of the Indian Signal Corps at the Army's nerve centre are mainly responsible for the maintenance and operation of teleprinters and wireless sets and for the efficiency of the despatch rider service.



ALONG THE "DEATH-VALLEY" RAILWAY IN SIAM, BUILT BY ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR SLAVE DRIVEN BY THE JAPANESE, ARE GRAVEYARDS OF THOSE WHO DIED. PICTURE SHOWS A CEMETERY NEAR CANRURY, 100 MILES FROM BANGKOK.

WAR GRAVES IN INDIA COMMAND

PERMANENT sites for the construction of war cemeteries in India have now been selected by the military authorities. They will be located at Imphal, Kohima, Digboi, Dibrugarh, Gauhati, Mynamatti (Comilla), Chittagong and Ranchi.

During the periods of active operations in Eastern India it became necessary to establish small Service cemeteries at many stations where garrisons, hospitals and convalescent areas had to be located on lines of communication. On the conclusion of hostilities the lines of communication became unnecessary and garrisons and staff were withdrawn from most of these areas.

Temporary Cemeteries

As a result of a tour carried out in December, 1945, by representatives of both the Army and the Imperial War Graves Commission, it was decided that only cemeteries located in the areas listed above should be retained to be eventually handed over to the Imperial War Graves Commission for construction and maintenance as permanent war cemeteries.

It was also decided to abandon the temporary cemeteries at Manipur Road Panitola, Jorhat, Sylhet and Dacca, owing to difficulties of maintenance and the unsuitability of their locations. Burials from these latter cemeteries will, therefore, be moved to the nearest permanent cemetery.

This task is now being undertaken in the Manipur Road-Kohima-Imphal area. All temporary cemeteries, it is expected, will be cleared by the end of the year.

CHANGES IN INDIA COMMAND

Extensive reorganisation of the post-war military Command system is now under way. Formations in Northern India, hitherto known as Districts, have been redesignated Areas and the smaller area formations will now become Sub-Areas.

The military Area of Lahore, at present part of Central Command, was transferred to Northern Command with effect from July 1. Sind Area will be expanded to include the territory of the former Baluchistan Area (which is to be replaced by a new Sub-Area with headquarters at Quetta) and all the Rajputana States. A new Area will also be formed with headquarters at Karachi.

Bonus for Temporary Defence Department Personnel

Consequent on the cessation of hostilities, temporary personnel employed under the Defence Department are now being discharged. Temporary civilian employees (including extra temporary establishment) who are entitled to a bonus under Army Instructions (India) No. 228/42 and 281/43 and were discharged prior to October 31, 1945, will be paid a bonus equal to one day's pay for each completed month of continuous employment from September 3, 1939 to October 31, 1945, inclusive.

Written Claims

Personnel who left the service during the war with good conduct and under mutual agreement or who were discharged on medical grounds or on account of reductions in establishment are entitled to the bonus. It is also admissible to those discharged after more than one year's approved service. In the event of personnel having died while in service, a bonus for the period of service will be paid to their heirs.

The bonus is forfeited in the case of personnel who resigned during the war or were dismissed or removed from service.

Anyone who served for a year or more during the war, and was discharged without a bonus may claim bonus personally, (or their legal heirs in case of death) from commanding officers.

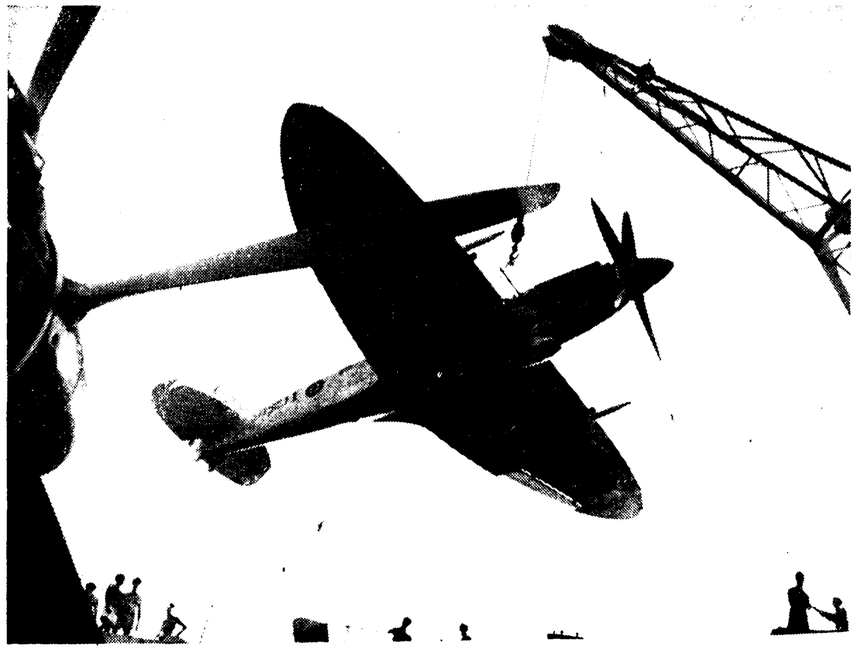
Written claims should include signature or thumb impression of claimant and his address; period of service; ticket number, Group or Branch; grade; reasons for discharge; and person to whom and address to which any bonus admissible should be sent.

B. C. O. F. FAMILIES MAY GO TO JAPAN

Members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force will be allowed to bring their wives and children to Japan. This was announced by Maj.-Gen. W.J. Cawthorne and Rear Admiral R.H. Portal, Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs Australia, who recently toured B.C.O.F.

"It is agreed in principle that families will be allowed to join their menfolk in Japan," said Admiral Portal. "It only remains to establish a common policy."

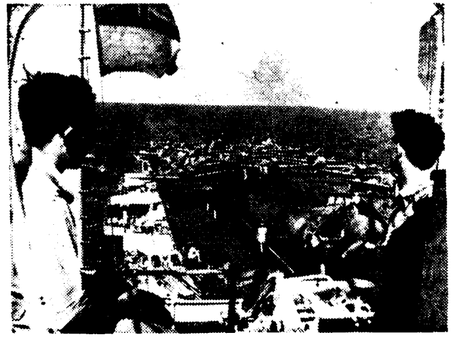
J.C.O.S.A.—Joint Chiefs of Staffs, Australia, is responsible to the various governments for the policy of B.C.O.F. It comprises apart from Gen. Cawthorne, (representing the Commander-in-Chief in India) and Admiral Portal (Royal Navy) representatives of the British War Office, R.A.F., the New Zealand Government, Australian Chiefs of Staffs.



R.I.A.F. SQUADRON FOR JAPAN

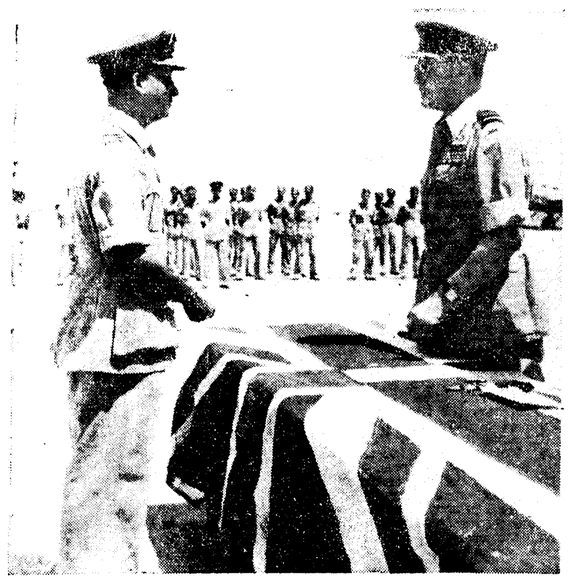
No. 4 Squadron of the Royal Indian Air Force, the only unit of the R.I.A.F. to serve with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, sailed recently from Cochin on board H.M.S. *Vengeance* on its way to Japan. This Squadron, which served in the Arakan Campaign of 1944-45, is the first unit of the R.I.A.F. to go overseas on active service on an aircraft-carrier. The journey had the additional interest of a sea-burial for worn-out Avengers of the Fleet Air Arm.

(Above) A Spitfire is lowered to the aircraft-carrier's deck.





AIRMEN OF THE SQUADRON WORKING ON THE ENGINE OF A SPITFIRE AFTER THE LONG JOURNEY. (LEFT) A GENERAL VIEW OF THE DECK.



Air Chief Presents Parachute Jumping Instructors' Brevets

Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief in India, presented the first parachute jumping instructors' brevets to go to R.I.A.F. personnel at Chaklala recently. The men, one Flight Lieutenant and 16 sergeants, all from the R.I.A.F., have the distinction of being the first Indian parachute jumping instructors. They are to train Indian troops who will form part of the recently planned Air-borne Army, and will be in complete charge of the para-jumping instruction.

These pictures show (left) F. Lt. T. S. Gopalan, who has 36 jumps to his credit, receiving the brevet from the A. O. C.-in-C. and (below) the instructors photographed with Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr.



ENSURING SAFETY OF SERVICEWOMEN ON TRAINS

TO ensure the safety of Servicewomen travelling by rail in India a special India Army Order refers to precautions to be taken by Movement Control Staff as well as other Service travellers.

Stress is laid on ensuring the efficiency of locking devices and communication cords. Where these are defective, Movement Control Staff will arrange for the transfer of women to other compartments. Women should preferably be booked in four or six-berth compartments with two or more Servicemen of equivalent status. Where Movement Control Staff are not absolutely satisfied with the safety arrangements, they are instructed to detrain Servicewomen.

All ranks are asked to co-operate in ensuring the safety of Servicewomen. "Regard it as a matter not only of good manners and chivalry but of duty to look after your fellow-travellers of the Women's Services," says the Order.

Personnel are asked to report direct to G.H.Q., New Delhi, (Director of Movements Q (MOV 7)) any troubles or difficulties they have had when travelling. Constructive suggestions are welcomed and, if practicable, will be put into effect.

INDIAN COMFORTS FUND CLOSES

Formed in December, 1939, by the Dowager Viscountess Chelmsford and Sir Firoz Khan Noon, the Indian Comforts Fund at India House, London, after six years of humanitarian work carried out for the benefit of India's fighting men and merchant seamen, has closed down.

During those six years donations amounted to more than Rs. 33 lakhs, a sum which helped in providing such amenities as books, wireless sets and gramophone records. Over 1,500,000 food parcels and 1,250,000 woollen garments were sent to Indian prisoners of war in Europe.

Monetary Grants

Innumerable entertainments for Indian forces resident in Britain were provided for and substantial monetary grants made towards the welfare of Indian seamen.

Sir Samuel Ranganadhan, High Commissioner for India in London, paid a glowing tribute to the Fund's work when it closed down. "The Indian Comforts Fund," he wrote, "marks a glorious chapter in the history of Indo-British relations during the war, and its mission of goodwill and practical help will ever be remembered with affection and gratitude by the people of my country."

ARMY HELPS STORE CIVILIANS' GRAIN

ONE of the many ways in which the Army is helping civil Governments to meet the present food shortage in India is by providing accommodation for the storage of foodgrains. In addition, the Army is vigorously continuing its "Grow More Food" Campaign.

In Madras Presidency, Southern Command has made available space for storing 57,000 tons of grain. This constitutes a total area of about 455,000 square feet. The Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, is storing grain in five buildings of the local military hospital. In addition, the Madras Government is being offered storage space for more than 35,000 tons of manure in the Coimbatore area.

In the last harvest, Army Remount Depots in Northern India produced about 335 tons of gram, wheat and barley. Nearly 600 tons of cereals consisting of maize, *bajra* and rice are expected from the *kharif* sowings.

An area of 738 acres was cultivated by the Army in Bombay Presidency in June. This shows an increase of 238 acres over the May figures.

The pontoon bridge over the Tapti at Sarangkheda, erected by the Bombay Sappers and Miners in April, this year, to move foodstuffs across the river before the monsoon, has now been closed. About 10,000 tons of grain, 1,000 tons of fuel and large quantities of other supplies passed over the bridge, which saved more than Rs. 50,000 in transport costs.

R.A.F. DROP FOOD IN CHITTAGONG

During the three days July 15, 16 and 17 296,240 lbs. of food supplies were dropped by R.A.F. aircraft in the flooded areas of the Chittagong division. On July 18, 14 sorties were carried out by four Dakotas and a total of 9,700 lbs. was dropped.

In response to the request of the Governor of Bengal, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India, has given instructions that aircraft of the R.A.F. should be provided for the dropping of supplies of food in the flooded parts of Chittagong area.

For these supply drops Eastern Command have provided a detachment of air supply personnel, who are trained in loading and throwing out parachutes.

Under the Chairmanship of Major Iskander Mirza, C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.P.S., Joint Secretary, War Department, a committee has been formed to consider the reorganisation of the University Officers Training Corps.

The following have agreed to serve as members of the Committee: Sir Lakshmanswami Mudaliar, M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., Vice-Chancellor of Madras University; Lt.-Col. M. Haider, M.B.E., Muslim University, Aligarh; Commodore J. W. Jefford, O.B.E., R.I.N.; Col. G. W. S. Burton, D.S.O.; W/Cdr. Narendra, R.I.A.F.; Lt.-Col. B.K. Byram, M.A., Ph.D., Education Department; and two representatives from the Indian States. The Secretary is Lt.-Col. L.P. Sen, D.S.O.

FUTURE OF BRITISH OFFICERS OF INDIA'S ARMED FORCES

WHEN the new constitution comes into force those regular British officers of the Royal Indian Navy or the Indian Army of 20 years' service or under at that date who do not wish to continue to serve as such, or whom the new Indian Government do not wish to retain, will be entitled to apply for transfer to the Royal Navy and the British Army respectively. Subject to their individual suitability they will be absorbed by those Services to the maximum extent possible, said a Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q., on July 21.

Those who cannot be so absorbed or who do not wish to transfer will be entitled to compensatory terms on retirement, as will also those officers of over 20 years' service who, on the introduction of the new constitution, do not wish to continue to serve in the Royal Indian Navy or the Indian Army, or whom the new Indian Government do not wish to retain.

The above is a statement of agreed policy. It is unlikely that the detailed terms of transfer or of compensation will be published for some time.

INDIAN RULERS HONOURED

Maj.-Gen. H. H. Maharaja Sir Sajjan Singh, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., A.D.C., Maharaja of Ratlam and Maj.-Gen. H. H. Maharajadhiraja Sir George Jiyaji Rao Scindia Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Gwalior, have been appointed Honorary Colonels of the Central India Horse.

For ten years an honorary officer in the C.I.H., the Maharaja of Ratlam served in France during 1915-18. The French Government decorated him with the "Croix d'Officier" of the Legion of Honour. He saw service in the Afghan War of 1919 and was later promoted to Major-General. He was appointed A.D.C. to the King in 1936.

Also an honorary officer in the C.I.H., the Maharaja of Gwalior was one of the first Ruling Princes in India to place his army and the resources of his State at the disposal of the King, at the outbreak of World War II.

Further recognition of their gallantry has just been accorded to two heroes of the Indian Army. Naik Kirpa Ram, 8th Frontier Force Rifles, who was posthumously awarded the George Cross in September, 1945, and Naik Nasar Khan, George Medal winner of the 14th Punjab Regiment.

Naik Kirpa Ram's widow has been granted an allowance of Rs. 35 per month which will be admissible to her for life or until re-married. Naik Nasar Khan has been awarded an allowance of Rs. 15 per month. This grant will be admissible for two lives on his death, his widow, if any, will receive the money for the rest of her life or until remarried.

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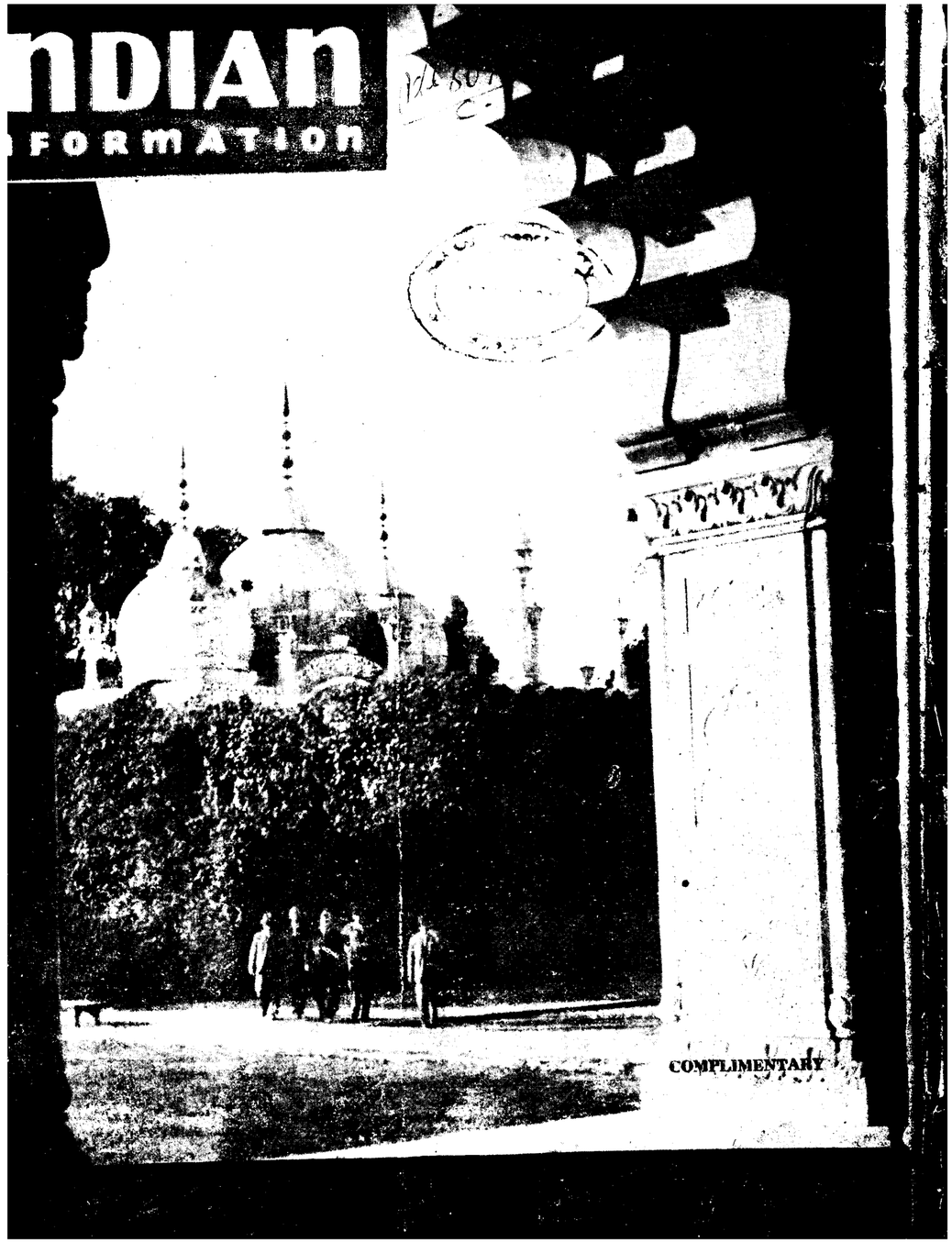


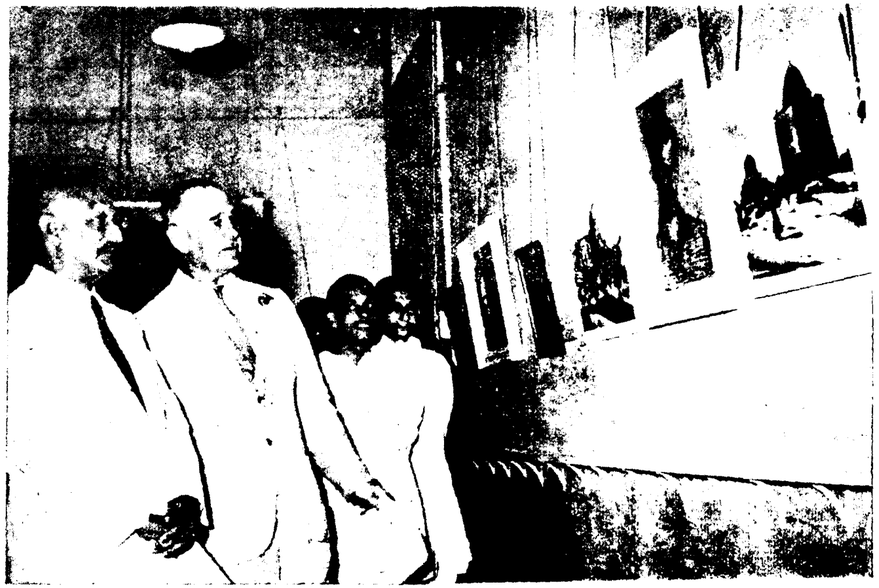
CLUB FOR INDIAN OTHER RANKS IN JAPAN

In the short time they have been in Japan [illegible] set up and everything possible for the welfare of the ing British and Indian troops of the British Com in the well-being of the men under his command. have quickly made themselves at home though it column of kilted Cameron Highlanders. These pictur in a new club opened recently and below) the L entertaining [illegible]



Published by A. S. [illegible]anger, Principal Information Officer, Government of India, Printed in India by P. Heal (Manager) at The [illegible] Military Gazette, Ltd., [illegible]bore. All communications should be addressed to the Press Information [illegible] Delhi, and NOT to the Printer.





H. E. THE VICEROY RECENTLY VISITED THE EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS ORGANISED BY THE ALL INDIA FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY IN NEW DELHI. PICTURE SHOWS LORD WAVELL STUDYING THE PAINTING OF HIS SON, MAJOR THE HON'BLE A. J. WAVELL, DONE BY W. B. HENDERSON. ON HIS EXCELLENCY'S RIGHT IS SIR USHA NATH SEN.

Vol. 19, No. 191, INDIAN INFORMATION Sept 1, 1946.

AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

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

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

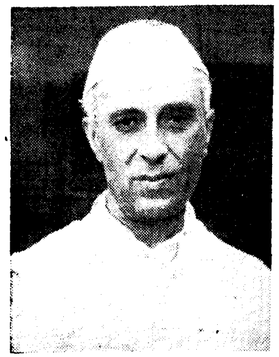
Edited by A.S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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Cover Picture: The Red Fort, Delhi.

"A VERY MOMENTOUS STEP FORWARD ON INDIA'S ROAD TO FREEDOM"



PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

H. E. the Viceroy's Broadcast

"I AM glad that the representatives of a very large body of political opinion in the country will be my colleagues in carrying on the Government. I welcome them to my Council," said H. E. Lord Wavell broadcasting from the Delhi station of A. I. R. on August 24 following the announcement of the personnel of the Interim Government.

Lord Wavell said:

You will have heard the announcement of the names of the members of the new Interim Government which will come into office very shortly. You will, I am sure, all realise that a very momentous step forward has been taken on India's road to freedom. Some of you who listen to me may feel, however, that the step should not have been taken in this way or at this time. It is to these that I want principally to address myself to-night.

Offer Still Open to League

You who are opposed to the formation of the new Government are not, I assume, opposed to the main policy of His Majesty's Government, namely, to fulfil their pledges by making India free to follow her own destiny. You will also, I think, all agree that we need at once a Government of Indians as representative as possible of political opinion in the country. This is what I set out to secure: but though 6 seats out of 14 were offered to the Muslim League, though assurances were given that the scheme of constitution-making would be worked in accordance with the procedure laid down, and though the new Interim Government is to operate under the existing constitution, it has not been possible at present to secure a coalition. No one could be sorrier about the failure than I am.

No one could be more sure that it is a coalition Government in which both the main parties are represented that is needed at this moment in the interests of all parties and communities in India. This is a view which I know that the President of the Congress, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and his colleagues hold as strongly as I do. His efforts like mine will still be directed to persuading the League to join the Government.

Let me state clearly the offer which has been made and is still open to the Muslim League. They can propose to me five names for places in a Government of 14, of which 6 will be nominees of Congress and three will be representatives of the Minorities. Provided these names are acceptable to me and approved by His Majesty, they will be included in the Government, which will at once be reformed. The Muslim League need have no fear of being out-voted on any essential issue: a Coalition Government can only exist and function on the condition that both main parties to it are satisfied. I will see that the most important portfolios are equitably shared. I sincerely trust that the League will reconsider their policy and decide to participate in the Government.

Meanwhile, however, the administration of India has to go on, and there are large issues which must be decided. I am glad that the representatives of a very large body of political opinion in the country will be my colleagues in carrying on the government. I welcome them to my Council.

INTERIM GOVERNMENT

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on August 24 stated:

His Majesty the King has accepted the resignations of the present members of the Governor-General's Executive Council. His Majesty has been pleased to appoint the following—

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
Mr. M. Asaf Ali.
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari.
Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.
Dr. John Matthai.
Sardar Baldev Singh.
Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan.
Mr. Jagjivan Ram.
Syed Ali Zahir.
Mr. Cooverji Hormusji Bhabha.
Two more Muslim Members will be appointed later.

The Interim Government will take office on September 2.



H. E. LORD WAVELL

I am also glad that the Sikhs have now decided to participate in the Constituent Assembly and in the Interim Government. I have no doubt that their decision is a wise one.

As I have already made clear, I shall implement fully His Majesty's Government's policy of giving the new Government the maximum freedom in the day-to-day administration of the country. In the field of provincial autonomy, of course, the Provincial Governments have a very wide sphere of authority in which the Central Government cannot intervene. My new Government will not have any power or indeed any desire to trespass on the field of provincial administration.

Calcutta Occurrences

The recent terrible occurrences in Calcutta have been a sobering reminder that a much greater measure of toleration is essential if India is to survive the transition to freedom. I appeal most earnestly not only to sober citizens but to the young and to the discontented to recognise that no conceivable good either to themselves or to their community or to India can come either from violent words or from violent deeds. It is essential that in all Provinces law and order is maintained, that the protection of the ordinary peaceable citizen is assured with a firm but impartial hand, and that no community is oppressed.

The Army had to be called in at Calcutta to restore order and rightly so. But I must remind you that to suppress civil disturbances is not the normal luty of the Army but that of the Provincial Governments. The use of the Army is a last resource only. A general recognition of this basic principle is essential both from the point of view of the civil population and of the Army itself. I have heard



H. E. LORD WAVELL (RIGHT) WAS RECEIVED BY MR. A. S. BOKHARI (SECOND FROM LEFT), DIRECTOR-GENERAL, A.I.R., AT THE BROADCASTING HOUSE, NEW DELHI, ON AUGUST 24 WHEN HIS EXCELLENCY BROADCAST TO THE COUNTRY.

much praise of the discipline and efficiency of the troops employed in Calcutta; and will add here my own tribute of admiration to my own service, for their behaviour in a duty which is the most exacting and unpleasant on which troops can be employed.

Indian War Member

The War Member in the new Government will be an Indian and this is a change which both the Commander-in-Chief and I warmly welcome. But the constitutional position of the Armed Forces is in no way changed. They still owe allegiance, in accordance with their oath, to the King-Emperor, to whom and to Parliament I am still responsible.

In spite of all immediate appearances I believe there is yet a chance of agreement between the two principal parties. I am quite sure that there is a very large body of opinion in both parties and of non-party men who would welcome such an agreement, and I hope they will all work for it.

I would appeal also to the Press to use its very great influence on the side of moderation and compromise. Remember, the Interim Government can be reformed tomorrow if the League decide to come in. Meanwhile it will administer in the interests of the country as a whole and not of any one party or creed.

It is desirable also that the work of the Constituent Assembly should begin as early as possible. I can assure the Muslim League that the procedure laid down in the Statement of May 16 regarding the framing of provincial and group constitutions will be faithfully adhered to; that there can be no question of any change in the fundamental principles proposed for the Constituent Assembly in paragraph 15 of the Cabinet Mission's statement of May 16 or of a decision on a main communal issue, without a majority of both major communities; and that the Congress are ready to agree that any dispute of interpretation may be referred to the Federal Court.

Solemn Issue

I sincerely trust that the Muslim League will reconsider their decision not to take part in a plan which promises to give them so wide a field in which to protect the interests and to decide the future of the Muslims of India.

We have come to another critical and solemn issue in the affairs of India. Never were tolerate and soberness in thought and action more necessary; never were the wild speaking and rash deeds of a few fraught with greater danger for so many millions. Now is the time for all Indians in any authority, with any influence, to show by their good sense and restraint that they are worthy of their country, and that their country is worthy of the [illegible] it is to receive.

WHO'S WHO IN INTERIM GOVERNMENT

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

President, Indian National Congress 1929-30, 1936, 1937 and 1946, General Secretary, All-India Congress Committee, 1929; Member, All-India Congress Committee since 1918; Secretary, Home Rule League, Allahabad, 1918.

Imprisoned, 1921; released and again jailed, 1922; underwent imprisonment for Salt Satyagraha, April 1930 and released in January 1931; again imprisoned in 1932 in connection with Civil Disobedience Movement; released and again imprisoned in 1934; released in 1935, imprisoned for the 8th time in 1940 under the Defence of India Rules. Again, for the ninth time, in August 1942. Released on 15th June 1945. M.A., Bar-at-Law.

Born 1889. Educated: Harrow School and Trinity College, Cambridge, Bar-at-Law of the Inner Temple, Advocate, Allahabad High Court. Married 1916.

Publications: *Autobiography, Glimpses of World History, Soviet Russia, Collections of Essays, The Discovery of India, etc.*

Address: *Anand Bhawan, Allahabad.*

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Known as "Sardar" (leader) was acclaimed as such by Mahatma Gandhi in acknowledgment of his leadership of the Bardoli Campaign.

Entered public life in 1916 as an associate of Mahatma Gandhi who had established his Satyagraha Ashram at Ahmedabad. Came into prominence as a Satyagraha leader first at Kaira and then in the Nagpur National Flag agitation and elsewhere, and in the Bardoli No-tax Campaign.

Went to jail several times in pursuance of the Civil Disobedience movements. Arrested and imprisoned under Defence of India Act, October 1940; released in 1941 owing to illness, and imprisoned again in August 1942. Released on June 15, 1945.

Chairman, Congress Parliamentary Sub-Committee. Treasurer of the Congress. Member, Congress Working Committee. President of the 46th Indian National Congress, Karachi, 1931.

Negotiated with the Thakore Saheb of Rajkot on the question of reforms in the Government of the State, 1938-39.

Born October 3, 1875, at Karamsad near Nadiad. Bar-at-Law (Middle Temple).

President, Ahmedabad Municipality, 1924-28.

Address: Bhadra, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Member, Congress Working Committee. President, Indian National Congress, 1934 and 1939.

General Secretary, Reception Committee, Gaya session of the Congress, 1922; Was Secretary and President, Bihar Provincial Congress Committee for several years and was President, Bihar Provincial Conference in 1920 and 1929.

He organised non-official relief in the devastation caused by the earthquake in Bihar in 1934 and subsequently in Quetta, and was President of Bihar and Quetta Central Relief Committees.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad has also taken active interest in education and was a member of the Patna University Senate for a number of years. He presided over All-India Hindi Literary Conference at Cocanada, 1928 and at Nagpur in 1936. He is Rector of Bharatiya Ithihas Parishad (Indian Academy of History). He was Vice-Chancellor of "Bihar Vidyapith", and founded the Patna Law Weekly.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad worked in Champaran District among the tenants with Mahatma Gandhi in 1917.

Born December 3, 1884. M.A., M.L., LL.D (Allahabad). Professor University Law College, Calcutta, 1914-16. Vakil, High Courts, Calcutta and Patna, till 1920, gave up practice in the Non-Co-operation movement.

Imprisoned several times. Arrested and imprisoned under the Defence of India Rules in August 1942. Released on June 15, 1945.

Address: Sadakatasram, Patna.

Mr. Asaf Ali

Deputy Leader of the Congress Party in the Central Assembly. Former Member of the Congress Working Committee.

He was tried under the Defence of India Rules in 1918 and was acquitted. Imprisoned several times in connection with Congress Satyagraha Movement. Imprisoned under Defence of India Rules in August, 1942, and eleased in May, 1945.

Born: 1888. Educated: Delhi and Lincoln's Inn, London.

Publications: *Constructive Non-Co-operation.*

Address: Kuchal Chelan, Delhi.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari

Is a Member of the Congress Working Committee. Premier of Madras, 1937-39 (portfolios, Home and Finance).

General Secretary, Indian National Congress, 1921 to 1922. Member of the Council of the All-India Spinners' Association from the beginning up to 1935; Secretary, Prohibition League of India; Member-in-charge, Anti-drink campaign of the Indian National Congress.

For many years Director of the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha. Conducts a village Ashram for reviving hand-spinning and abolition of untouchability. Took charge of the Presidentship of the Indian National Congress after the conviction of Dr. Kitchlew, but handed over the Presidentship to Babu Rajendra Prasad in view of developments arising out of Mr. Gandhi's fast on the issue of untouchability. President, Tamil Nadu Provincial Congress Committee till 1935.

He differed from the Congress attitude towards the Muslim League's demand for Pakistan, carried on a campaign in favour of his viewpoint from May, 1942, and brought about the Gandhi-Jinnah meetings in 1944.

Born in 1879. Educated: Bangalore, Madras; joined Bar in 1900; and a lucrative practice at Salem. Joined Rowlatt Act Satyagraha campaign, 1919, and the Non-Co-operation movement in 1920. Arrested and sentenced to one year's imprisonment on December 4, 1940, under the Defence of India Act.

Edited Mr. Gandhi's paper "Young India" during the latter's imprisonment.

Publications: Some Tamil short stories and books on Socrates. *Marcus Aurelius, Bhagavad-Gita* and *Upanishads* and *Chats Behind Bars;* also written a *Prohibition Manual* containing all about the drink and drug problem in India. *The Way Out, Ambedkar Refuted* and *Fatal Cart* and other stories.

Address: Bazlullah Road, Thyagarayanagar, Madras.

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose

Leader of the Opposition and of the Congress Party in the Central Legislative Assembly.

He joined the Calcutta High Court in 1914. From 1923 to the beginning of 1932 he was Managing Director of the late C. R. Das's nationalist daily "Forward" and its successor "Liberty".

He was returned to the Bengal Legislative Assembly on the Congress ticket in 1927. He was one of the Aldermen of the Calcutta Corporation from 1924-32. He was arrested on February 10, 1932, under Regulation III of 1818, and detained for nearly 3½ years and released in 1935.

He was returned uncontested to the Indian Legislative Assembly from the Calcutta Constituency in 1934 but could not take his seat because of detention. He was returned to the Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1937 and elected Leader of the Congress Party and became the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. He was arrested under the Defence of India Rules on December 11, 1941, and detained for nearly 4 years and released on September 14, 1945.

Born: September, 1889. Educated: Calcutta. M.A., B.L., Bar-at-Law.

Address: Woodburn Park, Elgin Road, P.O. Calcutta.

Dr. John Matthai

Member, Indian Tariff Board, 1925-31, and President 1931-35. Director-General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, 1935-40. Joined the Tatas, 1940; appointed Director, 1944.

Born January 10, 1886. Educated: Madras, the London School of Economics, and Oxford, D.Sc. (London). Practised Law, 1910-14. Officer on special duty, Co-operative Department, Madras 1918-20. Professor of Economics, Presidency College, Madras, 1920-25.

Member, Madras Legislative Council 1922-25.

Publications: *Village Government in British India; Agricultural Co-operation in India; Excise and Liquor Control.*

Address: Bombay House, Bruce Street, Fort, Bombay.

Sardar Baldev Singh

The Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, leader of the Panthic Akali Party in the Punjab Assembly, is Minister for Development and Civil Supplies in the Punjab Coalition Ministry. He was Development Minister in the former Unionist Ministry.

He came into prominence in June, 1942, when under the terms of the Sikander-Baldev Singh Pact, he was included by the late Sir Sikander Hyat Khan as Sikh representative in his Cabinet. Before he succeeded Sardar Dasaunda Singh as Minister, he was elected President of the Sikh All-Party Conference, which held its first session in Amritsar under the auspices of the Akali Party and Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandak Committee.

Aged 43, Sardar Baldev Singh comes from a Jat Sikh family of Ambala district. His father Sardar Sir Inder Singh, was a civil engineer. He resigned from Government service and built up the immense business that the family now owns.

From the Khalsa College, Amritsar, his father translated him to the sphere of business even before he passed his intermediate examination. Years later, the Sardar undertook a tour of Europe and America.

Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan

Was High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa, 1941-45; Member Federal Public Service Commission, New Delhi, 1940; Member United Provinces Legislative Council, 1924-30. President, All-India Muslim Conference, 1933.

Delegate, Indian Round Table Conference, London, and, Secretary to the Muslim Delegation to the Conference, 1930-32. Member of the Federal Structure Sub-Committee and several other Sub-Committees of the Round Table Conference. Member

(Continued on Page 119)

CARETAKER GOVERNMENT—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY—INTERESTS OF MINORITIES

Secretary of State's Reply to Lords Debate on "The Mission to India"

"IT is so very much in the interests of all parties in India that they should get a properly constituted Government, because there are questions which are going to arise from day to day in this transition stage which clearly need the approval of the leading statesmen of India of both parties, in order that a successful interim solution shall be arrived at, leading up to the ultimate position, which is the ideal in front of us, of a new constitution being made for India, and being accepted by this country, and the Indians having at last what they desire."

Thus said Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, replying to the debate on "The Mission to India" in the House of Lords on July 18.

Lord Pethick-Lawrence said:

With the permission of your Lordships, I will say just a very few words with regard to the remarks that have been made and the questions that have been put to me in the course of this debate. When I was in India we were constantly being asked for clarification and with the best will in the world we attempted clarification. What we discovered was that for every clarification we gave to either side, we were asked for additional clarification, until the whole thing became a snowball. Perhaps noble Lords opposite who have asked for clarification will forgive me on this occasion if I do not go very far to meet their requests. I have learned from experience how very dangerous clarification may be. And as nearly everything I say is likely to be telegraphed out to India it would probably result in a great many more requests for clarification.

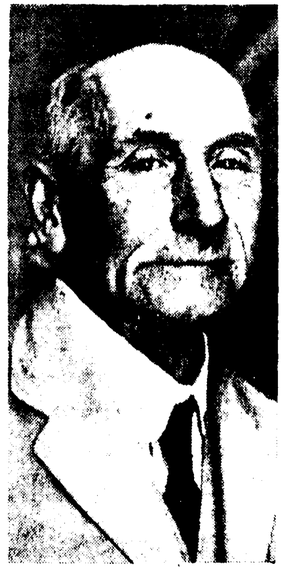
Caretaker Government

I will, however, deal with the point raised both by the noble Marquess Lord Salisbury, and by the noble Viscount, Lord Simon. They asked how long this temporary Caretaker Government will last, and if it was our intention to carry it on all through the sittings of the Constituent Assembly. If they will look at Command Paper No. 6821, page 26, they will find these words:

"Since the Congress and the Muslim League have now both accepted the statement of May 16, it is the intention to form a Coalition Government, including both those Parties, as soon as possible. In view, however, of the long negotiations which have already taken place, and since we all have other work to do, we feel that it will be better to have a short interval before proceeding with further negotiations for the formation of an Interim Government."

That is the position. In my opening speech I made it perfectly clear that the only reason a temporary Caretaker Government had been put forward was to start there and then on negotiations for an Interim Government. Negotiations for such a Government could not have taken less than a week or two. Apart from that, members of the Congress were going to Bombay to take part in large meetings of their own.

Both the Muslim League and the



LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA

Congress had said they wanted to take part in the elections for the Constituent Assembly, and it would have been futile to expect an Interim Government, a Coalition Government formed from members of these two Parties, to be set up in less than three or four weeks. The chances are that if we had tried to set up such a Government we should have failed. As a purely temporary expedient, to meet a temporary situation, the Viceroy formed a Caretaker Government of officials. Obviously, I cannot say exactly how long that Caretaker Government will last. We had experience in this country of a Caretaker Government not so long ago, and my recollection is that it lasted four or five weeks. That may or may not be an indication of how long the Caretaker Government in India is likely to last. But I can assure noble Lords opposite that there is not the slightest intention to hold up the attempt to make a real Interim Government, and that every effort will be made to establish it on a Coalition basis.

We recognize, at least as fully as noble Lords opposite—and from my own experience I would perhaps say more fully—the vital importance of getting a Coalition Government formed, if it is at all possible, at the very earliest moment.

Interim Government's Powers

In reference to the remarks of the noble Viscount, Lord Simon, about the powers of the Interim Government, I would only add this. He said that we cannot change the constitutional structure during the interim period. He will find that in the course of this correspondence, that was one of the points which we put to the representatives of the Congress. A very sensible letter which we received from the President of the Congress showed that they recognised the force of the arguments which Field Marshal Wavell and I put to them on the matter. But the noble Viscount knows perfectly well that it is often the practice of the British tradition to make considerable changes in method, before making changes in constitution. That is why the Viceroy wrote to the Congress the letter which we understood went a very long way towards meeting the wishes of the Congress in the matter. That letter was shown to Mr. Jinnah and apparently also satisfied him.

Constituent Assembly

With regard to the Constituent Assembly, I think it would be quite impossible for me to give direct, specific, definite answers as to the precise position of that body, and I do not propose to try to do so. I made a carefully worded statement in the course of my opening address, and I cannot go any further than that. The object of setting up the Constituent Assembly is to give Indians the power to make their own Constitution. The only reason we intervened at all was that it was necessary to get both major Parties into the Body so that there should be certain understanding between them as to the basis of a new Government.

Reference has also been made to the States Negotiating Committee. Here again I cannot go beyond what I said at the beginning. The States are free to come into the Constituent Assembly, or stay out. They can discuss the basis on which they will come into the Constituent Assembly, in the Assembly which they themselves have already set up. What

precisely they do when they negotiate it is not for us to decide. It is for them to decide, and they have complete freedom in the matter.

When we come to the Advisory Committee on minorities and other matters I would ask noble Lords who think that we can lay down its basis to remember that the days when we could dictate these things are gone. We have suggested this Advisory Committee. It has been accepted in principle; and, so far as I can judge, there is no attempt to by-pass or to minimise or to render nugatory the work of this Committee. As far as I know, we had no representations made to us that the major Parties did not want the Advisory Committee. I believe that the very good and very sound men and women in India who have been either elected or nominated in the Constituent Assembly mean to do their work in an honourable way and the only thing we can possibly do is to trust that they carry it out in that spirit.

With regard to the question of the representation of the Scheduled Castes, I explained to some extent, in my opening speech, where our difficulty lay. I will go into greater detail if it is desired. I think the noble Viscount, Lord Templewood, said he could not go into the merits of the Poona Pact. Neither can I. I take the Poona Pact as it is. I cannot go back and deal with the question as to whether it ought to have been agreed, or how it was brought about. I have to take the facts. There may have been some constituency in this country in the old days that was a rotten borough, or something of that sort. Whether it was, or was not, did not affect the question. When the representative came to the House of Commons, he was as much entitled to be in the House of Commons as any member coming from any other constituency. There can be no argument that when people have been elected, they have been elected. That was so also under the Poona Pact.

Scheduled Castes

As to the actual figures about which the noble Earl, Lord Scarborough, asked, I may say that I have any number of figures. I can prove all kinds of things by the figures, and somebody else can look at those figures and prove all sorts of other things. What he said about Bombay has a certain substance. He said he imagined that what had happened in Bombay had happened also in the other provinces. That is not the case.

In any event, the position simply is this: that of the two organisations which represent the Scheduled Castes—and there were other bodies as well—the number of successful candidates from the Ambedkar Organisation as a result of the Poona Pact was very few indeed. If I remember rightly, it amounted to only two in all the Provinces, or something of that order. Either we were going to base the Constituent Assembly on the Provincial Assemblies or we were not. It was not possible for us, in view of the facts of the case, to give to the Federation of the Scheduled Castes—that is the Ambedkar Organisation—except by some impossible weightage (which would have been quite unthinkable) direct representation in the Constituent Assembly.

That does not mean that the interests of the Depressed Classes, even in the Constituent Assembly itself, are going to be entirely neglected. Because as I said in my speech, we interviewed a Congress sponsored organisation whose name I forget. We were very keen on securing the rights of the Depressed Classes. I do not at all take it for granted that their interests will not be pressed forward in the Constituent Assembly. But there is no provision that the Advisory Committee shall consist solely of members who are themselves members of the Constituent Assembly; the Advisory Committee contains people other than those in that body. I think the noble Lord Scarborough, mentioned the tribes. There will probably have to be different sub-committees of the Advisory Committee. The matter of dealing with the tribes is naturally an entirely different one from settling the affairs of the Depressed Classes.

Constitution-Making Body

I am going to put my confidence, faith and hope in the Indian people doing the right thing. That seems to me to be the only basis on which we can go. The day when we could determine exactly how such a body should conduct its labours has gone. We cannot do that. The day when we could suggest exactly how a special Advisory Committee should be established for dealing with all these minorities, or when we here or the Mission out there could determine exactly how it was going to be done, is passed.

We have to put our trust in the good sense and good faith of the Indian people. If they were—and I refuse to believe they are going to be utterly unworthy of that trust, then and then only would arise the question of what we should try to do to help them to put matters right. But for the moment I am not going to contemplate any such failure on their part. That, I am afraid, is all I can say, because I cannot determine the nature of this Advisory Committee. I cannot determine its personnel. I cannot determine how it will work, and I certainly cannot determine its findings or to what extent they will ultimately be adopted in the constitution-making body itself.

I think I have dealt with all the questions except the one the noble Viscount, Lord Templewood, put to me at the end with regard to maintaining the personnel of the Services in India. Through no fault of anyone (I am not blaming anybody) I certainly inherited an exceedingly difficult position, because, owing to the war, both British and Indian recruitment to the Services was certainly not proceeding at the normal rate. I found substantial difficulty. Difficulties still remain, but I will take note of what the noble Viscount says and bear it in mind. I realise that it is an exceedingly important point, and I have no intention of allowing the question to be merely disregarded. It is one that obviously must be settled. I quite agree that the sooner we can get an Interim Government that has the backing of the Indian Parties behind it, the sooner we can make a move in deciding what ought to be done.

I think to some extent I have answered all the questions that have been put to me. In conclusion, I thank noble Lords for the kind words they have said with regard to myself and my colleagues who accompanied me on the Mission. The essential thing, we agree, is that there should be positive fruits from our labours. We believe we have helped to set up a constitution-making body. Undoubtedly both major Parties have contributed personnel of the highest order to serve on that body. That, in itself, I think is an earnest of their intention to make the thing work. I have every hope that it will work. I think that when the noble Viscount, Lord Simon, said we had totally and completely failed he was putting it a little too high.

VISCOUNT SIMON: I am sorry if I made it seem that way. I was not seeking to criticise. I wanted only to point out that the objects had been stated before you started, and I did not think the second object had been achieved; but I did not wish to criticise.

Mission's Success

LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE: I think I made that clear in the course of my speech. It sticks out. I want only to make it clear that I do not think the Mission was a complete failure. It did not attain full success, but we went very near to it. There was one day when it appeared we had attained success, and then the cup of success was dashed from our lips just as we were going to drink. We have made an investigation of where the Parties stand, and I have every hope that, starting from where we left off and where we did not succeed, the Viceroy will be able to reach success in this matter.

It is so very much in the interests of all Parties in India that they should get a properly constituted Government, because there are questions which are going to arise from day to day in this transition stage which clearly need the approval of the leading statesmen of India of both Parties, in order that a successful interim solution shall be arrived at, leading up to the ultimate position, which is the ideal in front of us, of a new constitution being made for India, and being accepted by this country, and the Indians having at last what they desire. When they have got what they desire I am sure from the personal goodwill that has been expressed to me by individual people in India that we shall have a loyal friend in the people and in the statesmen of that great race.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETE FREEDOM FOR INDIA

Mr. A. V. Alexander's Reply to Commons Debate on India

"ALTHOUGH we are very much misunderstood from time to time in different parts of the world the ultimate end of British rule should be to bring independence and freedom to the people with whom we have been associated. It is in the light of that, and in the promotion of that spirit, that our Mission went to India," said Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, and a Member of the British Cabinet Mission, replying to the debate on "India (Cabinet Mission)" in the House of Commons on July 18.

Mr. A. V. Alexander said:

I am quite sure, generally speaking, that my colleagues will be grateful to the House of Commons for the general manner in which they have dealt with the Debate to-day. I am sorry that the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Member for Saffron Walden (Mr. R. A. Butler), who has just spoken, felt that perhaps we had not kept quite to the bargain made through the usual channels. I do not think we have departed from it, and I think the House of Commons would have been terribly disappointed if the Report of my Rt. Hon. learned friend, the President of the Board of Trade, as to what happened in 3½ months' negotiation was in any way truncated and not properly understood by the House.

All we asked was that, after a full Report had been given to the House, we should have a Debate which would be as brief as possible. I think every Member of the House so far has fulfilled that. I have no complaint to make of the speech by the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Member for Woodford (Mr. Churchill), because we expected that that would be the kind of speech which he would make, and the only comment I would offer upon it is this, that it seems to me that, apart from the gallant defence of him made by the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Member for Saffron Walden, his colleagues behind him seem to disagree with him.

MR. CHURCHILL: No.

The 1942 Offer

MR. ALEXANDER: All those who have spoken seem to disagree with him. I am bound to say on the point referred to by the Hon'ble Member for Northern Midlothian and Peebles (Lord John Hope), that there is really no effective answer to it. The Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Member for Woodford, really suggested that we have taken an almost revolutionary departure from the basis of the offer in 1942 in that we have not offered purely Dominion Status, but complete independence. We have expressed the hope that the Indian people might decide to have Dominion Status, but we have also made it clear that they are free to choose to have complete independence if they will. Is that really out of conformity with the offer of 1942? Who really suggested that it was?

MR. CHURCHILL: I did.

MR. ALEXANDER: If the Rt. Hon. Gentleman does suggest that, I find it difficult to understand why the statement was made by the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Secretary of State for India, during the period of the Caretaker Government in 1945. The Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Member for Woodford, was at that time Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for India made it quite clear at that time that—

"The offer of March, 1942, stands in its entirety. That offer was based on two main principles. The first is that no limit is set to India's freedom to decide for herself her own destiny, whether as a free member and partner in the British Commonwealth or even without it."—(Official Report, 14th June, 1945; Vol. 411, c. 1838.)

MR. CHURCHILL: Through the process of the Cripps Offer of 1942, which implied the setting up of Dominion Status and then the decision to be taken by the newly created Dominions Government.

Dominion's Right to Secede

MR. ALEXANDER: I am much obliged to the Rt. Hon. Gentleman. That brings me into complete line with the Hon'ble Member for Northern Midlothian and Peebles, who says that to say we have made some great divergence from the 1942 Offer is really splitting hairs. What is really the difference in the negotiations of the kind we have been trying to conduct in saying: "Will you choose to be within the British Commonwealth now, will you choose independence now, or will you in a very short time, having been given the opportunity, choose to opt out?"

MR. CHURCHILL: I am sorry to interrupt the Rt. Hon. Gentleman again but I have been tackled on this question. There is all the difference in the world. The Statute of Westminster allows every Dominion the right to secede and in the case of a great many Dominions there would be no difficulty about it if they decided no one would raise any question. There may be however, great differences of opinion if one of the Dominions considered a proposal to secede, and that might exercise a great deterrent upon the decision which the Dominion would take. My hope would be that such a deterrent would have the effect of making the Dominion unitedly decide to remain within the British Commonwealth, a course which, I hope, we have not altogether brushed aside. However, it is another matter when we try to short-circuit the process and say, "Take independence now." That is what the Government are going to get, and they are going to get it very soon. They should not blind themselves to the idea. There is going



MR. A. V. ALEXANDER.

to be no hesitation on the part of those with whom the Government are dealing in taking full and immediate independence. That is what is going to happen.

I did not hear the speech of the Hon'ble Member for Northern Midlothian and Peebles (Lord John Hope), but every person in the House is entitled to express his or her own view in these matters. It is a well-known fact that I have differed in past years from the line taken by the Conservative Government in this Parliament and I do not think we should have been in this miserable plight if my advice had been taken then.

MR. ALEXANDER: The great thing about our House is that people are entitled to their own opinion and to express them. I am sure that the Rt. Hon. Gentleman will not mind my quoting opinions expressed from behind him in support of my position.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is a great advantage to the Rt. Hon. Gentleman to do it.

Political Awakening

MR. ALEXANDER: I cannot understand the Rt. Hon. Gentleman's point of view. It is the great concern of many of us to extend in every possible way we can that great circle of free, but completely independent, nations within the British Commonwealth. No one would welcome it more, as was explained so clearly by my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, in his speech on March 15 than those who sit on these benches. But events have travelled since 1942, and from the year before, and it cannot be controverted that if we had approached the situation from that point of view it would have meant that we would have come back with a similar failure and in highly charged circumstances that certainly did not exist in the Spring of 1942.

I regretted to hear the Rt. Hon. Gentleman speak as if our offer of 1942 was made only because the enemy were at the gate, and were about to invade. That is the very kind of complaint that the Indians, who want their independence always make in their expressions of doubt about our *bona fides*. I do not think that all members of the Government of 1942 believed that we made that offer to India simply on that basis. At the present time, we have had to deal with a situation where, as my Rt. Hon. and learned Friend said to-day, there was a political awakening throughout the world, and especially in the East.

Minorities

If some attempt had not been made to get the agreement we have so far secured in India, I am certain that we should have been faced with uprisings, bloodshed and disturbances in India at the moment, and with a future military commitment that nobody could at present forecast. If that were to happen in the present state of the world it would be very difficult to defend, even in the light of the Rt. Hon. Gentleman's own promises to the country and the world when he made his great mission to Newfoundland, and formulated the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

I pass from that to another point, because I do not wish to delay the House in view of the important Debate which we have coming on shortly. I would like to say a word or two about minorities. The kind of argument which the Rt. Hon. Gentleman used was that this was the position: That if you put all the people comprising minorities in India together, and added them up, they would make a majority in India and, therefore, that would be a reason for not accepting the statement by the Prime Minister on March 15, that, ultimately, minorities ought not to be allowed to prevent the progress of majorities. In fact, if we were to take the total number of the minorities in India—the Muslims, the Depressed Classes, the Indian Christians, the Sikhs, and the Anglo-Indians, it would be possible to make that kind of case, but it would be possible to subtract from them millions of people who are already in, or behind, the Congress Party. My experience of the last 3½ months demonstrates clearly that the majority of the Depressed Classes, for instance, are behind the Congress Party.

MR. NICHOLSON: I hope the Rt. Hon. Gentleman will not resent what I am going to say, but he is now departing from the spirit of the Debate that ought to take place on this subject.

MR. ALEXANDER: I have been most anxious not to depart from the kind spirit we want to develop. What I am anxious to do is not to let the impression be obtained by the Depressed Classes in India, with regard to minorities, because of what the Rt. Hon. Gentleman said, as being a matter of not much concern to the Government or to the House. I have not finished my argument—

MR. CHURCHILL: I am very glad to hear it.

MR. ALEXANDER: If I speak vigorously I hope the House will excuse me.

Scheduled Castes

SIR S. REED: Will the Rt. Hon. Gentleman make the position in regard to the Scheduled Castes quite clear? Under the Communal Award of the late Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, which he made in 1934, their position in the electorate was secured. When that Award was violently disturbed by Mr. Gandhi's fast, the whole protection which the authorities wished to give them was swept aside, and they were drawn into the Congress net.

MR. ALEXANDER: My experience of the last 3½ months, in the full light of the legislation of 1934, and the knowledge of the Poona Pact, demonstrates to me that the majority of the Depressed Classes in India are certainly with, and behind the Congress.

The Congress has secured from the Depressed Classes a very large number of very efficient candidates for representation in the Assembly. I do not think that the Rt. Hon. Gentleman's argument today was firmly based. I want to assure him that the whole reason for the inclusion of paragraph 4 in our statement of May 25 was because Members of this House generally have been concerned to get the largest amount of protection possible for the minorities in India, upon any cession of power taking place. It is because of that that we put in the particular words which the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Leader of the Opposition, has quoted in the Debate. It is open to the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Member for Saffron Walden (Mr. R. A. Butler) to raise these matters in detail when we have a further Debate in October.

I agreed very much, however, with the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, the Leader of the Opposition, when he referred to the great voluntary effort of 2,000,000 Indians in the great struggle in which they were engaged with us, and many other nations of the world, for liberty and freedom. While we agreed with him on that, we on this side of the House and, I am sure, Members on all sides, would not be offering independence and freedom to India today simply because the Indians have done us a great military service from time to time, although we have welcomed and admired that service so much. We offer it to them on the basis of it being our own birthright, a birthright which we desire to see accorded to men and women in all parts of the world.

Although we are very much misunderstood from time to time in different parts of the world, the ultimate end of British rule should be to bring independence and freedom to the people with whom we have been associated. It is in the light of that, and in the promotion of that spirit, that our Mission went to India.

We believe that we have got to the position where, although many difficulties remain to be overcome, provided the main Parties in that State will combine in working the constitutional machinery which has been set up, there is no reason why we should not make substantial and rapid progress towards complete freedom for that great sub-Continent, to whose people our nation wishes nothing but good, and desires that they shall become a great power for good in the future.

WHO'S WHO IN INTERIM GOVERNMENT

(Continued from Page 115)

of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament on Indian Constitutional Reforms, 1933.

Born 1893; Educated: Moradabad and the University of Dublin. Litt. D. (Dublin), 1918, Was Professor, Modern Indian History, Allahabad, for a long period. Founder and Editor of Journal of Indian History till 1925.

Published Anglo-Portuguese Negotiations relating to Bombay, 1667-1763, etc.

Mr. Jagjiwan Ram

M.L.A. (Bihar), President, All-India Depressed Classes League. He was Secretary of the Bihar Provincial Congress Committee till June, 1946. He was one of the Parliamentary Secretaries in the last Congress Ministry (1937-39).

Syed Ali Zahir

General Secretary, All Parties Shia Conference. Member, U.P. Legislative Council. Member, U.P. Legislative Assembly, 1937-46. Member, Lucknow University Court. Member, Municipal Board, Lucknow, for a number of years. Leading lawyer, Lucknow.

Son of Sir Syed Wazir Hasan, Ex-Chief Judge, Chief Court of Oudh, Lucknow.

Educated: Allahabad and Oxford. B.A., LL.B., Bar-at-Law (Middle Temple), 1921. He is now 49.

Mr. C. H. Bhabha

Director, Oriental Insurance Company: He is 35.



PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIAN STATES MET IN NEW DELHI ON AUGUST 9 AND 10 TO DISCUSS THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MR. P. N THAPAR, SECRETARY, CIVIL SUPPLIES, PUNJAB; SARDAR BALDEV SINGH, CIVIL SUPPLIES MINISTER, PUNJAB; MR. DINKAR RAO DESAI, CIVIL SUPPLIES MINISTER, BOMBAY; MR. A. D. GORWALA, SECRETARY, CIVIL SUPPLIES, BOMBAY; MR. R. K. PATIL, FOOD MINISTER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, AND MR. H. S. KAMATH, SECRETARY, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

ALL-INDIA FOOD MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

THE present foodgrains supply position in the country and the prospects for the next four months formed the main subject of discussion at the All-India Food Ministers' Conference when opened in New Delhi on August 9. The Conference, which was attended by Ministers from the provinces and representatives of the States, lasted two days.

After welcoming the delegates, the Food Member briefly reviewed the prospects of securing imports from abroad, especially "the Indian-Ocean" areas. He was followed by the Director-General Food, Government of India, who gave an overall picture of the food position in the deficit provinces and States during the remainder of the current year, on the basis of likely imports, internal procurement and the allocation from surplus areas.

Bengal's Needs

The Food Minister from Assam assured the Conference that his province would continue to assist deficit areas by exports of rice, but made an appeal for larger supplies of *dals, gur* and mustard oil for Assam.

Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Chief Minister of Bengal, speaking next, stated the needs of his province during the next few months, while the Minister from Bihar asked for increased assistance from the Central Government during the next two months.

Mr. Dinkar Rao Desai speaking on behalf of Bombay stressed the necessity of tightening internal procurement both in surplus and deficit areas and for accelerating imports from abroad.

Sardar Baldev Singh expressed the willingness of the Punjab to fall into line with any measure that might be considered necessary to help the deficit areas. He was in favour of relaxing controls on all commodities other than foodgrains cloth and sugar.



A DRAFT RESOLUTION BEING DISCUSSED BY (L. TO R.) MR. R. K. PATIL, MR. MANE PATEL (REPRESENTATIVE OF BARODA STATE), SIR ROBERT HUTCHINGS (FOOD MEMBER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA) AND MR K. S. V. RAMAN (SECRETARY, CIVIL SUPPLIES, BIHAR).



MR. VISHNU SAHAY (LEFT) DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FOOD, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MR. B.R. SEN (CENTRE) SECRETARY, CENTRAL FOOD DEPARTMENT, AND THE CIVIL SUPPLIES MINISTER, BENGAL WHO ALSO TOOK PART IN THE CONFERENCE.

Babu Sampurnanand reviewed the food position in the U. P. and expressed the hope that owing to their successful procurement scheme, it would not be necessary to ask for any help from the Central Government before December.

Mr. R. K. Patil of C.P. gave an assurance that his province would do everything possible to help other areas, but reiterated C. P.'s demand for an allotment of wheat.

The Food Minister of Madras appealed for an increased allocation of rice in view of the heavy deficit of rice in the Madras Presidency. The representatives of Travancore and Cochin stressed the same point.

Others who participated in the discussions were Qazi Ataullah and representatives of Sind, Bhopal, Indore, Bikaner, Hyderabad and Mysore.

Conference Resolutions

The Conference adopted the following resolutions unanimously when it reassembled on August 10: "After carefully examining the overall picture of the foodgrains position in India including the import situation this Conference is definitely of the opinion that the present overall ration of 12 ounces is already inadequate and a further cut is bound to have disastrous consequences on the health and life of the people. Such a course will also defeat its very object by slowing down procurement, shaking public confidence and causing general confusion and unrest.

"This Conference speaking in the name of 400 million Indians calls upon the Government of India and regards it as their clear duty to redouble their efforts, to secure additional supplies from overseas without which a breakdown on a wide scale cannot be avoided."

The Ministers from the C.P., Assam, U.P., Bengal, Bombay and the representatives from Travancore and Mysore spoke in support of the resolution which was accepted by the Food Member, Government of India.

Monopoly Procurement

Sardar Baldev Singh then moved the following resolution on monopoly procurement which was seconded by Mr. A. N. Sinha from Bihar and supported by the representative of Jaipur.

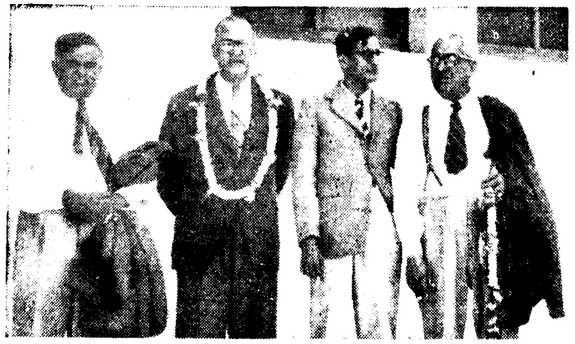
"This Conference is of the opinion that the time has now come when in every province and State, surplus or deficit, procurement of rice and wheat shall be by Government monopoly, and by compulsory levy wherever necessary and possible. Where other cereals are important, they should also be procured by similar Government monopoly. Only by such step can the resources of the country be best mobilised."

Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Chief Minister of Bengal, explained the procurement system in his province.

The resolution was passed by a large majority and the Conference concluded.



MR. R.K. PATIL (RIGHT) FOOD MINISTER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, DISCUSSES A POINT WITH MR. DINKAR RAO DESAI, CIVIL SUPPLIES MINISTER, BOMBAY.



ADVISERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S DELEGATION TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MR. K. RAMIAH, DR. BAINI PRASHAD, DR. V.K.R.V. RAO AND MR. D. R. SETHI.

UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

Indian Delegation to Copenhagen Conference

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations will hold its Second Session at Copenhagen on September 2, 1946 for about a fortnight. Among the matters coming up for consideration at the Session will be the Director-General's report on last year's work, the survey of the world food situation and long-term proposals on food and agriculture based on the findings and recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committees.

Other items for consideration will be the report of the Washington meeting held in May, 1946, with special reference to measures recommended to meet the food situation in 1946-47, the relationship between the Food and Agricultural Organisation and other inter-governmental organisations and co-operation with non-governmental organisations, the assumption of functions and property of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome and of Comite International du Bois and the development plans for forestry and forest products.

Personnel of Delegation

The Government of India's delegation to this Session will be led by Sir J.P. Srivastava, lately Food Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. Mr. D. R. Sethi, I.A.S., Agricultural Development Commissioner, Government of India, Department of Agriculture, will act as alternate leader.

The personnel of the delegation will be as follows:

Associates: Prof. N. G. Ranga, M.L.A. (Central); Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, M. L. A. (Central); Sardar Habibullah Khan; Mr. S. Basu, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Department of Agriculture; Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, Reconstruction Adviser, Travancore State; and Dr. Radhakamal Mukherji, Economic Adviser to Gwalior State.

Adviser: Mr. D. R. Sethi, Agricultural Development Commissioner, Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Dr. Baini Prashad, Fisheries Development Adviser to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture; Mr. K. Ramiah, Officer-on-Special Duty (Rice); Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Planning Adviser to the Government of India, Department of Food; Prof. M. A. Mahalanobis, Board of Statistics, Calcutta; Dr. G. Shankaran, All-India Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, Calcutta; and Mr. D. Stewart, I. F. S., President, Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun.

Standing Advisory Committees

Mr. W.H.J. Christie, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Food Department, will act as Secretary to the Delegation.

Mr. D.R. Sethi, Dr. Baini Prashad, Mr. K. Ramiah, Prof. Mahalanobis, and Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao are also members of the Standing Advisory Committees set up by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. They left India by air on August 13 to attend the meetings of these Committees to be held in advance of the Session.

The Standing Advisory Committee for Economics and Statistics met at the Hague on August 19, for Fisheries at Bergen on August 23 and for Agricultural Science and Agricultural Production at Copenhagen on August 23.

The other members of the delegation left India on August 22, 1946.

FOOD STATISTICS OF INDIA

To meet the need for comprehensive and accurate agricultural and food statistics in India a new compilation, "Food Statistics of India", has been prepared under the direction of Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, which will shortly be available for sale.

The publication contains over 100 statements and about 40 diagrams and graphs. The statistics cover, *inter alia* populations, acreages and yields of different cereals, imports and exports of foodgrains, the working of Government Basic Plans, the production of salt and sugar, and distribution of rice mills and vegetable ghee factories, the storage accommodation available in India and an estimated output of processed foodstuffs factories in the country.

The diagrams and charts indicate, *inter alia*, the share of different Provinces in the acreage and production of various cereals, the wholesale and retail prices of foodgrains during war years and the net imports or exports of foodgrains.

PRICES OF VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTS INCREASED

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, the Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India has announced increases in the maximum prices of vegetable oil products to be effective from August 1, 1946.

For large packs, containing more than 35 lbs. net of vegetable oil, the increases for the various zones are: 3 pies per pound in the zone comprising Bombay Province (including Bombay town and suburbs), Madras, the Central Provinces and Berar, Coorg and Panth Piploda; 6 pies per pound in the zone comprising the Punjab, the United Provinces, the N.-W.F.P., Sind, Baluchistan and Ajmer; and 9 pies per pound in the zone comprising Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Bihar.

The prices of small packs, containing 10 lbs. or less, have also been increased by 6 pies per pound throughout British India.

A notification issued by the Textile Commissioner and published in the *Gazette of India* dated August 17, 1946, prohibits any person from selling or agreeing to sell hydro-sulphite of soda at a price exceeding Rs. 1|1|- per lb. f.o.r. at any station in India at the buyer's option.

It is, however, provided that where hydro-sulphite of soda is in packages containing 56 lb. or less, an addition to the maximum price can be made at specified rates according to the different specifications of packing mentioned in the notification.

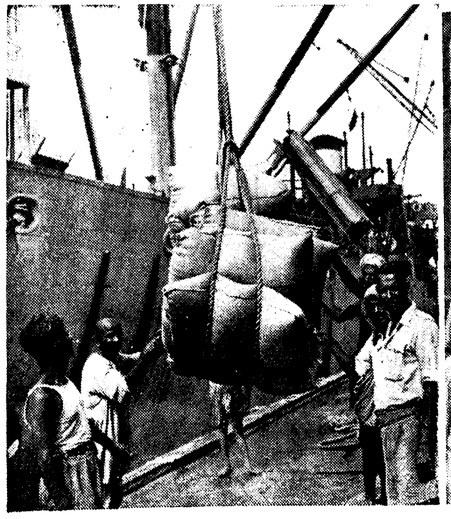


FOODGRAIN IMPORTS INTO INDIA

During the past few weeks American Liberty Ships have brought nearly 52,000 tons of foodgrains to India. Australia has supplied nearly 82,000 tons during this period, and so has Canada helped with 44,000 tons. Further consignments are expected from these and other countries, including Burma.

These photographs were taken at Calcutta where four ships, s.s. 'Babcock', s.s. 'Itola', s.s. 'Ralph Izzard' and S.S. 'Samfield', arrived with foodgrains recently.

(Above) Wheat is being packed in gunny bags for unloading. (Below, left) Wheat bags being unloaded from a ship. (Below, right) Officials of the Food Department, Government of India, examine the quality of foodgrains.





INDIA'S ROLE IN MAINTENANCE OF PEACE

Sir Samuel Runganadhan's Address to Paris Peace Conference

"OUR main object must be to work for the global peace and for the maintenance of the world is equilibrium. India has and will always have a strongly internationalist outlook. Her population and resources, her great size and her strategic position at the cross roads of Asia will always impose upon her a great responsibility for the maintenance of peace. That responsibility she will discharge actively and sincerely in the interests of the peace of the world," said Sir Samuel Runganadhan, Leader of the Indian Delegation, at the Plenary Session of the Paris Peace Conference on August 3.

Sir Samuel Runganadhan said:

Mr. President, I wish first to thank you and the Government of the French Republic for the welcome which you have given to us all. There is no doubt that the setting of an International Conference has a great effect upon its progress. We have been able to see from the first how well the French Government has used its unrivalled experience in the art of staging an International gathering and its unrivalled gift for hospitality.

I have listened with great interest to the speeches of the heads of Delegations which have already been delivered before the Conference. We have already heard the clear expression of the principles which underlies the summoning of the Conference and of the ideals and hopes which animate many of the participants in it.

The procedure for drafting the treaties already adopted has been attacked and defended and the views of some Delegations are now known on many of the specific points which will arise, though there will be important differences of opinion which may be unresolved and much argument.

By the way, it is apparent that all Delegations have come to the Conference with the same fundamental determination to shake off the legacy of six terrible years of war and to create the conditions which are most favourable to the maintenance of an enduring peace. This is only the first instalment of peacemaking.

Task of Conference

We all have in our minds that we have yet to come to a final settlement in regard to Germany, Austria and Japan. Though the time for discussion of these problems has not yet arrived. The way in which this Conference proceeds and the matter of its decisions will have a profound effect on the final and complex processes of liquidation of the second World War.

The task of the Conference is clear and specific. It has to determine what just compensation shall be paid to those countries and persons who have suffered loss, what territorial changes are required and what precautions are necessary to prevent a renewal of aggression. We cannot lose sight of the plain fact that the former Governments of the people with whom we are concluding treaties were our enemies and wantonly attacked us causing us great suffering and great loss, but we must take into account the services rendered to the Allies during the later stages of the war by the people of those countries who threw off the yoke of the rulers who had led them into aggression.

The people of India are not vindictive, and provided that just compensation is made for losses suffered, do not desire to make demands which would prevent impoverished countries from making a reasonable economic recovery and from thereby contributing indirectly to the prosperity of every nation, for the economic condition of every country is interdependent and poverty or economic dislocation in any one country reacts adversely upon us all.



SIR SAMUEL RUNGANADHAN, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN LONDON, LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE.

Every sensible man is thinking of this Conference in terms of the future. Though the immediate task is to liquidate the events of the past seven years, the Conference can help materially towards what must be our ultimate goal, the co-operation of every country without exception in the paramount task of jointly ensuring the peace of the World. India does not expect this Conference with its limited objectives to produce [illegible] for post-war Europe or to compensate the Allied Nations for all the wrongs which they have suffered during the years of war. We have come to it in a spirit of realistic co-operation looking directly towards the practical end to be achieved.

India's Claim

The speedy construction of treaties that will represent the maximum area of agreement among the 21 Nations deliberating here on an equal footing, like many of the 17 nations outside the Big Four, we cannot entirely approve the methods adopted in drafting the treatics but such criticisms will largely lose their validity if real weight is given in this Conference and after its conclusion to the opinions of the 17.

We are as anxious as any Delegation that the expressions of the equality of the 21 Nations in the making of the treaties which we have heard in this hall should be given practical effect. If this is the policy of all the four great powers the other 17 nations, all of which fought by the side of these powers to defeat the common enemy, will feel that they have been called to this Conference with the sincere intention that, as Mr Byrnes has said, those who fought the war should make the peace. On this principle India has a very special claim to participate in this Conference. Her armed forces which before the end of the war amounted to nearly 2½ million men fought from the first to the last shot in the war in the Mediterranean by the side of the forces of her Allies.

Regional Aspects of Treaties

In the early years of supreme difficulty and danger, they guarded the frontier of Egypt, they fought desperately in the delaying actions in Greece and they took a substantial part in the overwhelming defeat of vastly superior enemy forces in Libya, the Italian territories in East Africa and in Abyssinia. When the tide began to turn they were in the forefront of the attack from El Alamein through the campaigns of Libya, Tunisia, Sicily and Italy up to Venice at a time when they were fully engaged in the defence of their homeland against the invasion of the Japanese forces. We are proud of our record in the war and we are fully determined to be as active in the cause of peace as in the cause of victory.

It is natural that each country should consider the treaties from two aspects. We are all equally interested in securing the general peace and in each treaty there are many aspects which affect the whole world irrespective of geography. Those of us however who have special ties with [illegible] regions affected must also consider with particular care the regional aspects of the treaties. India has had age-long ties, both economic and political, with the East African Coast. She is vitally interested in the stability of the Mediterranean and Red Sea area in the disposition of the Italian Colonies.

Mutual Interests

The lives of many of her citizens have been lost on the soil of Africa in this war. The feeling of the people of India is strongly against the continuance of any form of colonial exploitation and it would be a bitter blow to them if the arrangements made for the disposition of the territories formerly under Italian rule were not such as they believe to be in accord with justice and human rights and with the mutual interests of all countries in the region and the countries having close ties with it.

India expects that the decision will reflect the real wishes of the people living in these territories and the commissions to be set up to ascertain these wishes must undertake their task with thoroughness and complete impartiality.

Real stability and real prosperity can only be assured in North and East Africa by the establishment of a system which will lead to the earliest possible grant of self-government to these peoples and to the development of their resources for their own defence and their own wellbeing. Though the means for the establishment of the conditions of peace in each separate area must be considered in relation to the situation in the area, India can never lose sight of the fact that under modern conditions both peace and war are indivisible for a global peace and for the maintenance of the world in equilibrium. India has and will always have a strongly internationalist outlook. Her population and resources, her great size and her strategic position at the cross roads of Asia will always impose upon her a great responsibility for the maintenance of peace. That responsibility she will discharge actively and sincerely in the interests of the peace of the World. I have myself no doubt that the Conference will achieve success in spite of the many complex and controversial subjects with which it has to deal. The World which is listening to every word spoken in the Conference and Commission expects much of us. May we justify the trust placed in us by all classes of peoples and lay the foundations of a lasting peace.

Indian Delegates—



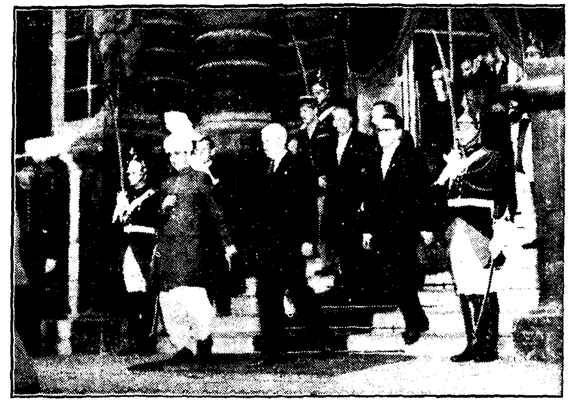
SIR N. R. PILLAI, SECRETARY, COMMERCE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.



THE HON'BLE MALIK SIR KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, PREMIER OF THE PUNJAB.



SIR JOSEPH BHORE, PRIME MINISTER OF BHOPAL STATE.



THE HON'BLE MALIK SIR KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA (PUNJAB PREMIER) AN INDIAN DELEGATE TO THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE, COMING OUT OF THE LUXEMBOURGE PALACE AFTER THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE. ON HIS LEFT IS MAJ.-GEN. D. STUART, MILITARY ADVISER TO THE INDIAN DELEGATION.

SIR HENRY FOLEY KNIGHT

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve that Sir Henry Foley Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. should act as Governor of Assam from the beginning of September, 1946, until His Excellency Sir Andrew Clow, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., who is at present acting as Governor of Bombay, is able to resume his duties as Governor of Assam, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on August 22.

His Majesty the King-Emperor of India, has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of His Excellency Mr. Fredrick Chalmers Bournes, C.S.I., C.I.E., to be Additional Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India on his appointment to be the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on August 8.

PLIGHT OF INDIANS OVERSEAS

The way in which the Dominion of South Africa deals with Indians is likely to have considerable influence in swaying Indian opinion on whether India should remain within the Commonwealth or not, was a point stressed by Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, High commissioner for India in Australia, in an address, in Canberra recently.

Sir Raghunath also pointed out that while India generally endorsed the Statute of Westminster, which empowered the Dominions to regulate the composition of their population, she would not approve of any process of regulation, which involved an implicit affront to the susceptibilities of other peoples. The widely propagated fear that India's millions might flood the world's vacant spaces if allowed to do so was also countered by him while he insisted that the present question of Indians abroad was mainly a question of national sentiment and honour and not one of finding living space for Indians.



DR. SIR R. P. PARANJPYE, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN AUSTRALIA.

Sir Raghunath Paranjpye's Address at Canberra

"UP to the present moment, Indian affairs especially our relations with other parts of the British Empire and foreign countries, have been entirely under the control of the British Government and while the Government of India is allowed to have its say and the public opinion of India wields a good deal of influence still the final decision is with the British Government on all these matters," said Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, High Commissioner for India in Australia, in an address in Canberra recently.

Sir Raghunath said:

When India achieves her independence whether within or outside the British Commonwealth it will naturally have the control of her relations with other Governments completely in its own hands and will be able to speak with greater strength and authority than it has been able to do so far.

Century Old Problem

The British Government with the best will in the world towards India has also to look to the interests and even prejudices of other parts of the British Commonwealth and Indians are not always sure that their viewpoint is pressed as strongly as it should be. With an Indian Minister for External Affairs, India's voice in world affairs will, it is hoped, be comparable to the voice of Dr. Evatt in international affairs. Many of the difficulties to regard to Indians overseas will be much easier of solution when India attains her independence and one of the main reasons why India desires that indpendence is that that it should not have to look to any other agency for the protection of its own interests.

The present problem of Indians overseas has only a history of about 100 years. When slavery was abolished, it was found difficult to have enough labour especially of an agricultural kind in countries which formerly depended upon Negro slave labour. The emancipated slaves were unwilling to work as paid labourers and the attention of these colonies turned to the vast reserve of labouring population in India and China.

Applications were made to the then Government of India which was at that time entirely controlled by the East India Company and the British Government, for recruiting labour to serve on many of the plantations in foreign countries.

One of the earliest applications came from Natal whose sugar industry was on the point of a breakdown for want of adequate labour and the Government of India allowed Indian labourers to proceed there under conditions of indenture which more or less amounted to semi-slavery. The men recruited were illiterate and ignorant and did not realise what they were undertaking. Rosy prospects of prosperity were dangled before them and many of them left the shores of their native land to make their fortune in a distant land. The principal conditions of indenture were that they were to work for an employer for three to five years, their passage was to be paid and at the end of the period of indenture they had the option of either returning to India at the expense of their employer or to settle down in the country as free men with a certain amount of land.

Most of these men, having burnt their boats when they first migrated, preferred, when the time came for them to make a decision, to settle down in their new land. And the prosperity of Natal, which is called the 'garden colony' of South Africa is mainly due to the labours of these humble Indian labourers.

Similar is the origin of the large Indian population in other parts of the Empire like British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, Mauritius, Fiji, Malaya and even Burma and Ceylon though in the case of the last three, their proximity to India encouraged many Indians of trading and professional classes also to go there.

It is curious to recall that one of the points in the British case as put forward by Joseph Chamberlain against the Boers was the disabilities suffered by Indians in Transvaal under President Kruger and when Britain soon after the close of the Boer War gave virtual independence to South Africa the treatment of Indians was specially reserved to the British Government, a guarantee which remained merely on paper and has had no real effect in succeeding years.

Indians in South Africa

It was in South Africa that Mr. Gandhi first came into prominence by his campaign of passive resistance against certain oppressive measures of the South African Government. It would be too long to go into the history of all the incidents, negotiations and representations made by the Indian Government both to the Home Government and the South African Government, but the white population there, both Boer and British, seem determined to deny to the Indians any rights or privileges whatsoever and any position that they may have secured as a result of their labours during all these years appears to be an eyesore to the white communities.

Every conceivable device has been used to deprive the Indian traders of their means of livelihood and every conceivable argument adduced to justify their repression. They have been segregated in locations and bazars on "sanitary" grounds and no "sanitary" facilities provided for them. Licences to own lands, licenses to own or occupy houses, licenses to trade and so on have been placed in the hands of bodies upon which they have no representation while trade rivals have.

It has been said that they lower the standard of living but the Union Government have failed to offer any inducement to Indians to improve their standard of living. Indians are segregated by every social means that can wound their human sentiments. They may not enter European theatres, cinemas, shops or hotels. They may not use lifts but must take the stairs. They are excluded from European schools and largely from universities. They have separate accommodation on trains and trams and busses, separate counters at post-offices even and are subjected to daily humiliations by petty officers.

Position in Australia

The Government of India it must be acknowledged has always supported the South African Indians in their struggle but the powers of a dependent Government are naturally unequal in a contest with a Dominion Government. The indenture system of course has long been given up and the South African Indians in question are not new arrivals but are the descendants of old indentured labourers who came to the help of South Africa in its dire need. They have no other country to go to squeeze them out of South Africa.

And the way in which the Dominion of South Africa deals with this problem of Indians within its boundaries is likely to have considerable influence in swaying Indian opinion on the question whether the independent India of the future should continue to remain in the British Commonwealth or not.

I might in this connection refer to Australia and New Zealand where Indians permanently settled in the country suffer practically no difficulties and where consequently I am happily free from having to make any representations on their behalf. The only point on which India can have and has any sentimental feeling is the slight involved in the term White Australia policy which debars any fresh Indian however high his position or social and economic standing from settling in this country. Here again I may say that India has readily accepted the Statute of Westminster which empowers every Dominion to regulate the composition of its population. But one wishes that the process of this regulation did not involve an implicit affront to the susceptibilities of other peoples.

I might refer in this connection to a recent law enacted in the United States of America by which a maximum of 100 Indians have been permitted to enter that country as prospective citizens every year. This has removed the one sentimental grievance which Indians had against America and this Act of wise statesmanship has greatly raised America in the estimation of the Indian people.

It is obvious that migration will not solve the problem of India's population and if anybody thinks that with reasonable opportunities Indians will flood other vacant lands of the world and lower the standard of living in those countries, I am sure that such fear is absolutely groundless. Even if a million Indians were to migrate in the course of 10 years—a thing which is almost inconceivable—it will not help to solve the growing pressure of population on India.

All that India desires is to be a self-respecting member of the comity of nations to be treated as an equal and to be allowed to make its contribution to the civilisation and progress of mankind. She wants to live amicably with all other nations for in her whole history she has never waged a single offensive war against any of her neighbours and it is only because the treatment of Indians in other countries and especially in several parts of the British Commonwealth wounds the pride of Indians that this question has far greater importance than the number involved which being about 3 millions, at the present time, is a mere drop in the ocean compared with her 400 millions resident in India.

SEPARATE ELECTED SEAT FOR ORISSA IN COUNCIL OF STATE

A Press Note issued by the Legislative Department, Government of India, on August 16 stated:

Under the Council of State Electoral Rules read with paragraph 21 of the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Order, 1936, the Bihar and Orissa constituencies of the Council of State comprise the whole of the former Province of Bihar and Orissa while the areas transferred to the Province of Orissa from Madras and the Central Provinces continue to form part of the relevant Madras or Central Province constituency.

Today's Gazette of India notifies amendments to the Electoral Rules, the effect of which is (1) to increase the number of elected Members by one and consequentially to decrease the number of nominated Members by one; (2) to create a new single-member general constituency for the whole of the existing Province of Orissa with a combined Muhammadan and non-Muhammadan electorate and consequentially to exclude Orissa areas from the Bihar and Orissa, and Madras, and Central Provinces constituencies in which they have hitherto been included.

These amendments have been made with the concurrence of all the Provincial Governments concerned and in deference to a strong demand in Orissa for the separate representation of the Province in the Council of State.

Special endorsements are no longer required on the passports of British subjects and British protected persons proceeding to Australia, Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa.



RAJA SIR MAHARAJ SINGH, LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO EAST AFRICA.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO EAST AFRICA

THE Government of India have had under consideration the situation arising from the proposed immigration restrictions into the East African territories of Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar and Tanganyika. In so far as they affect Indians, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on August 16.

They have decided to send a Delegation to East Africa consisting of Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, C.I.E., Mr. K. Sarwar Hasan, Bar-at-Law, Secretary, Indian Institute of International Affairs, and Mr. C. S. Jha O.B.E., I.C.S.

The Delegation will meet members of the Indian community in East Africa and the officials of the East African Governments and after making a study of the facts relating to the proposed immigration restrictions, submit a report to the Government of India.

Raja Sir Maharaj Singh was especially requested by the East African Indian Delegation which recently came to India, to lead the Delegation.

The Delegation expected to leave for East Africa within the next few days.

The Government of India have decided to allow export of leather footwear to all permissible destinations by bonafide manufacturers upto ten per cent of their previous year's production. This concession will, however, be confined to organised factories only. Instructions in this connection have been issued to the Export Trade Controllers at ports and land-frontiers to whom manufacturers may apply.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR PIT-HEAD BATHS IN COAL-MINES

Amenities for Workers

A SUBSIDY of 20 per cent. of the cost of building pit-head baths, varying from Rs. 1,750 to Rs. 7,000 according to the size of the mine, will be given to colliery owners by the Central Government if they are constructed before January 15, 1947. All Indian mines will have to set up before April 1947, creches for the children of miners, containing cradles, bedding, utensils, feeding bottles and toys to play with.

On what standards and scales these amenities should be provided is specified in the Rules published in the *Gazette of India* dated July 27, 1946.

Lighting and Sanitation

The number of shower baths in each mine will vary according to its size. Mines with an average output of 500 to 2,500 tons per month should have ten shower baths for men and four for women. Those with an average output of 2,500 to 10,000 tons per month should have 20 for men and eight for women. If the output of the mine is between 10,000 and 20,000 tons per month, there should be 24 shower baths for men and ten for women. And lastly, in mines of an average output of over 20,000 tons per month, there should be 40 shower baths for men and 16 for women. Government subsidy will be Rs. 1,750 for the first category, Rs. 3,500 for the second, Rs. 5,000 for the third and Rs. 7,000 for the fourth.

The Rules specify that the pressure of water should be equivalent to a head of about 10 feet at the shower, and that arrangements should be made for proper lighting and sanitation. There should be a male and female attendent to look after the pit-head baths intended for men and women. Separate locker-rooms for men and women to keep their clean and pit clothes should be attached to the pit-head baths. The miners will be provided with suitable washing arrangements for their pit clothes. The clean and proper maintenance of the baths and locker-rooms is insisted and periodical inspection by the Coal-Mines Welfare Commissioner is also provided.



A TYPICAL INDIAN COAL-MINER.

Provision of First-Aid

The plan and site of the creches should be approved by the Coal-Mines Welfare Commissioner in the case of coal-mines and by the Chief Inspector of Mines in the case of other mines. The creches should be well-constructed with adequate ventilation and lighting and should be properly maintained as regards cleanliness and sanitation.

The provision of First-Aid equipment and drinking water is made compulsory. Every creche should have a certain number of attendants and nurses for supervison. It should be open both by day and night but its use will be restricted to the miner's children and their mothers. The children should be medically examined every month and nursing mothers at certain intervals, the Medic Officer in charge of the mine being responsible for the general supervision.

It is expected that the provision of these amenities will not only lead to the better health of the mining population but also enhance the self-respect of the miners.

SIR W. GARRETT APPOINTED CHIEF ADVISER, FACTORIES

With the comprehensive overhauling of the Factories Act, contemplated by the Central Government, the executive organisation also requires strengthening.

Sir Wilfrid Garrett, who recently retired as His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories and who is an expert of world renown, has accepted the post of Chief Adviser, Factories, for a limited period of six months.

The permanent Chief Adviser-designate who is an Indian and is at present the Deputy Chief Adviser, will have the advantage of associating with Sir Wilfrid Garrett during the latter's tenure of office as Chief Adviser.

Raw Materials for Plastic Industry

HOW Indian scientific research resulted in the successful processing of several indigenous products like shellac, cashewnut shell liquid and bhilawan shell liquid for use in the Plastics Industry during wartime is described by Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, in an article in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*. This is one of a *series of 28 articles on the Plastics* Industry which are published in this issue.

Three Principal Sources

The three principal sources of raw material for plastics are coal, petroleum and agricultural and forest products. Tar distillation has not been sufficiently organised in India to warrant production of plastics from coaltar products. Indian resources of petroleum are also not large enough. Calcium carbide, another important source, is not produced in this country. But the possibilities of utilising materials derived from farms and forests are great. Besides these sources, India has an abundance of natural resins like lac.

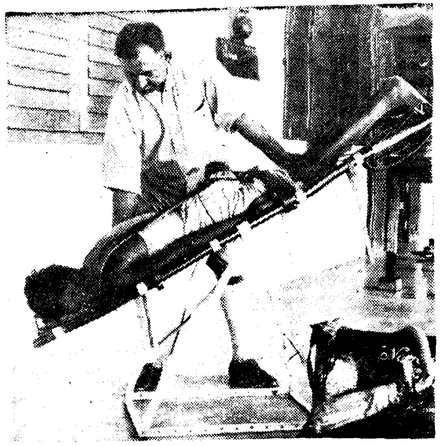
The development of these materials and the designing of machinery for handling the various types of plastics have been engaging the attention of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Sir Shanti Swarup recounts how as a result of the acute shortage of many essential materials required for the manufacture of containers, adhesives, electrical apparatus, etc., research activity was directed to the production of substitutes for imported materials. Natural products were made to yield a variety of resinous materials with numerous industrial possibilities.

Synthetic Resin Industry

The synthetic resin industry, observes Sir Shanti Swarup, can be developed in India only in stages. The first step, namely, the fabrication of moulded articles from imported powders, has been established to some extent. The next stage is the development of the Chemical Industry which will supply the various essential chemicals required in the manufacture of synthetic resin. A notable contribution to the second stage is the manufcture of phthalic anhyride from naphthalene. Other investigations have shown that a number of farm wastes and surpluses like bagasse, paddy husk, horn waste, etc., could be utilised.

That potassium permanganate can be produced by the anodic oxidation of ferro-manganese in an alkaline bath has been known for a long time, but until recently, the precise conditions for the successful production of permanganate on a commercial scale were not determined. The results of work carried out in this connection at the Lakshminarayan Institute of Technology, at Nagpur are reported in the Journal.



A RESCUE TEAM CAPTAIN DEMONSTRATES A ROCKING STRETCHER WHICH IS USED FOR ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION.

✣

THE JHARIA RESCUE STATION WITH ONE OF ITS RESCUE VANS IN THE FOREGROUND.



A REVIVING APPARATUS. THIS IS USED WHEN ALL OTHER MEANS FAIL TO BRING A CASUALTY BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS.

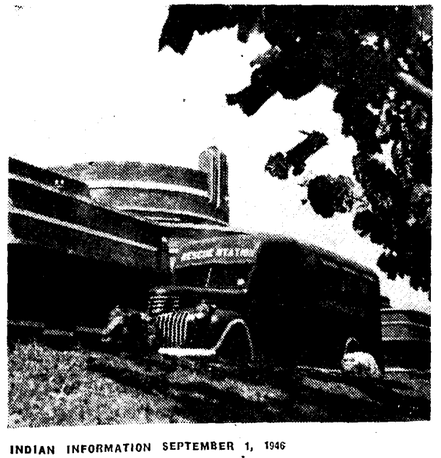
✣

THE STATION'S RESCUE TEAM. EACH MAN IS WEARING A SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS. THE TEAM IS COMPLETE WITH A CANARY (TO TEST THE ATMOSPHERE) A FIRST-AID BOX, STRETCHERS AND AN APPARATUS FOR REVIVING UNCONSCIOUS CASUALTIES.

THE JHARIA RESCUE STATION

The Jharia Rescue Station, situated in the Jharia coal-fields (Bihar) is maintained for rescue work in coal-mines. The Station works on the lines of a fire-brigade. Immediately an alarm is sounded, a rescue van rushes to the mine where the accident has taken place. The members of its team, clad in gas-masks and breathing apparatus, go down the shaft, rescue trapped miners, give them first-aid and bring them out to the surface for further medical aid. They then stay below to restore blocked communications, to prevent fire from spreading and to detect and seal off portions of the mine where dangerous gases persist.

The Jharia Rescue Station is one of the two stations that serves India's coal-raising area of Jharia and Raniganj. It is run jointly by the Government of India and colliery-owners.





DEVELOPMENT OF INDO-CHINESE TRADE

Chettur Mission Report

"THERE is no need for pessimism with regard to the revival and development of our trade with China." In spite of domestic difficulties, there is a wide range of commodities which India can supply to China and which the latter country will need," observes the Report of the Trade Mission to China, which was sent to that country by the Commerce Department, Government of India, in February-March 1946 under the leadership of Mr. K. K. Chettur, Joint Secretary of the Department, to examine the possibility of the renewal of export business, mainly cotton tobacco, from India to China and the resumption and development of trade between the two countries.

Favourable Prospects

The Mission covered by air approximately 8,000 miles, was away from India for about 6 weeks, visited important trading and industrial centres of China and saw prominent Chinese businessmen and officials, including Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, who displayed a keen interest in Indian affairs.

Regarding trade prospects the Report says: There is no need for pessimism with regard to the revival and development of our trade with China. While it is correct that difficulties exist and that inflation is rife, that there are shortages of goods and difficulties with regard to exchange and communications, it will not be long before the situation is brought under control in view of the measures taken by the Chinese Government for the rehabilitation of the country's economy. Though the volume of trade in the earlier stages may, as a result, not be large, this will be a temporary phase, as an era of industrial and commercial prosperity awaits China.

"In spite of domestic difficulties, there is a wide range of commodities which India can supply to China and which the latter country will need, and though industrialisation may affect the nature of the supplies available for export, the quantum of the trade will not be adversely affected. Nor are the possible lines of development of China's economy, on the other hand, likely to lead to the reduction of trade with that country, as she will still continue to require raw materials from this country and also consumer goods which we can conveniently spare for her.

"There is also the point that Germany and Japan have for the time being been eliminated from the Chinese market and that India can, to a certain extent, meet this demand, particularly the demand formerly met from Japan with whose goods ours are more easily comparable."

In taking advantage of these favourable prospects, the Report emphasises two considerations to be borne in mind. The first is that "having regard to the sufferings endured by the Chinese during the last 8 years, it is necessary that India should go to her assistance in the rebuilding of her shattered economy, particularly in view of the ancient historical and cultural relations that exist between the two countries and the future role which they are destined to play in Asia".

Long-Term Interests

The second is that "India's future role in Asia and her relations in particular with China make it imperative that India should, in her own long-term interests, allow some proportion of her domestic output of consumer goods to be released to China and South East Asia countries and that supply considerations alone should not be taken into account in deciding as to the quantity and range of goods that should be made available to China."

The Mission sees no reason for despondency regarding India's surplus raw cotton production. On the contrary, it is convinced that "having regard to the conditions which we have witnessed for ourselves in the South East Asia territories and in China, King Cotton has come into his own again".

Although the textile industry in China has, according to the Report, suffered grievously during the War—only four million spindles are now in existence, half of which are expected to be in full operation at the end of the year and the whole in a year's time—the mills have ambitions of capturing Japanese textile markets in the Far East and elsewhere and have plans for doubling their spinning and loom capacity within the next three years.

Textile Production

Even though China has plans of self-sufficiency with regard to her raw cotton requirements, the Report thinks that the increase in textile production envisaged would involve the consumption of double the quantity of cotton consumed in the peak years before the War, which China will not be in a position to produce in view of the demand for food crops for feeding her growing population. The cotton deficit of China is estimated at 2,500,000 bales a year. As against this, supplies to the tune of 1,500,000 bales have already been arranged for this year including about 100,000 bales of Indian cotton.

"A balance of 1,000,000 bales requires to be made up", observes the Report, "and it is not unlikely that Indian cotton may be preferred to an appreciable extent because of its comparative cheapness and, what is more important, the fact that a large proportion of the spindles and looms, particularly those in the Japanese-owned mills, are better suited to Indian cotton". Medium and short staple cotton from India will, therefore, continue to be required. The absence of Japanese competition from South East Asia and Far Eastern markets and the consequent need for meeting their demands for cheaper and coarser cotton fabrics will also necessitate the use of these Indian types of cotton.

Recommendations

As regards tobacco, the Report says that there is at present a market for Indian tobacco in China, chiefly due to the difference in price and the shortage of tobacco in the country as a result of the war. It is probable, in view of these conditions which are likely to prevail for some time longer, that Indian tobacco will continue to be used, though it is unlikely it will establish itself in the market in view of the keen competition from American tobacco and the desire of the Chinese to be self-sufficient in this commodity. The Report estimates that China will be able to absorb about 7 to 10 million lbs. of Indian tobacco now and in the years immediately ahead.

The main recommendations of the Report, with a view to fostering and developing trade betwen the two countries, are:

1. At present China has fixed a rate of exchange only with regard to the American dollar. The fixation of a Chinese National Currency rupee exchange rate is desirable in the interests of trade development. The most satisfactory method of financing the trade between the two countries, according to the Report, would be by means of a "Special Accounts Arrangement." Negotiations for such an arrangement should be opened with the Chinese Government without delay.

This "Special Accounts Arrangement" is thus described by the Report: "Indian exporters will be paid in rupees out of a special account maintained by the Reserve Bank of India against payment of Chinese importers in their own currency into a special account maintained by the Central Bank of China. When exports from China to India are resumed, Indian importers will pay the cost of imports from China into the special account with the Reserve Bank, while Chinese exporters will receive payment out of the Chinese dollar balances accumulated in the special account with the Central Bank of China.

Insurance Arrangement

"The amount of Chinese dollar balance standing to the credit of the Reserve Bank in the books of the Central Bank of China in any specified period will be subject to an agreed limit. It should be agreed that, after the expiry of a specified period, China will take steps to liquidate the balance by making specified categories of goods available to India. In this way, the arrangement, while meeting China's immediate need for credit, will prevent the proceeds of India's exports to China from being blocked immediately. The fixation of definite agreed rate of exchange betwen India and China will, of course, be part and parcel of this arrangement."

2. Should experience reveal that traders in India are unwilling to enter into transactions with China because of specially heavy risks involved in such business during the transition period, Government should explore the possibility of guaranteeing the risks by means of an insurance arrangement on the lines of the Export Credit Guarantee Insurance Scheme operating in the U.K.

3. All obstacles in the path of free development of trade between the two countries should be removed as early as possible, as for example, delays in the grants of visas the absence of adequate facilities for the speedy postal, telegraphic and air-mail communications.

4. All restrictions on the free movement of goods between the two countries should be relaxed as far as possible, particularly in the case of exports of cotton, tobacco and jute. Similarly, import licensing should also be removed in the case of goods to be imported into this country from China, particularly as the balance of trade with that country is likely to be in India's favour and the arrangements envisaged by the Report require the liquidation of these balances at as early a date as possible.

5. A Government of India Trade Commissioner should be appointed in Shanghai with an Assistant Trade Commissioner subordinate to him at Hong Kong.

6. It is desirable for India to have her own regular shipping and air services to China.

7. The elimination of Japanese Shipping from ocean lines makes it necessary that Government lines should seriously consider the question of securing a larger share of this trade for Indian bottoms.

Finally, the Report says that there are bright prospects for both Indian banking and insurance companies in China, for the latter particularly in the re-insurance field. "It is necessary to emphasise in this connection", it observes, "the importance of the role played by banking, insurance and shipping companies in the furtherance of a country's foreign trade."



THE CHETTUR TRADE MISSION WHICH WAS RECENTLY SENT TO CHINA BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA. MR. K. K. CHETTUR, LEADER OF THE MISSION, IS FOURTH FROM LEFT. THE MISSION INCLUDED THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

INCREASED EXPORTS TO CANADA

There was a marked increase in Canadian imports from British India in April as compared with the previous month, according to the monthly report of the Government of India's Trade Commissioner. The increase was due to heavy shipments from India of jute fabrics, walnuts, lac and floor coverings. The value of Canadian purchases from India amounted to Rs. 10,659,000 compared with Rs. 6,423,000 in March 1946 and Rs. 5,256,000 in April 1945.

On the other hand, Canadian exports to India declined from Rs. 14,457,000 in March to Rs. 6,903,000 in April. The figure for Canadian exports in April 1945 was Rs. 87,414,000. Wheat, locomotives and parts, aluminium bars, railway cars and parts were among the major items of export.

This is the first time in many months in Indo-Canadian trade when the value of Canada's exports to India was less than her imports from India.

The Railway Board have sanctioned engineering and traffic surveys being carried out by the Agency of the N.W. Railway Administration for a line of Railway on the Broad-Guage from Khushab to Darya Khan via Nurpur a distance of about 70 miles.

The Survey will be known as Khushab-Nurpur-Darya Khan Survey.

EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

Sir Gurunath Bewoor on American Proposals

THE American proposals for the expansion of world trade and employment were referred to by the Hon'ble Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Commerce Member, Government of India, at the opening of the sixth session of the Consultative Committee of Economists at Simla on August 12. A general discussion on the proposals was held for two days, after which a sub-committee was formed to go into greater details.

The previous session of the Committee was held more than 18 months ago. During the interval, said Sir Gurunath Bewoor, world thought on economic questions had made further progress. The American document, circulated a few months ago, represented policies which important nations like the United States, whose actions were bound to have far-reaching effects on the economic destinies of the rest of the world, was prepared to accept for itself and recommend to other nations.

Since 1943 experts of the United States and the United Kingdom had been actually engaged in considering the best means of giving effect to the principles set forth in the Atlantic Charter and in Article 7 of the Mutual Aid Agreement. The Bretton Wood's Agreement, which the Committee considered at its last meeting was the first fruit of that constructive effort. The present document was the second.

Profound Influence

Sir Gurunath added: "Whatever decisions are reached at the proposed international conference will have a profound influence on the course of world economic events for several years to come. It will depend on the results at the conference whether the world is to relapse into the kind of economic rivalry which prevailed during the inter-war period with each nation pursuing the 'beggar-my-neighbour' policy and of being impoverished in the process or there is to be a new rule of law in international economic affairs and some positive effort on the part of the nations to create conditions under which all may enjoy high stable levels of production, consumption and employment. There can be no doubt that failure to reach agreement on this matter will weaken the foundation of other international institutions which have already come into existence such as those of reconstruction and development."

"The keynote of the American proposals," emphasised Sir Gurunath, "is expansion, full employment and the raising of the general standard of living. Whatever changes the future may hold in store in the constitutional field it seems to be unlikely that there will be any fundamental change in Government of India's policy in this respect."

Pointing out that the present document embodies the largest common measure of agreement between the two leading industrial countries, the United States and the United Kingdom, the Commerce Member asked the Committee to consider how far it met the special requirements of the industrially backward countries like India and in so far as it failed to do so what modifications in the document would be needed to adapt it to those requirements.

Removal of Trade Barriers

Explaining the programme now under contemplation in respect of the American proposals, Sir Gurunath said, "Before the [illegible] conference meets there would be a preliminary meeting of the so-called nuclear countries of which India is one. This conference will discuss concrete plans for the reduction of tariffs and the removal of trade barriers together with other proposals of the American document."

Present indications are that the preliminary meeting will take place some time in Spring next year and will be followed a few months later by a plenary world conference. Prior to this it is likely that a series of preparatory meetings will take place with a view to facilitating an exchange of views between the governments concerned and clarification of the points in doubt. No commitments will be entered into at the preparatory meetings and discussions will be confined to proposals other than those relating to reduction of tariffs on specific items.

The dates of these meetings have not yet been fixed, but so far as can be ascertained a meeting of representatives of the Governments of the British Commonwealth will take place early in October this year, to be followed by a meeting of representatives of the Governments who are members of the Preparatory Committee, which has been formed for this purpose by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is also possible that a further meeting of a preparatory nature may be held in January, 1947 between countries of the British Commonwealth.

The Government of India, as already announced, have accepted the invitation to the preliminary meeting on the clear understanding that the proposals contained in the American document would be treated merely as a basis for discussion.

"The Government of India," affirmed Sir Gurunath, "are not committed in any way to the acceptance of these proposals and will give the fullest consideration and attach the greatest weight to any advice offered by the Committee."

After a general discussion of the document on the main issues raised by the American proposals, the Sub-Committee on Trade and Tariffs would be directed to study the proposals in greater details and make recommendations to the Government. Dr. Gyan Chand, Dr. P. S. Lokanathan and Mr. B. N. Adarkar are already members of the sub-committee. The Commerce Member hoped to add two or three new members.

Sir Gurunath added that it was his [illegible] on the future the Trade Policy Committee and place before them the American proposals and the advice which the Committee of Economists and the Sub-Committee might have tendered to Government and ask for their comments and advice. Government would thus be fully acquainted with the views held by experts and by the general public before they formulated their own tentative views and give suitable instructions to their representatives who would attend the various meetings of representatives of the Commonwealth or of the other nations.

Those present included Mr. D. Ghosh, Dr. R. K. Khan (Kashmir State), Dr. B. R. Misra, Prof. V. L. D'Souza, Dr. P. J. Thomas, Dr. Gyan Chand, Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Prof. M. K. Ghosh, Dr. A. I. Qureshi (Hyderabad), Dr. R. Balakrishna (Madras), Dr. B. N. Ganguli (Delhi), Mr. B. K. Gokhale, Mr. Y. N. Sukthankar, Mr. R. K. Nehru, Mr. M. P. Pai, Mr. B. K. Nehru, Mr. S. M. Yusuf, Mr. B. N. Adarkar, Dr. Junaid and Mr. M. A. Mulky.

COUPONS REQUIRED FOR TAKING TEXTILES TO U.K.

Persons visiting the United Kingdom who intend to take with them rationed textiles or apparel either for personal use or for gifts are advised that coupons would be required in almost all cases, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 7.

Clothing, footwear, towels, handknitting yarn and piecegoods are rationed in the U.K. under the Consumer Rationing Order and persons to whom these articles are sent are normally required to surrender clothing coupons before they can take possession of them.

Exceptions

Similarly, persons returning to the U.K. with such goods in their baggage either for personal use or for gifts are required to surrender coupons before they can take possession of them. At present coupons are not required to be surrendered when (a) the total number involved falls below a certain figure, which may vary according to the circumstances of the case and (b) a gift parcel complies with conditions for licence-free admission. These are the only exceptions and, to avoid disappointment, persons bringing or sending these goods to U. K. are advised to assume in all cases that coupons will be required.

JAPAN UNDER ALLIED OCCUPATION

Mr. R. R. Saxena's Broadcast

"THE great cities of Japan—Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe—which used to be hives of industry are little more than heaps of ruins. To-day desolation reigns everywhere. Industries are practically at a standstill, and the commercial life of these cities is confined to the side-walks where vendors sell household goods at fabulous prices," observed Mr. R. R. Saxena, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Australia, in a recent broadcast from the Delhi Station of A.I.R. Mr. Saxena added: "A packet of cigarettes sells for 300 yen, a bar of chocolate for 20 yen and even local products like a bunch of carrots for 10·50 yen. A Japanese meal which in normal times cost 3 yen, now costs as much as 200 yen. The gay Kimonos of pre-war days are a rare sight. Women wear ugly-looking pyjamas and men threadbare army uniforms. There is nothing else available."

Mr. Saxena, who was in Japan in last January as Government of India's Representative on the Far Eastern Advisory Commission, as it was then called, describing the present administrative setup said:

"We have at present four bodies concerned with the administration of Japan:—

"(1) The Far Eastern Commission,

"(2) The Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers,

"(3) The Japanese Government, and

"(4) The Allied Council in Tokyo.

Far Eastern Commission

"The Far Eastern Commission which succeeded the Far Eastern Advisory Commission last December when the Soviets agreed to join as a result of the Moscow Agreement among the Foreign Ministers of United Kingdom, U.S.A. and Soviet Russia, consist of representatives of eleven powers—U.K., U.S.A., Soviet Russia, China, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, France, Netherlands and the Philippines. It is a policy-making body. It prescribes broad lines of policy, covering almost every aspect of activity in Japan.

"The policy decisions of the Far Eastern Commission are sent to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers through the Government of the United States, and the former then issues a directive to the Japanese Government to carry out the prescribed policy. The Supreme Commander keeps a careful watch to see that the Japanese Government discharges its obligations and implements the directives in full.

"The Allied Council in Tokyo consists of representatives of the British Commonwealth, the U.S.A., China and Soviet Russia. The British Commonwealth Representative, who on the existing Allied Council, is an Australian, represents the United Kingdom, India, Australia and New Zealand. India has sent Dr. L. C. Jain as Adviser to the Commonwealth Representative on the Allied Council in Tokyo. The function of this Council is to see that the policy decisions of the Far Eastern Commission are fully enforced."

Question of Reparations

After mentioning the measures of reform undertaken by the Administration in Japan and making a reference to the War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo, in which an Indian Judge sits with Judges from other countries, and two Indians are participating in prosecution Mr. Saxena continued: "The question of reparations and restitution of Allied property is under the consideration of a Reparations Committee. On the recommendations of this Committee it has been decided that all types of property looted by the Japanese from occupied territories shall be restored to the owners. It has similarly been decided that Japan war potential consisting of aircraft factories, arsenals, industrial plant and equipment shall be made available for claim as reparations as an interim measure. The list of such equipment includes thousands of machine tools of various types.

"It is also intended to remove production capacity above certain prescribed limits for the manufacture of steel, ball and roller bearings, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, power, etc. Shipbuilding facilities are at present fully occupied in carrying out repairs and building ships essential to rehabilitate Japanese economy, but eventually it is hoped that some ships and considerable shipbuilding equipment will be made available for distribution as reparations.

"The final reparations programme, when executed, will be designed to divest Japan entirely of war-making capacity and to reduce other industries to a level necessary for a viable economy. The share of each country claiming reparations is likely to be based on an estimate of its sacrifices and its contribution to final victory."

Japan's Trade

Referring to the measures taken to allow Japan to participate in overseas trade, allocations for which are even now being made among various countries generally on the basis of pre-war trade pattern, the speaker observed, "In the future, the Far Eastern Commission proposes to prescribe policies for the regulations of Japan's trade which will be implemented by an Inter-Allied Trade Board to be established in the near future. The actual shipment and entry of goods will be effected through the agency of Allied Trade representatives or Liaison Mission in Tokyo. Where these do not exist, countries desiring to participate in this trade may take advantage of the services of the United States Commercial Corporation which was established in Tokyo last year for the purpose of facilitating exchange of goods between Japan and the United States.



MR. R. R. SAXENA, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S TRADE COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA.

"So long as the foreign trade of Japan is controlled, this machinery will continue to function. It is, however, hoped that as soon as housing and food situation in Japan improves and reasons of security have lost their validity, Japan will be thrown open to foreign merchants and trade allowed to flow through normal channels. The question of volume of trade will naturally be of interest to Indian merchants.

"The most important item of export from India to Japan was raw cotton for the manufacture of cotton textiles. The Japanese textile capacity was reduced to 15th and rayon capacity to 1/3rd after the war. In February 1946 the installed spindleage was 2,150,000 of which 1,115,000 were operable. It is expected that the installed spindleage will increase to 3,285,000 by January 1947 of which 3,000,000 will be operable.

Sericulture Industry

"The pre-war spindleage was nearly 13,000,000. Japan's four major textile machinery manufacturers who account for approximately 75 to 85 per cent of new machinery production, have the capacity to increase Japan's spindleage and loomage in 1947 by over 785,000 spindles and 168,000 looms. Provided, therefore, that nothing occurs to impede progress, the rehabilitation of the Japanese Textile Industry will be fairly rapid. Last January there were only 18 rayon mills in operation, 6 manufacturing pulp, 4 manufacturing yarn and 8 manufacturing rayon staple. This industry is not likely to be revived in the very near future. Efforts are being made, however, to revive the Sericulture Industry.

"The area under mulberry cultivation in 1930 was 707,575 hectares. This was reduced in 1945 to 211,744 hectares.

Replanting of mulberry seedlings is now in progress. Other industries are suffering for want of coal, chemicals, raw materials and skilled labour. Production will increase as and when these deficiencies are made good.

"The question of safeguarding the interests of aliens in Japan has also been considered. Various measures, for example, taxation relief, etc. have been considered.

Indians living in Japan had the good fortune not to suffer any casualties. A great many of them are now employed by the Occupation authorities. At one time they were given the option to return to India, but only a few took advantage of the offer. The majority decided to stay on in Japan as they were not allowed to take their belongings with them and no assurance was given that they will subsequently be allowed to return. They also have certain grievances in regard to freezing of funds, non-payment of insurance money, remittance of funds, etc. These difficulties are common to other Allied nationals as well and will be removed when a general policy in regard to these matters has been adopted."

MORE ARTICLES DECONTROLLED

In pursuance of Government's policy to relax control over export, consistent with the supply position in the country, a further large range of articles has been decontrolled by a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated July 27, 1946.

These comprise, among others, arms, ammunitions and military stores, certain chemicals and chemical preparations, glass substitute, cameras and certain electrical materials of indigenous manufacture, razors, roofing felts and associated joining materials, woollen manufactures excluding woollen tweed and yarn, surgical and veterinary instruments, apparatus and appliances, molybdenum and its ore, certain varieties of small tools of indigenous manufacture.

Other articles decontrolled are certain varieties of rubber manufacture, abrasives of indigenous manufacture, agaragar, articles made wholly or mainly of plastic materials, bakelite, manufactures of pig bristles, fireclay, tiles and bricks, cigarettes, coffee, cutlery, diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones and pearls, certain varieties of drugs and medicines, porcelainware, glass and glassware except glass bottles of crown cork pattern, horns and hooves, gramophones, lamps and parts thereof excluding hurricane lamps, essential oils, leather manufactures (other than footwear), requisites for games and sports, certain items of toilet requisites and cinnamon.

The export policy is under constant review and other articles will be added to the free list as soon as supply conditions permit, in order to take advantage of the export possibilities available to India, particularly in respect of manufactured goods.

PROTECTION FOR INDIAN INDUSTRIES: TARIFF BOARD INQUIRY

Up to May 1946 the applications of 28 industries for protection or assistance were referred to the Indian Tariff Board. Out of these, investigations into 14 cases have been completed and reports on 12 industries have already been forwarded to the Government by the Board, said a Press Communique issued by the Indian Tariff Board on August 3.

The reports already sent are on the following 12 industries:—

(1) Grinding wheels;
(2) Caustic soda and bleaching powder;
(3) Antimony;
(4) Sodium thiosulphate, sodium sulphite anhydrous sodium bisulphite;
(5) Phosphates and phosphoric acid;
(6) Butter colour, aerated water powder colour;
(7) Steel hoops for baling;
(8) Bicromates;
(9) Aluminium;
(10) Calcium chloride;
(11) Coated abrasives; and
(12 Hurricane lanterns.

Investigation on Wood Screw and Cocoa Powder and Chocoloate Industries have been completed and the reports will be shortly sent to the Government. In addition to these the Board expects to complete investigations into the following 11 cases before the end of December 1946:—

(1) Non-ferrous metals;
(2) Starch;
(3) Glucose;
(4) Preserved fruits;
(5) Sodium sulphite;
(6) Chloroform;
(7) Ether sulphuric P. B.;
(8) Potassium permanganate;
(9) Bicycles;
(10) Sewing machines; and
(11) Sodium and potassium metabisulphites.

Up to the end of December 1946, investigation into the cases of 25 out of the 28 industries referred to the Board would have been completed. Towards the end of July 1946, the applications of four more industries have been referred to the Board, and these will be taken up early in 1947.

INDIA'S INCREASING TRADE WITH IRAN

THE high position maintained by Indian exports in Iran's foreign trade is revealed in the Report for June 1946 of the Government of India's Trade Commissioner for Iran.

From a list of goods imported into and exported from Iran during the period from December 22, 1945, to January 20, 1946, now available, it is seen that India ranked first among Iran's suppliers of fish (the only supplier) tea, dry and fresh fruits, spices, fruits and oilseeds, grasses and seeds of industrial and medicinal value, granulated and lump sugar (first in quantity and second in value) lamp oil (the only supplier) goat and sheep leather (first in quantity and second in value), pure cotton piecegoods (first in quantity and second in value), yarn and other piecegoods and dresses and ready-made clothing (in both cases in quantity only), glassware (first in value and second in quantity), articles made of non-precious metals, other vehicles and spare parts thereof (in both cases in quantity only).

Import of Iranian Goods

India had a substantial share in the supply of "other kinds of gums and plant extracts," cement, flavours and *attar* (scent) resins and solid vehicle tyres, cotton, articles made of stone and other minerals, iron and steel tools, and electric machinery and spare parts.

India maintained a high position among the importers of Iranian goods during the period of December 22, 1945, to January 20, 1946. She ranked first among the importers of Pistachio and shelled pistachio, saffron, red rose, grasses and seeds of industrial and medicinal value (in value only), asafoetida and gum of wild almond. She had a substantial share in the import of shelled almonds, cuminseeds, gum tragacanth, raw skin, wool and flue and carpets of all kinds.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

The undermentioned subjects, which have hitherto been dealt with in the Government of India, Department of Commerce, have been transferred to the Departments noted against each of them:

1. Weights and Measures	Industries and Supplies Department.
2. Fishing and Fisheries beyond territorial waters	Agriculture Department.
3. Bengal Pilot Service	War Transport Department.

All communications regarding any of the above subjects should, in future, be addressed to the departments to which these subjects have been transferred.

NEWSPRINT POSITION IN INDIA
Better Prospects for Next Year

INDIA will receive during 1946 about 32,500 tons of newsprint, as a result of the efforts of the Newsprint Delegation, led by Mr. Devadas Gandhi, which recently visited the U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Sweden and Finland.

Although this quantity is nearly double of what at one time seemed likely, it falls short of the average pre-war consumption by about 8,000 tons. It will, however, be sufficient to meet India's needs for this year at the rate of consumption which was in force between October 1945 and May 1946, and will leave a small margin to carry over.

Prospects for 1947

The efforts of the Delegation have made it possible for existing newspapers to continue without any serious reduction in size or circulation till the end of this year. It will not, however, be possible to grant permission for new newspapers except in rare cases, for sound reasons and on very small quotas of newsprint. Such cases will be reviewed when the supply position becomes easier.

Prospects for 1947 are slightly better. An increased quantity is expected by the Delegation for the coming year. Efforts are also being made to secure newsprint from Switzerland but it is unlikely that Swiss newsprint will be available before April, 1947.

During the war a Newsprint Control Order was brought into force (1941) and quotas were fixed for every newspaper and periodical on a consideration of its consumption in 1940 and the second half of 1942. The total consumption was brought down by various restrictions to just under 24,000 tons per year, which rate continued till the end of 1944. In 1945, India was allocated a quota of 25,000 tons from Canada by the Combined Paper and Pulp Working Group, London Sub-Committee of the Combined Raw Materials Board, besides a tentative allocation of 5,000 tons from Scandinavia.

Indian Newsprint Delegation

India's newsprint difficulties this year rose as a result of the lifting of controls in Canada and U.S.A. after V.-J. day. Canadian manufacturers found themselves unable to meet the demands of the U.S.A. newspapers with which they had long-term contracts. Consequently the bookings accepted by Canada for 1946 dwindled to 6,000 tons. Other allocations for 1946 totalled about 5,600 tons only, made up of 5,000 tons promised by Scandinavia against allocation made in June 1945 and 600 tons allocated by the U.K., which is itself a net importer, for the first half of 1946.

The position was so serious that the Government of India in consultation with the Newsprint Advisory Committee decided in March this year to withdraw with effect from May 1946 the 25 per cent increase in quotas allotted from October 1945. Efforts were also made to induce journals and periodicals other than dailies to appear on printing paper made in India. The publication of new periodicals on newsprint could not be permitted till adequate supplies had been arranged for.

It was also decided that assistance should be given to a non-official delegation representing Indian newspapers to proceed to Europe and Canada for furthering the efforts already being made by the Government of India through their agencies in London, Washington and Montreal to secure additional supplies of newsprint.

The Delegation was constituted with Mr. Devdas Gandhi (Managing Editor, *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi) as Leader, Mr. Ramnath Goenka (Editor, *Indian Express*, Madras) as member and Mr. D.G. Currie (Director of Paper, Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India) as Adviser. The Delegation left by air on April 28, 1946 and returned to India on July 7, 1946.

LICENCES FOR NEWSPRINT

Import licences will now be issued for newsprint to be imported from abroad for the first half of 1947. In the case of stock-holding newspapers, these permits will be for quantities equivalent to their consumption on the basis of their current quotas together with 25 per cent. In the case of dealers, the licence will be for their average imports during 1944-45 together with 25 per cent., said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on August 7.

Licences for larger quantities will be granted where they are required against firm offers.

Imports from the United Kingdom and certain easy currency countries will be allowed freely, but consumption of newsprint thus imported, will continue to be restricted by quotas allocated at present and any surplus over and above requirements for a reasonable period will be subject to such redistribution as may be ordered by the Government of India.

The Government of India have decided to postpone the operation of the revised ceiling prices of different varieties of imported paper by one month, *i.e.*, to September 15, 1946, as a result of certain representations that have been received and which require detailed examination, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on August 13.

Revised ceiling prices of imported paper were published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated July 13, 1946, and August 8, 1946, and were to come into force from August 15, 1946.

NEWSPRINT QUOTAS INCREASED

THE Government of India have decided to restore half the cut imposed with effect from May 1 last on newsprint quotas. Quotas of newsprint for all newspapers will, therefor, be increased by 12½ per cent. with effect from August 1, 1946. The position will be reviewed later, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on July 30.

Stock-holding newspapers may use the extra quantity allowed from their stocks. Dealers are authorised to supply the extra quantity to purchase permit holding newspapers with effect from August 1, 1946, against the permits already held by the newspapers for the period July-December 1946.

The Government of India wish to emphasise that the newsprint position is, and will continue to be, one of great difficulty and that supplies resulting from the efforts of the Newsprint Delegation which recently visited Northern Europe and Canada, are not expected till late in the year. It is expected, however, that sufficient supplies will be received during 1946 to permit newspapers to be published on the increased quotas now allowed.

CIVIL APPOINTMENTS IN INDIA

In view of pending constitutional changes in India and consequent uncertainty as to conditions of service the Secretary of State has decided not to proceed with appointment of "War Service" candidates to the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Political Service and the Indian Police under the recruitment scheme which was announced on June 1, 1945, and of which particulars were published in the pamphlet "India Burma Services"—1, regarding civil appointments in India, said a Press Communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on August 19.

Candidates, selected in India for appointment to war reserved vacancies in these services will be offered alternative apointment in a Central Administrative Service of which details will be communicated to them with the offer.

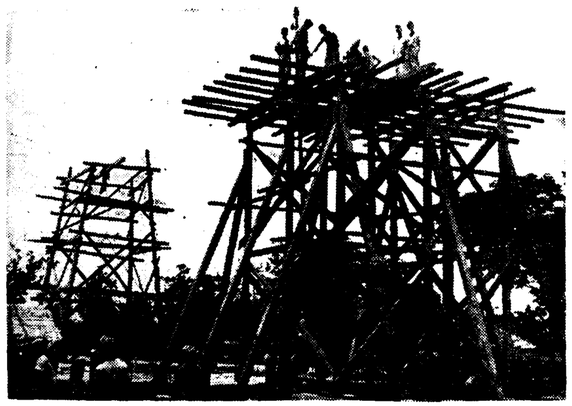
According to a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated August 10, 1946, the Central Government have withdrawn the ceiling prices fixed in November 1944 in respect of H.M.V., Twin, Regal, Columbia, Parlophone, Decca, Brunswick, Kidkord, Regal-Zono and Rex gramophone records. The prices of these records, will now be regulated in accordance with normal pre-war trade practice under the general provisions of Section 6 of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance



MEN OF THE 4/4 GURKHA RIFLES LOAD FOOD ON TO LOCAL TRANSPORT FRO MANY TRUCKS DURING THE 'OPERATION HUNGER' IN BURMA.



MEN OF THE TEHRI GARHWAL SAPPERS AND MINERS COLLECT GRAVEL FOR ROA MAKING.



WITH THE HELP OF JAP P.O.W.S. MEN OF THE 12 (MADRAS) ENGINEER BATTALION R.I.E. CONSTRUCT A WATER TOWER.

Reconstruction of War-Ravaged Burma

PLAYING an important role in the reconstruction of war-ravaged Burma, men of the Bengal Sappers and Miners are building a permanent bridge across the Mytinge River to carry the Rangoon-Mandalay road and railway.

During the Japanese retreat in 1945 the original bridge was demolished and a temporary Bailey bridge was erected by the Royal Indian Engineers. With the coming of the monsoon it was decided to build a permanent bridge.

In January this year the temporary bridge was removed and No. 320 and No. 321 Indian Railway Bridging Companies built a diversion road and railway bridge to carry traffic while the new bridge was being constructed.

Careful Planning

Using gas masks as diving helmets men of 75 Field Company Bengal Sappers and Miners dived to a depth of 30 feet to survey the base for the piers and by the end of June the concrete piers were ready to take the bridge. In the meantime, 321 Indian Railway Bridging Company and 305 Field Park Company of the Bombay Sappers and Miners had constructed the steel spans which are to be pushed across the piers.

Much hard work and careful planning have gone into the making of the bridge which, when completed, will be another milestone in the reconstruction of Burma.

STORY OF INDIAN ARMY'S DIVISIONS

Now on sale to the general public are a series of booklets graphically depicting the achievements of India's famous divisions on the battlefields of Burma, Africa and Italy.

Each booklet is of handy pocket-size. Contents include a 5,000-word account of the division's exploits, many photographs, excellent illustrations by accredited war artists, maps, orders of battle and other data.

Up-to-date, the histories of the 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 19th, 25th and 26th Indian Divisions have been produced, and that of the 17th is in the course of production. Also on sale, in small quantities, is a booklet which sets forth the story of the 48 Lorried Brigade—"A Gurkha Brigade in Italy."

A free issue in three languages is being made to each division concerned. Copies in English may also be obtained on application to: Public Relations Directorate, P.R. (P.) G.H.Q., New Delhi, price As. 12, and in the U.K. from Messrs. Gale and Polden, Aldershot, price 1s. 6d.

A HERMIT'S TRIBUTE TO GURKHAS

IN memory of the men of the 4/4th Gurkha Rifles who lost their lives in the attack on Mandalay Hill during the late war, the Holy Hermit of Mandalay Hill, Rev. U Khanti, is placing a memorial tablet in a pagoda on the summit of the hill. He is also presenting the battalion with a bell taken from one of the pagodas.

On the night of March 8, 1945, the Gurkhas attacked the Japanese stronghold on Mandalay Hill. The attack succeeded and 89 Japanese were killed for the loss of nine Gurkhas killed and 40 wounded.

The hill, with its many colourful pagodas and Buddhist shrines, is the centre of the Buddhist faith in Burma. To help repair the damage that was done to the shrines during the attack, men of the 4/4th Gurkhas have contributed a sum of Rs. 2,500.

"TEETH AND TAIL" FIGURES IN A.L.F.S.E.A.

Now released for the first time by General Headquarters are figures showing the actual number of fighting troops in A.L.F.S.E.A. and India Command during World War II, as compared with the number of administration troops who supported them. Ordered by Mr. Churchill, to ensure that Allied Armies developed with a constant eye on their offensive character, these figures were known throughout the war as "Teeth and Tail" statements—the "teeth" representing the strength of the fighting forces and the "tail" representing the number of troops required to equip and maintain the "teeth" in the front-line.

Emphasis was constantly laid on the training of all men as fighting troops but the "teeth," as shown by these statements, were the specialist fighters.

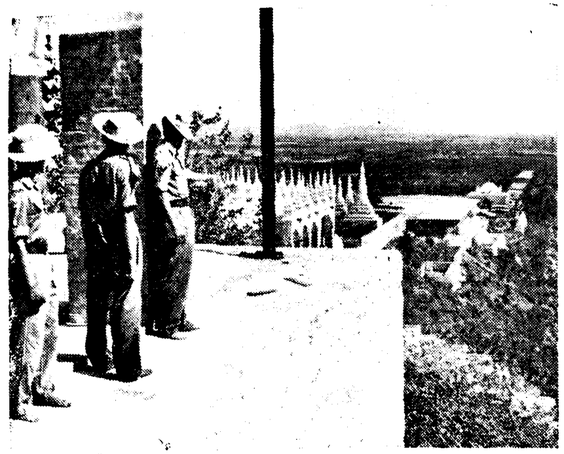
At the height of the war against the Japanese there were 1,013,501 troops in A.L.F.S.E.A. of whom 52 per cent were actually fighting troops. This figure included engineers, armoured corps personnel, artillery, signals and intelligence but the main body of the fighting force consisted of 230,768 infantrymen or 23 per cent of the total. The number of administration troops, which include supply and transport, pioneers, medical services, movement control and remounts personnel was 484,771.

In India Command, which acted as a reinforcement base to A.L.F.S.E.A. and consequently required more administration, there were 1,225,470 troops and of these 557,759 or 45.5 per cent were primarily fighting forces.

By March of this year the number of fighting troops in A.L.F.S.E.A. was 53 per cent of the total while in India 48 per cent were fighting forces.



THREE GURKHA SOLDIERS, HAV. DAMAR SING, NK. THAMAN SING AND RFN. BIR BAHADUR GURUNG, VISIT A PAGODA ON MANDALAY HILL.



GURKHA SOLDIERS SEE THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE FROM THE TOP OF THE MANDALAY HILL, THE SCENE OF THEIR BATTLE IN MARCH, 1945.

INDIAN ORDNANCE FACTORIES TO MANUFACTURE ROAD ROLLERS

ONE thousand Steam and 500 Diesel road rollers of the British type will be manufactured by Indian Ordnance factories and certain Indian firms in co-operation with manufacturers in the U.K. as a result of the recommendations of the Road Roller Mission which visited India early this year and the negotiations carried on by the Government of India with the representatives of British concerns, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on August 1.

It is hoped that this will go a long way to meet the large demand for road rollers in connection with the Road Development Schemes of the Central and Provincial Governments and Indian States and pave the way for the eventual manufacture of complete units of road-making machinery in the country.

Road Roller Mission

The entire scheme will cost about Rs. 4,40,00,000 nearly 40 per cent of which will be incurred in the Indian Ordnance factories and the rest in Indian and associated British concerns. Deliveries are expected to start early next year for completion within two years.

The terms agreed upon provide *inter alia* that jigs, patterns drawings, designs and other technical information will be made available in the country and that such technical personnel and co-ordinating cells as may be required by the Ordnance factories and other firms concerned will be provided by the contracting British firms.

The arrangements are that complete roller and gear units in respect of steam rollers and engines and gear units in respect of Diesel rollers will be imported from the U. K. and the rest manufactured in the Ordnance factories and two Indian firms. Erection, assembly, commissioning and servicing will be done entirely in India.

A trial order for 12 Diesel road rollers is proposed to be placed on an Indian firm. Efforts are also being continued to locate capacity which will enable the manufacture of complete road rollers in India.

The visit of the Road Roller Mission, consisting of the representatives of the British Road Roller Industry selected by the India Office on the advice of the Board of Trade and the Federation of Contractors' Plant, was arranged by the Government of India in consultation with the Secretary of State.

The Mission visited the various Indian Ordnance factories and reported to the Government on the possibility of utilisation of the plant, tools, personnel and the general facilities available.

The Mission also discussed with the Government of India the terms on which the manufacturers in the U.K. would be prepared to co-operate with the scheme. Subsequently the present agreement was arrived at between the Government of India and the manufacturers in the U.K.

GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF P. AND T. UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

WIDE publicity has been given to a threat to renew the P. and T. strike made by the President of the All-India Trades Union Congress. Government desire, therefore, to clarify the position and to amplify statements already made by senior officials of the Department, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on August 12.

There are 14 All-India Unions and Associations of P. and T. staff recognised by Government of which 10 represent solely non-gazetted staff. Recognition has been withdrawn from only one of these—the All-India Telegraph Union.

Certain conditions have been laid down by the Home Department of the Government of India regulating recognition by Government of associations formed by their employees. As already explained by Government spokesmen the All-India Telegraph Union by its recent actions has deliberately broken these conditions, and it was in these circumstances that Government have withdrawn recognition from the Union.

Certain local branches of other All-India Unions with their branch headquarters in Calcutta joined the All-India Telegraph Union in the strike at midnight of July 21 in defiance of the orders of the All-India Unions concerned. The recognition accorded by Government had been accorded to the All-India Unions, and later to the Federation of P. and T. Unions. That being the case, the Branch Unions in Bengal and Assam who seceded from the All-India bodies have by this act of secession deprived themselves of recognition.

Government of course, continue to recognise the nine All-India Unions of non-gazetted P. and T. staff and the Federation of P. and T. Unions who did not associate themselves in this illegal strike. If the seceding branches reconstitute themselves on a basis satisfactory to their mother unions Government recognition can be restored.

PETROL FOR PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

The attention of the Central Government has been drawn to the suggestion which has received publicity in the Press that the Department of the Government of India dealing with Petrol Rationing had been unable to calculate petrol coupon requirements for the doubling of the basic ration for private cars and motor cycles and were awaiting indents from Provinces and States before issuing these coupons, said a Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on August 15.

This is not correct. The fact is that arrangements have been made for the supply of extra coupons required in connection with the doubling of the basic ration for private cars and motor cycles.

It is only in connection with extra coupons required for vehicles other than private cars and motor cycles that indents from Provinces and States are awaited before arranging the supply of extra coupons. These indents were called for on August 3, 1946.

RAILWAY BOARD'S CONCILIATION POLICY

The Railway Board's attention has been drawn to reports appearing in the Press about a statement purported to have been issued by certain officials of Railway Unions alleging "victimisation of Union Officials and attack on Trade Union Rights", said a Press Note issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on August 8.

The Railway Board and the different Railway Administrations have followed a consistent policy of conciliation and fair dealing and it is quite evident the statement referred to above is the result of misrepresented facts as no action against any Union Official has been taken for the part he has played in Trade Union activities. Such prosecutions as have taken place have been the result of offences committed by the persons concerned against the law of the land.

A Press Note issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on July 31 stated:

The present restrictions on the movement of motor cars by rail have been reviewed in conjunction with the Chief Controller of Railway Priorities and it has been decided that henceforth the movement of motor cars will be controlled by the Railway Administrations concerned without reference to the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, except in special cases of large movement where Railway Administrations feel that a special measure of control by the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities is called for.

All applications in future for the transport of motor cars by rail should be addressed direct to the Railway Administrations concerned.

CLAIMS FOR ASSETS IN FAR EASTERN TERRITORIES

IN a Press Note issued on November 29, 1945, the Government of India in the Department of Commonwealth Relations announced that all persons who had not already submitted their claims for assets in Burma should thereafter send them direct to the Government of Burma, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on August 15.

Under instructions received from His Majesty's Government it has been decided that claims relating to assets in Far Eastern territories should not hereafter be registered with the Government of India. Persons who have not already submitted their claims against Governments in respect of deposits in Post Office Savings Banks or in respect of goods supplied or services rendered to the Far Eastern Colonial Governments or in respect of claims under the Malayan War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme should now forward these direct to the Governments concerned for consideration.

Similar claims already registered with the Government of India, will, however, be forwarded to the authorities concerned by the Government of India.

War Losses

As regards claims in respect of losses of or damages to property as a result of the War in the Far Eastern territories, His Majesty's Government have now announced that they propose to set up Claims Commissions in each of the British territories in the Far East to register and assess them. The new register will take over claims already provisionally registered and no further registration will be needed in such cases.

The Commissions, it is intended will examine claims registered with them with two objects in view (a) to compile information as to all losses which might be included in Reparation Claims against the Japanese and (b) to assess claims admissible under the local law or under new compensation schemes initiated by local Governments.

Compensation Schemes

The precise classes of claims in respect of which compensation will be paid, the basis of their assessment and the extent to which it may be possible to award compensation will be determined in due course. Under certain circumstances the local Governments may also initiate new compensation schemes not covered by local legislation.

While H. M. G. are anxious to make advances for restoring productive activities in the respective territories, if the resources of the local Governments concerned are insufficient, they have not given any specific undertaking as to the extent to which they would assist local Governments in regard to compensation schemes until it is known what are the extents of those schemes and how far local resources can meet them.

Further details regarding the setting up of Claims Commissions in each of the territories will be published as and when available.

BRETTONWOODS COMMITTEE'S DECISION

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development commenced functioning on June 25, 1946, and in accordance with the Articles of Agreement, India was called upon to pay two per cent of her share subscription, *i.e.* eight million dollars, on or before August 24, 1946, and a further eight per cent by November 25, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on August 1.

The Legislative Assembly had during its last session, recommended that the Government of India should not pay any portion of India's subscription without consulting the Brettonwoods Committee of the Assembly. A meeting of this body was, therefore, called to consider the action to be taken on the demand made and the Committee agreed to authorise Government to pay the two per cent which is immediately to be paid. As regards the remaining eight per cent, the Committee recommended that the sanction of the Legislative Assembly itself should be obtained.

Payment of eight million dollars (less 40,000 dollars already paid) will accordingly shortly be authorised.

The Standing Committee of the Central Legislature for the Commonwealth Relations met recently in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Gurunath Bewoor, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.

The meeting discussed the future policy of the Government of India respecting emigration of Indian labour to Burma, Malaya and other Commonwealth countries, the pending immigration bills in East Africa, the position of Indians in Ceylon and the Government of India's appeal to the U.N.O. against the anti-Indian Legislation in South Africa.

The representatives of the Government of Bengal and Orissa placed before the Committee the views of their respective Governments regarding the emigration of labour from India. The Committee also had the benefit of hearing the views of the Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Sapru and the Hon'ble Pandit H.N. Kunzru regarding the conditions of Indians in Malaya.

INTERIM RELIEF FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

THE Government of India have decided to give immediate interim relief to lower grades of staff in the civil departments other than Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on August 13.

When they accepted the Adjudicator's Award in the case of the Posts and Telegraphs staff, Government at once recognised the corresponding need for relief felt by other Central Government staff not covered by the Award. They have also been impressed by the loyalty with which such staff have continued to work in economic circumstances of very real difficulty. These circumstances are such that to ask the staff to await the final decisions after the Pay Commission has reported would, in Government's opinion, be to impose a hardship which the staff should not be asked to bear.

Concessions

They have therefore made a survey of the conditions of service of the lower paid staff in all Central Government Services in the light of the Adjudicator's Award and have decided to grant the following concessions with immediate effect:

(i) All Government servants drawing up to Rs. 40 per month will be eligible for an additional pay at a flat rate of Rs. 3 per month. Government servants drawing between Rs. 40 and Rs. 250 per month will receive an additional pay at a flat rate of Rs. 4-8 per month. This will have retrospective effect from July 1, 1945.

(ii) In certain areas Government have not been able to arrange the supply of foodstuffs at concessional rates. It has been decided to give to Government servants in such areas, on pay up to Rs. 300 a compensatory allowance of Rs. 3-12 per month. This concession will also have effect from July 1, 1945.

Cost of Concessions

(iii) Government servants in towns which are at present graded as Class 'C' will, in addition to the above concessions, receive dearness allowance at the increased rate admissible in Class 'B' towns. The minimum rates of dearness allowance in existing 'C' Class areas will thus be increased from Rs. 14 to Rs. 16 for Government servants drawing below Rs. 40 and from Rs. 16 to Rs. 18 for those above that pay limit.

The cost of the concessions announced above will be about Rs. 3½ crores in the current financial year.

25,000 GUNNERS DEMOBILISED

TWENTY-Five thousandth gunner of the Royal Indian Artillery to pass through the R.I.A. Depot and Records Centre at Muttra is Gunner Barkat Ali, a veteran of 16 years' service.

Enlisted in the Mountain Artillery in January, 1930, he has taken part in operations on India's North-West Frontier and in Waziristan. During the late war he served with the School of Artillery, Deolali.

At the outbreak of World War II the Indian Artillery had a strength of 12,812 men, made up of six mountain regiments, one field regiment and various small units. This force was rapidly expanded until it reached a maximum strength of 83,986 in 1945.

Valiant Service

In recognition of its valiant services during the war the Indian Artillery received the title of 'Royal' in October, 1945. On the cessation of hostilities the reduction in size of the Regiment began and the Demobilisation Centre at the R. I. A. Depot and Records, Muttra, was formed.

The rate of demobilisation achieved by this Centre is such that the programme for release in the R.I.A. is now seven months ahead of schedule.



TWENTY-FIVE THOUSANDTH GUNNER OF THE ROYAL INDIAN ARTILLERY TO PASS THROUGH THE DEMOBILISATION CENTRE AT THE ROYAL INDIAN ARTILLERY DEPOT AND RECORDS, MUTTRA, IS GUNNER BARKAT ALI, WHO ENLISTED 16 YEARS AGO IN THE MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY. PICTURE SHOWS GUNNER BARKAT ALI RECEIVING HIS DUES BEFORE LEAVING THE CENTRE (BELOW) GUNNER BARKAT ALI RECEIVES A FREE ISSUE OF 12 YARDS OF WHITE CLOTH.



SUBEDAR-MAJOR OF THE DEMOBILISATION CENTRE INSPECTS GUNNER BARKAT ALI'S KIT.



BURMA VICTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

THE Burma Victory Photographic Exhibition organised by the Director, Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I), commenced its tour of India in January this year. Starting from Bombay, the exhibition has already visited Madras, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Indore, Calcutta, Lucknow, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Bikaner. The remaining stations on the programme are Karachi, Calcutta and Delhi. Over 250,000 people have so far visited the exhibition.

The exhibition consists of 230 photographs of the Burma campaign showing the heroic fighting of Indian soldiers in the battles for Kohima and Imphal, the smashing up of Jap positions in the Arakan campaign of February 1944, and the Japs, hunted and driven out of their strongholds, fleeing for their lives before the carefully planned and determined onslaught of Allied troops.

R.I.N's Work

The R.I.N. Section has a fine selection of photographs depicting the work of the Royal Indian Navy, naval ratings at their duty stations, and the Chaung landings. The Royal Indian Air Force is well represented with pictures taken on the Burma airstrips and of the results of their bombing. The race for Rangoon, and Burma refugees—women and children—returning to their capital with a look of relief on their faces is also well illustrated.

In addition to the campaigns in Burma there are a few photographs taken in Singapore showing the re-entry of Allied forces into Singapore and the surrender of the Japanese there, as also some pictures of the campaign in the Middle East, especially showing Indian troops in action, the collapse of Germans before the 8th Army and the march onward to Italy.

D.-G., P. AND T. THANKS ARMY

"My first thoughts are of gratitude to you and the Military for all the help that has been rendered to my Department," writes Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, in a letter to Mr. A. D. F. Dundas, Secretary to the War Department, on the conclusion of the postal strike.

"The help given by men of the Pioneer Force in Bombay and by W.A.C. (I)s and other personnel in Calcutta was most useful. I am particularly grateful for the help that Maj.-Gen. E. N. Goddard, Area Commander, Bombay, and his staff gave us."



FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA, EXAMINES A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN DURING AN ATTACK ON A VILLAGE NEAR MEIKTILA (BURMA) AT THE BURMA VICTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION IN LUCKNOW.



MAJOR-GENERAL A. B. BLAXLAND (LEFT) GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, LAHORE AREA, WHO OPENED THE BURMA VICTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION IN LAHORE, SEES PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE EXHIBITION.

NATIONAL WAR ACADEMY

AT a meeting held recently in New Delhi, the Standing Committee of the Inter-University Board considered the question of recognising the Diploma of the National War Academy. The committee decided to circulate the proposed syllabus of studies at the Academy to all its members so that the matter could be fully discussed at the annual meeting of the board on December 2 at Jaipur.

In its four years' post-matriculation course, the Academy proposes to cover a wide field of academic instruction and service training to turn out efficient leaders for all three of India's fighting Services.

Admission to the Academy will be governed by merit alone. The Working Committee of the National War Academy has decided not to reserve any vacancies for sons of personnel of the Armed Forces. The application form submitted by candidates for admission to the Academy, it has been further agreed, need not contain recommendations relating to character and suitability, but will be confined to factual information.

Perhaps the most democratic of all institutions of higher learning, the Academy will thus accept as cadets all qualified youths, regardless of creed, colour, race, family circumstances and wealth.

◆

Bombay Government's Support

The Government of Bombay have promised their wholehearted support to the project of the National War Academy," says Brig. S. P. P. Thorat, D.S.C., who returned to Delhi recently from a tour of Poona and Bombay. In his capacity as head of the Planning Section of the Academy, Brig. Thorat had discussions with Mr. B. G. Kher, the Premier, Mr. L. M. Patil, the Development Minister, and other officials of the Government of Bombay.

Mr. Patil, Mr. W. X. Mascarenhas, Joint Development Secretary, Government of Bombay, and Colonel A. H. Board, Deputy Chief Engineer (East), Bombay, accompanied Brig. Thorat on an inspection of the Kharakvasla Lake area where the Academy is to be located.

◆

Pandit H. N. Kunzru's Appeal

"I trust the project of the National War Academy will receive the wholehearted support of the Indian nation," said Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Member of the Council of State and a member of the Defence Consultative Committee, after he had examined the progress made towards the establishment of the Academy.

Pandit Kunzru visited the National War Academy Secretariat at the special request of Brig. S. P. P. Thorat, D.S.O., who is in charge of planning for the Academy.

Pandit Kunzru showed particular interest in the academic side of the Academy, which will provide a broad-based education for young men of the country and will be an advance on the systems prevalent in most military institutions. Pandit Kunzru hoped that the Academy would come into existence at an early date and thus hasten the nationalisation of the Services.

◆

Crest and Motto

Designs on the crest and ideas for a motto are invited for the National War Academy, which is to be set up at Lake Kharakvasla, near Poona. A prize of Rs. 100 is offered for the best entry.

In the event of the crest and the motto being selected from different entries, two-thirds and one-third of the prize money respectively will be awarded to the successful competitors. The motto should be in English.

Entries should be sent to the National War Academy Secretariat, War Department, Government of India, New Delhi, by September 15, 1946.

Competitors are reminded that the Academy will be a national institution which will turn out officers for all the three fighting Services—the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force. It will be not only a military academy but also an educational institution providing instruction of Degree standard.

◆

C.-in-C.'s Gift

By a personal gift of Rs. 200 from the C.-in-C. in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, the prize money for designing a crest and composing a motto for the National War Academy has now been increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 300.

As already announced, in the event of the crest and the motto being selected from different entries, two-thirds and one-third of the prize money respectively will be awarded to the successful competitors. The motto should be in English.

Entries should be sent to the National War Academy Secretariat, War Department, Government of India, New Delhi, by September 15, 1946.

Numbers of applications for instructional and other appointments at the National War Academy, have been received by the N.W.A. Secretariat. As the Academy is still in the planning stage it is not possible, at present, to consider such applications. Appointments for the N.W.A. will be officially notified in due course.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

TO increase the number of potential officers for the three Armed Services, the Government of India have decided to set up a National Cadet Corps throughout the country. The aims of this Corps will be to develop leadership, character and comradeship among Indian youths and to stimulate an interest in the defence of the country.

Those cadets who undergo training in the Corps but do not join the Navy, the Army or the Air Force would still be available in a national emergency to provide a reserve of leaders.

A committee, the National Cadet Corps Committee, has been set up to study the whole question and make recommendations for the establishment, on a full national basis, of a Cadet Corps organisation, which may comprise both schools and colleges. The Committee will decide whether the training of cadets should be confined to basic training common to all three Services or whether cadets should be encouraged to specialise in one of the Services only.

Co-operation of Provinces

At the first meeting of the Committee held at New Delhi last month, it was decided to contact the Secretaries of the Education Departments of the various Provinces and States in order to ensure their co-operation.

When the required material has been collected a sub-committee will tour the Provinces and some of the bigger Indian States to examine the position on the spot. It is hoped that this will enable the committee to frame such recommendations as will command the widest support.

ARMY TO BE REDUCED TO ONE MILLION BY OCTOBER

Demobilisation of the Indian Army is proceeding according to plan and by October, 1946—demobilisation started in October last year—the greatest volunteer army in the world will have been reduced to one million men, it is officially stated at General Headquarters.

The first phase of the Army's demobilisation plan ends on July 31, this year, "target" demobilisation figure for which date being 850,000. Up to the end of May more than 650,000 men had returned to civilian life and with the figures for June and July still to be announced it is anticipated that the target will be reached.

From October, 1945, to March, 1946, releases averaged over 75,000 a month. In April, more than 87,000 men were demobilised, a figure which increased to 108,000 in May.

The May figure was a record which will probably not be beaten.

NEW LAHORE AREA COMMANDER



Maj.-Gen. J. G. Bruce

EVEREST climber of world fame, Maj.-Gen. J. G. Bruce, C. B., D.S.O., M.C. Deputy Chief of the General Staff, has been appointed Lahore Area Commander in succession to Maj.-Gen. A. B. Blaxland, C.B., O.B.E. who is returning to the U.K. on retirement, on Sep. 3. General Bruce is the mountaineer who with Captain G. I. Finch set up a world record in 1922 by climbing within 1,800 feet of the peak of Everest.

General Bruce fought in World War I and on India's North-West Frontier in 1937-38. At the outbreak of the World War II, he was first employed in the Joint Planning Staff under the Chiefs of Staff in London and subsequently on the staff of the Central Norwegian Expeditionary Force. On his return to India at the end of 1940, he took over command of the 17th Indian Infantry Brigade and in 1941 was appointed Deputy Director of Military Operations at G.H.Q.

In February, 1942, he went to Chungking as head of the British military Mission and at the end of the year was appointed Commander of 105 (Madras) L. of C. area. In 1944 he became Director of Military Operations at G.H.Q. and later, a Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

Military Record

Distinguished as is his military record, his feats in mountaineering are hardly less so. He was a member of the 1922 and 1924 Mount Everest Expeditions. In 1924 he was climbing partner to Mallory in the first attempt of that year to reach the summit of Everest. In the second attempt, it will be recalled, Mallory lost his life.

To his Army distinctions—the C.B. in 1944, the D.S.O. won on the North-West Frontier and M. C. awarded him in the 3rd Afghan War—he adds the MacGregor Memorial Medal and the Gold Medal of the 8th Olympiad, both enviable distinctions in the world of international exploration and sport.

In 1945, Gen. Bruce was personally decorated in Katmandu with the Order of the Star of Nepal by the King of Nepal.

C.-in-C. Thanks Voluntary Civilian Workers

NEW DELHI
31st July 1946.

To

All Voluntary Civilian Workers.

On behalf of the Government of India it gives me great pleasure to thank you for your very valuable war service in the cause of troops welfare. It is a record of unceasing effort, arduous work, a high sense of public duty, and ungrudging personal sacrifice. You may well be proud to feel that your effort has contributed in full measure towards the winning of the war.

Auchinleck

Field Marshal,
Commander-in-Chief in India.

SEARCH FOR MISSING INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL CONTINUES

ONE of the most painstaking searches in modern times is being conducted over the battlefields of World War II. It is a search for more than 18,000 men of the Indian Army who still remain unaccounted for, a year after the end of hostilities.

On V-E Day, 14,460 officers, V.C.O.s and men of the Indian Army—those who were prisoners of war, believed prisoners of war and those who were missing—were still to be accounted for in Western theatres. At the end of hostilities against Japan approximately 79,000 of the Indian Army were still untraced in Eastern theatres. Since then these figures have steadily decreased and now 472 prisoners of war and 392 missing in the West and 5,419 P.O.W., 6,313 believed P.O.W. and 6,035 missing in the East still remain to be accounted for—a total of 864 in the West and 17,767 in the East.

Figures of those who have been accounted for include 705 who died or were killed during captivity in the West and 3,962 who died or were killed during captivity in the East.

In tracing these lost men of the Indian Army a very large part has been played by special search party teams who operate over former battlefields. Working in close collaboration with the War Graves Commission these teams, supplied with lists of missing Indian Army personnel together with their last known location, scour the countryside, questioning the local inhabitants and picking up clues wherever possible.

Search Party Teams

Since V.-J. Day 12 teams have been operating in A.L.F.S.E.A., and in the West the work has been done by Allied Search Party Teams. Each team consists of an officer, an interpreter, a clerk and a driver.

The task of tracing missing Indian Army personnel is made more complicated in the East by the fact that the Japanese Government never supplied the Indian Government with lists of prisoners of war. Despite this and other difficulties over 80 per cent of those who were missing or prisoners of war have been accounted for. In the meantime, the search goes on.

Special Monetary Awards For Servicemen

About 12,600 jangi inams have been sanctioned for distribution among personnel of the three fighting Services who have rendered meritorious service during World War II. In addition, 200 honorary commissions are being granted to deserving Viceroy's Commissioned Officers.

The jangi inams will be worth Rs. 20 per month for Gurkha officers, V.C.Os. and Indian Warrant Officers of the Indian Army, Indian Commissioned-Warrant Officers and other Warrant Officers of the R.I.N. and for Warrant Officers of the R.I.A.F.

Indian and Gurkha soldiers, ratings, airmen and enrolled non-combatants will receive Rs. 10 per month.

The grants will be admissible from April 1, 1946. In the case of personnel who have died, jangi inams will be paid to their heirs.

LAND AWARDS TO SERVICEMEN IN THE PUNJAB

In recognition of their outstanding services during the late war, 112 Indian Army officers and men of the Punjab —all of whom won gallantry awards on the battlefields of Africa, Burma and Italy—have been allotted land in the canal colonies in the Punjab.

Among the recipients is Subedar Prakash Singh V.C., 8th Punjab Regiment, who has received about 50 acres. The heirs of the late Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, V.C., the Jat Regiment, have been given a similar area.

Two D.S.O. holders, 33 M.C. winners, 72 V.C.Os. and men who have the Indian Order of Merit and three holders of the I.D.S.M. have been awarded 25 acres each.

Claims of other Servicemen who distinguished themselves during the war are also being considered for further allotments of land in the canal colonies.

WHY TROOPS ARE BEING SENT FROM INDIA TO BASRA

In order that they may be at hand for the protection, should circumstances demand it, of Indian, British and Arab lives and in order to safeguard Indian and British interests in South Persia, troops are being sent from India to Basra, said a Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I.) on August 2.

There are many hundreds of Indians employed in the oilfields and refineries in South Persia and India depends largely on this source for her vital supplies of petrol.

MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Reports which have appeared in the Press to the effect that the Military Accounts Department contemplate the discharge, in the near future, of about 35,000 clerks are described as completely untrue by the Military Accountant-General, said a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I.), on August 2.

All clerks of the Military Accounts Department are employed either under the Military Accountant-General (M.A.G.) or the Chief Controller, Factory Accounts (C.C.F.A.). The total number employed by these two Departments is below 30,000, of whom about 25,06 are employed directly under the M.A.G.

While there can obviously be no question of wartime staff being maintained for ever at a wartime level, every effort is being made to see that retrenchment, when it starts, will be gradual.

On the M.A.G.'s establishment no clerk's services, up to date, have been terminatd as a result of retrenchment.

'WAR SERVICE'

The Military Accountant-General announced on August 13 that the Government of India have decided that service in the Military Accounts Department will be regarded as 'war service.' This meets what was recently described by the Secretary of the Military Accounts Union Eastern Command in reports appearing in the Press, as the main demand of the temporary employees of the Department.

This decision has already been communicated by the Military Accountant-General to the Secretary of the Federation of the Military Accounts Unions, Lucknow.

RADIO PROGRAMMES FOR INDIAN TROOPS IN FAR EAST

Indian troops stationed in the Far East are now enjoying a 45-minute daily programme broadcast from All India Radio, Delhi, on two 100 kilowatt transmitters beamed to Japan and South-East Asia.

The programme is radiated on 19.74 metres (15.19 megacycles per second) and on 19.79 metres (15.16 megacycles per second) at 14.15-15.00 hours I.S.T. and consists of entertainment items, general and service news and dialogues on matters of special interest to Indian Servicemen.

Although primarily intended for direct listening, the programme will also provide suitable supplementary relaying material for local radio stations outside India Command where Indian servicemen are stationed, and where relaying facilities exist. Such stations include Batavia and Hong-Kong in the East and Basrah and Jerusalem in the West.

Lien on Passages for Services Personnel

Regulations governing lien on passage accounts for Defence Services personnel are contained in an Army Instruction (India) published recently.

Under the Rules relating to leave passage concessions for Defence Services personnel, 1942, individuals with passage accounts can, on retirement, hold a lien for six months only. As a war measure such individuals were permitted under Army Instruction (India) No. 192 of 1944 to operate on their passage accounts within such period of the cessation of hostilities as the Secretary of State for India by general or special order direct.

Allotment of Passages

In view of the end of hostilities it has been decided by the Secretary of State that extended liens held by persons governed by para 1 sub-section (ii) of the above Instruction will expire on September 1, 1946. Similarly, liens held by children referred to in para 3 of the Instruction will also expire on that date.

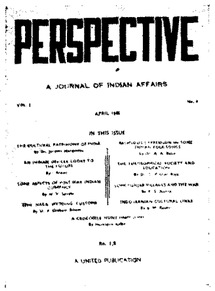
All concerned are therefore warned to apply for passages through normal channels to the Quartermaster-General in India (Q-Mov. 6-A) before September 1. Allotment of passages will, however, depend on the shipping situation but the month in which passage is desired should be clearly indicated. If the offer of a passage in advance of the month desired is unreasonably refused, the right to a passage will lapse.

MR. COMPTON MACKENZIE FOR INDIA

Mr. Compton Mackenzie, the distinguished novelist, whose "Gallipoli Memories" and other historical writings had a great success after World War I, has been engaged to write a popular history of India's military effort and achievements in World War II. Mr. Compton Mackenzie will arrive in India in October to begin his task.

The full history which the Historical Section, set up a year ago by the War Department of the Government of India, has in hand will necessarily take some years to complete but it is felt that an abridged history by a popular writer is required to be produced contemporaneously with similar accounts which are being prepared by all the Allied nations.

Publication of Mr. Compton Mackenzie's book has already been arranged in England and India and it is expected that it will also have a wide sale in America where the prowess of Indian troops is recognised, particularly by Americans who fought alongside them in Italy and elsewhere.



"PERSPECTIVE"

A JOURNAL OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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SELECTION FROM APRIL ISSUE

The Cultural Patrimony of India
By Dr. Jacques Marquette

An Indian Officer Looks to the Future
By "Anand"

Some Aspects of Post-War Indian Currency
By N. V. Sovani

Zemi Naga Wedding Customs
By U. V. Graham Bower

Religious Expression in some Indian Folk-Songs
By Dr. A. A. Bake

The Theosophical Society and Education
By Dr. C. Kunhan Raja

Some Punjab Villages and the War
By R. S. Nakra

Indo-Iranian Cultural Links
By S. M. Razavi

A Crocodile Hunt (short story)
By Humayun Kabir



MEN OF THE 16TH RAJPUTANA RIFLES WERE ON THEIR LAST PARADE AT THE DELHI CANTONMENT RECENTLY WHEN LIEUT.-GEN. C. M. P. DURNFORD, QUARTERMASTER GENERAL IN INDIA, INSPECTED THEM AND TOOK THE SALUTE AT A MARCH PAST. AFTER FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE THIS BATTALION IS NOW BEING DISBANDED.



LIEUT.-GEN. DURNFORD TALKING TO SEPOY PURAN SINGH.

A RAJRIF BATTALION'S LAST PARADE

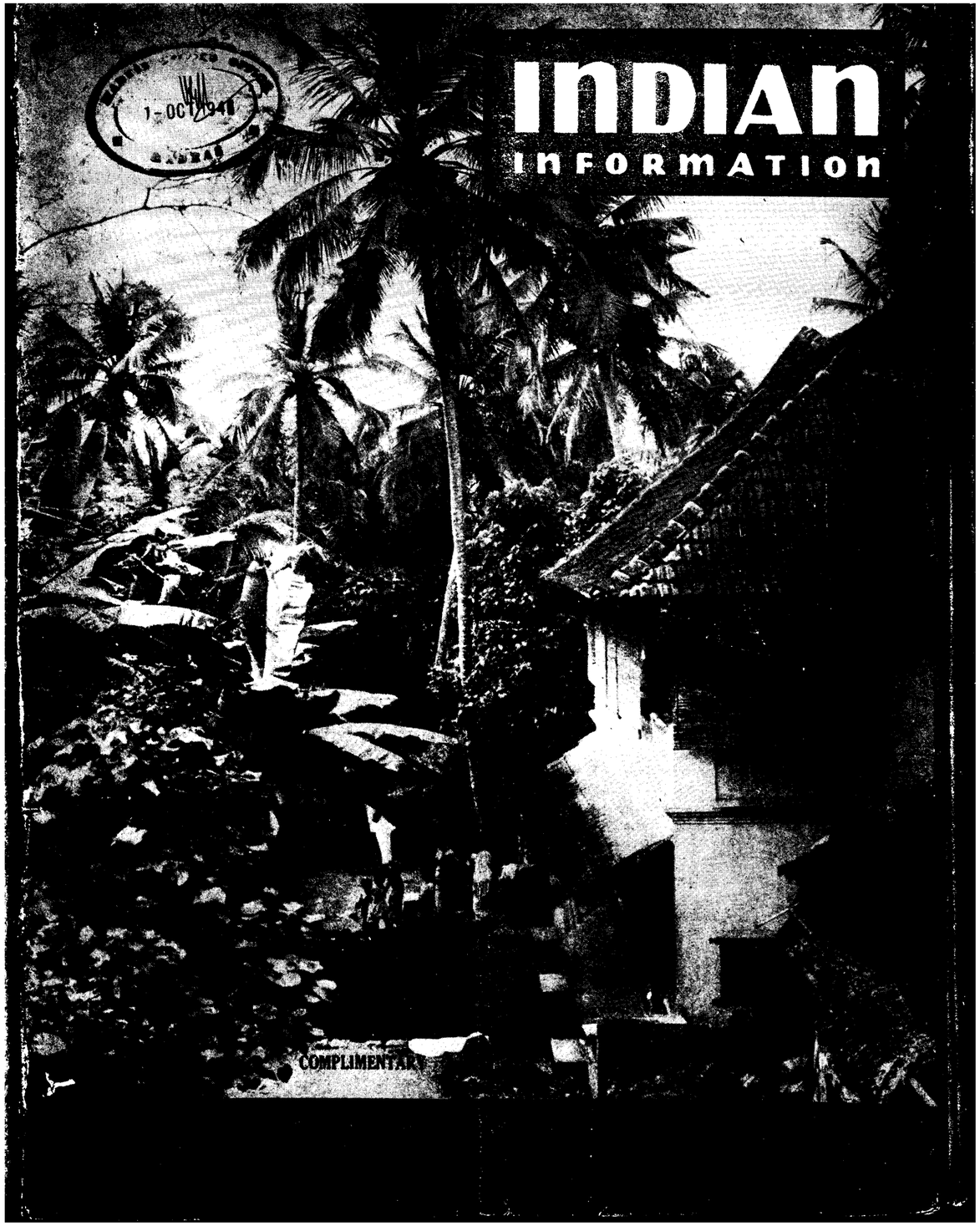
MEN of the 16th Rajputana Rifles were on parade for the last time when Lt.-Gen. C.M.P. Durnford, Quartermaster General in India, inspected them and took the salute at a march past. After four years' service this battalion is now being disbanded at Delhi Cantonment.

Addressing the men who had recently returned from Malaya, Gen. Durnford, who is himself an old "Rajrif" soldier, said: "I welcome this battalion of the Rajputana Rifles back to India. The courage and discipline of officers and men has contributed to our glorious victory and has brought the battalion back with honour to its own country.

"The defeat of our enemies means that such a large army is no longer required and we must say goodbye to many old friends. This great Battalion also, with many others, is to be disbanded. But its spirit will go on living in the Regiment from which it was born."

Raised in July 1942, the Battalion was assigned the task of guarding our lines of communication between Calcutta and Arakan. Later it joined the 25th (Ace of Spades) Indian Division as its reconnaissance battalion. The 16th was actually on its way to Malaya as the spearhead of 34th Corps when the Japanese surrendered.

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THE FIRST OFFICIAL GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE PEACE CONFERENCE IN PARIS. SEATED (L. TO R.) ARE SIR N. RAGHAVAN PILLAI, SIR JOSEPH BHORE, SIR SAMUEL RUNGANADHAN (LEADER OF THE DELEGATION), MALIK SIR KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA AND SIR NAVROJI WADIA.

Vol 19, No. 192. INDIAN INFORMATION Sept. 15, 1946

AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

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

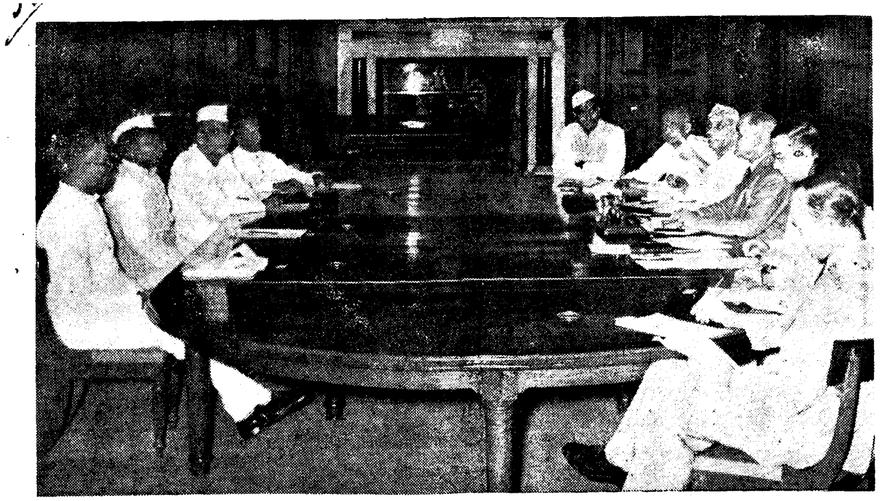
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Edited by A.S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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Cover Picture: A Kottayam Scene (Travancore).



A BRIEF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WAS HELD AFTER THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AT THE VICEROY'S HOUSE, NEW DELHI, ON SEPTEMBER 2. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MR. SYED ALI ZAHEER, MR. JAGJIVAN RAM, MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE, MR. ASAF ALI, DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD, SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, AND H.E. LORD WAVELL. ON THE EXTREME RIGHT IS MR. C.E.B. ABELL, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO H.E. THE VICEROY.

INTERIM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS SWORN IN

AT 11 A.M. on September 2, seven Members of the new Interim Government were sworn in by H. E. the Viceroy at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. They were Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Mr. Asaf Ali, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, and Syed Ali Zaheer. They took the oath of allegiance, the oath of office and the oath of secrecy, after which there was a brief meeting of the Members of the new Interim Government.

The five Members-designate absent were Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Dr. John Matthai, Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Sardar Baldev Singh and Mr. C. H. Bhabha.



MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI.

The historic ceremony took place in the rectangular-shaped Council Chamber on the first floor of the Viceroy's House. In the centre of the room is an oval table, around which the Executive Council meets. At the further end of the room, which is air-conditioned, is a marble fire-place surmounted by murals of maps of India.

The walls bear five large murals. Along the entire length of one wall is a map, now out-dated but highly decorative, illustrating the air route from the U.K. to India. In a panel is an illuminated scroll bearing the somewhat native inscription.

Visit to Secretariat

"Three-engined land machine operate over the land parts of the route. On the Section between Alexandria and Salonika, three-engined flying boats are used. Between Cairo and Alexandria and also in the winter months between Salonika and Skoolje (Uskub), the service is by railway."

A still more ancient map cheerfully records, over a mountainous area, "demons and devil dancers here."

Curtained book-cases line the walls of the Chamber. But this is the hall of decision, not of meditation; so the shelves are empty.

Later, the Members of the new Interim Government, motored to the Main Secretariat building where the Secretaries of the various departments were introduced to them.

A Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on September 2 notified:

His Majesty the King-Emperor of India has been graciously pleased to appoint—

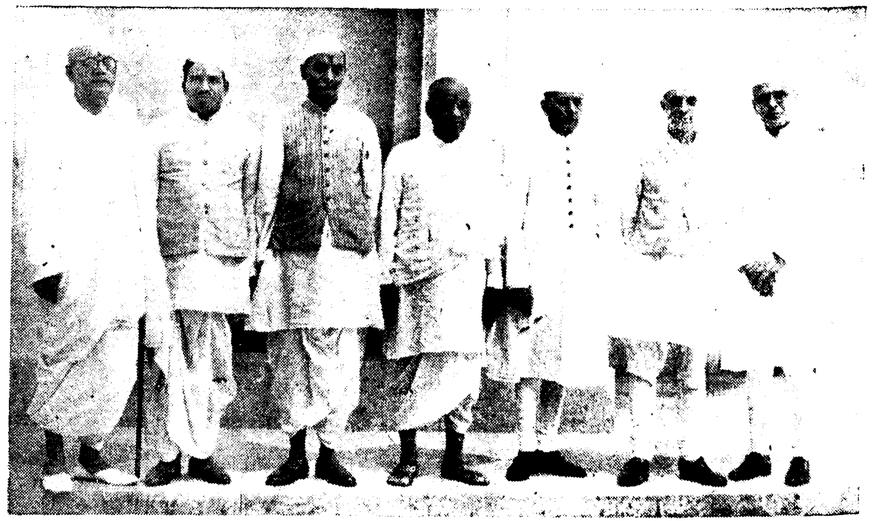
(1) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,

(2) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,

(3) Shri Rajendra Prasad,



SARDAR BALDEV SINGH.



MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PHOTOGRAPHED OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL ROOM IN THE VICEROY'S HOUSE BEFORE THE OATH-TAKING CEREMONY PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE, MR JAGJIVAN RAM, DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD, SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL; MR. ASAF ALI, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND MR. SYED ALI ZAHEER.

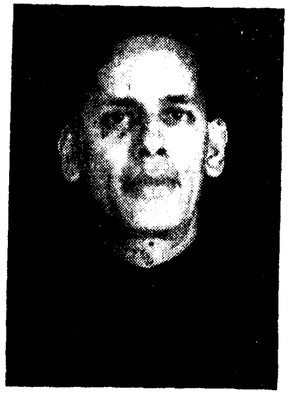
(4) Mr. Asaf Ali,

(5) Shri Sarat Chandra Bose,

(6) Shri Jagjivan Ram,

(7) Syed Ali Zaheer,

to be Members of the Council of the Governor-General of India. The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Hon'ble Shri Rajendra Prasad, the Hon'ble Mr. Asaf Ali, the Hon'ble Shri Sarat Chandra Bose, the Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram, and the Hon'ble Syed Ali Zaheer, have on the forenoon of this day taken upon themselves the execution of their office.



SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN.

DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS

A Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House on September 1 stated:

The portfolios of the new Interim Government have been distributed by H.E. the Governor-General as follows:

External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Defence: Sardar Baldev Singh.

Home including Information and Broadcasting: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Finance: Dr. John Matthai.

Communications (War Transport and Railways): Mr. M. Asaf Ali.

Agriculture and Food: Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Labour: Mr. Jagjivan Ram.

Health, Education and Arts: Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan.

Legislative and Posts and Air: Syed Ali Zaheer.

Industries and Supplies: Mr. C. Rajagopalachari.

Works, Mines and Power: Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.

Commerce: Mr. C. H. Bhabha.

The members will be sworn in and the Government will take office to-morrow morning, September 2, 1946.

A notification by His Excellency the Governor-General dated September 2 stated:—

"In pursuance of the provisions of section 38 of the Government of India Act, as set forth in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act 1935, I, Archibald Percival, Viscount Wavell, hereby appoint the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, being a Member of my Interim Government to be Vice-President thereof."



DR. JOHN MATTHAI.

DEPUTY C.-IN-C.'S MESSAGE TO NEW WAR MEMBER

Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Deputy Commander-in-Chief in India, in a personal message to the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh says:

"On your appointment as War Member I send you this message of congratulations and welcome on behalf of the Armed Forces in India."

A notification issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on September 2 stated:

His Excellency Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, G.C.B., G.C.I.E., C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E., A.D.C., the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.; the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Waugh, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., the Hon'ble Sir George Spence, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., the Hon'ble Sir Eric Conran-Smith, K.C.I.E., C. S. I., I. C. S., the Hon'ble Sir Gurunath Bewoor, K.C.I.E., I.C.S., the Hon'ble Robert Hutchings, K.C.I.E., C.M.G., I.C.S., and the Hon'ble Sir Eric Coates, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., have on the forenoon of this day vacated their office as Members of the Council of the Governor-General of India.

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At the third session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which is expected to open in New York on September 11, 1946, India will be represented by Sir Girja Shanker Bajpai, Agent General for India in the United States of America, since Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, President of the Council, will unfortunately not be able to attend the session, said a Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on August 31.

Mr. S.K. Kirpalani, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in New York, has been nominated Alternate Representative and Senior Adviser, and Professor B. P. Adarkar Second Adviser.

Mr. S. Sen, Officer-in-charge of the Indian Liaison Office at U.N.O. headquarters, will act as Secretary to the delegation.

"STEPPING STONE TO FULL INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA"



PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, BROADCASTING TO THE NATION FROM A.I.R., DELHI, ON SEPTEMBER 7.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Broadcast

"INDIA is on the move and the old order passes. Too long have we been passive spectators of events, the playthings of others. The initiative comes to our people now and we shall make the history of our choice. Let us all join in this mighty task and make of India, the pride of our heart, great among nations, foremost in the arts of peace and progress," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, broadcasting to the nation from the Delhi station of A.I.R., on September 7.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said:

Friends and comrades—Jai Hind. Six days ago my colleagues and I sat on the chairs of high office in the Government of India. A new Government came into being in this ancient land, the interim or provisional Government we called it, the stepping stone to the full independence of India.

Many thousands of messages of greeting and good wishes came to us from all parts of the world and from every nook and corner of India. And yet we asked for no celebration of this historic event and even restrained our people's enthusiasm.

For we wanted them to realise that we were yet on the march and the goal had still to be reached. There were many difficulties and obstacles on the way and our journey's end might not be so near as people thought. Any weakness now, any complacency would be fatal to our cause.

Our hearts were heavy also with the terrible tragedy of Calcutta and because of the insensate strife of brother against brother. The freedom we had envisaged and for which we had laboured through generations of trial and suffering, was for all the people of India, and not for one group or class or the followers of one religion. We aimed at a co-operative commonwealth in which all would be equal sharer in opportunity and in all things that give meaning and value to life. Why then this strife, this fear and suspicion of each other?

A Cheering Message

I speak to you to-day, not much of high policy or our programme for the future—that will have to wait a while—but to thank you for the love and affection which you have sent us in such abundant measure. That affection and spirit of co-operation are always welcome, but they will be needed more than ever in the difficult days ahead of us.

A friend sent me the following message: 'May you weather every storm, first pilot of the Ship of State. Bon Voyage'. A cheering message but there are many storms ahead and our Ship of State is old and battered and slow-moving and unsuited to this age of swift change. It will have to be scrapped and give place to another.

But, however old the ship and however feeble the pilot, when there are so many millions of willing hearts and hands to help, we can brave the high seas and face the future with confidence.

That future is already taking shape and India, this old and dear land of ours, is finding herself again going through travail and suffering. She is youthful again with the bright eyes of adventure, and with faith in herself and her mission. For long years she had been narrowly confined and had lost herself in brooding. But now she looks out on the wide world and holds out her hands in friendship to the other peoples of the world, even though that world may still be full of conflict and thoughts of war.

Constituent Assembly

The interim National Government is part of a larger scheme, which includes the Constituent Assembly, which will meet soon to give shape to the constitution of free and independent India. It is because of this expectation of an early realisation of full independence that we have entered this Government, and we propose to function so as progressively to achieve that independence in action, both in our domestic affairs and our foreign relations.

We shall take full part in international conferences as a free nation with our own policy and not merely as a satellite of another nation. We hope to develop close and direct contacts with other nations and to co-operate with them in the furtherance of world peace and freedom.

We propose, as far as possible, to keep away from the power politics of groups, aligned against one another, which have led in the past to world wars and which may again lead to disasters on an even vaster scale. We believe that peace and freedom are indivisible and the denial of freedom anywhere must endanger freedom elsewhere and lead to conflict and war.

Equal Opportunities

We are particularly interested in the emancipation of colonial and dependent countries and peoples, and in the recognition in theory and practice of equal opportunities for all races. We repudiate utterly the Nazi doctrine of racialism, wheresoever and in whatever form it may be practised. We seek no dominion over others and we claim no privileged position over other peoples. But we do claim equal and honourable treatment for our people wherever they may go, and we cannot accept any discrimination against them.

The world, in spite of its rivalries and hatreds and inner conflicts, moves inevitably towards closer co-operation and the building up of a world commonwealth. It is for this one world that free India will work, a world in which there is the free co-operation of free peoples and no class or group exploits another.

In spite of our past history of conflict, we hope that an independent India will have friendly and co-operative relations with England and the countries of the British Commonwealth. But, it is well to remember what is happening in one part of the Commonwealth to-day. In South Africa racialism is the State doctrine and our people are putting up a heroic struggle against the tyranny of a racial minority. If this racial doctrine is going to be tolerated, it must inevitably lead to vast conflicts and world disaster.

We send our greetings to the people of the United States of America to whom destiny has given a major role in international affairs. We trust that this tremendous responsibility will be utilised for the furtherance of peace and human freedom everywhere. To that other great nation of the modern world, the Soviet Union, which also carries a vast responsibility for shaping world events, we send greetings. They are our neighbours in Asia and inevitably we shall have to undertake many common tasks and have much to do with each other.

A Close Union

We are of Asia and the peoples of Asia are nearer and closer to us than others. India is so situated that she is the pivot of Western, Southern and South-East Asia. In the past her culture flowed to all these countries and they came to her in many ways. Those contacts are being renewed and the future is bound to see a closer union between India and South-East Asia on the one side, and Afghanistan, Iran, and the Arab world on the West. To the furtherance of that close association of free countries we must devote ourselves. India has followed with anxious interest the struggle of the Indonesians for freedom and to them we send our good wishes.

China, that mighty country, with a mighty past, our neighbour, has been our friend through the ages and that friendship will endure and grow. We earnestly hope that her present troubles will end soon and a united and democratic China will emerge, playing a great part in the furtherance of world peace and progress.

Domestic Policy

I have not said anything about our domestic policy, nor at this stage do I wish to do so. But that policy will inevitably have to be governed by the principles by which we have stood all these years. We shall look to the common and forgotten man in India and seek to bring him relief and raise his standards of living. We shall continue our fight against the curse of untouchability and other forms of enforced inequality, and shall specially try to help those who are economically or otherwise backward. To-day millions lack food and clothing and houses, and many are on the verge of starvation. To meet this immediate need is an urgent and difficult task and, we hope, other countries will help us by sending foodgrains.

An equally urgent and vital task for us is to conquer the spirit of discord that is abroad in India. Out of mutual conflict we shall never build the house of India's freedom of which we have dreamt so long. All of us in this land have to live and work together, whatever political developments might take place. Hatred and violence will not alter this basic fact, nor will they stop the changes that are taking place in India.

Groupings

There has been much heated argument about sections and groupings in the Constituent Assembly. We are perfectly prepared to, and have accepted the position of sitting in sections, which will consider the question of formation of groups. I should like to make it clear, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, that we do not look upon the Constituent Assembly as an arena for conflict or for the forcible imposition of one viewpoint over another. That would not be the way to build up a contented and united India.

We seek agreed and integrated solutions with the largest measure of goodwill behind them. We shall go to the Constituent Assembly with the fixed determination of finding a common basis for agreement on all controversial issues.

And so, in spite of all that has happened and the hard words that have been said, we have kept the path of co-operation open and we invite even those who differ from us to enter the Constituent Assembly as equals and partners with us, with no binding commitments. It may well be that when we meet and face common tasks our present difficulties will fade away.

Mighty Task

India is on the move and the old order passes. Too long have we been passive spectators of events, the playthings of others. The initiative comes to our people now and we shall make the history of our choice. Let us all join in this mighty task and make of India, the pride of our heart, great among nations, foremost in the arts of peace and progress. The door is open and destiny beckons to all. There is no question of who wins and who loses, for we have to go forward—and together as comrades—and either all of us win or we all go down together.

But there is going to be no failure. We go forward to success, to independence and to the freedom and well-being of the 400 millions of India. 'Jai Hind.'



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Pandit Nehru Addresses Pressmen

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, and his six colleagues who were sworn in as Members of the new Government on September 2, met Press Representatives informally the same afternoon at the Council House in New Delhi. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the Pressmen for over half an hour on the tasks before the new Government.

(Above) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the Pressmen.

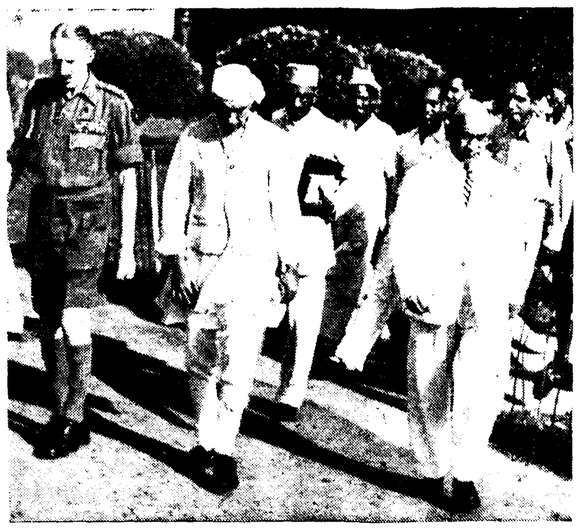
(Right) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (left) and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Member in charge of Home, and Information Departments, coming out of the Council House after the Conference.



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PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU (RIGHT) IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING DEFENCE MEMBER PAID A VISIT TO GENERAL HEAD QUARTERS ON SEPTEMBER 2, ACCOMPANIED BY LT.-GEN. SIR ARTHUR SMITH, DEPUTY C.-IN-C. (BELOW) PANDIT NEHRU (CENTRE) PHOTOGRAPHED OUTSIDE G.H.Q. WITH THE DEPUTY C.-IN-C. (LEFT) AND MR. G.S. BHALJA, ACTING DEFENCE SECRETARY.



PANDIT NEHRU VISITS G.H.Q.

PANDIT Jawaharlal Nehru, in his capacity as Acting Defence Member, paid on official visit to General Headquarters on September 2.

He was conducted by Mr. G.S. Bhalja, Acting Secretary, Defence Department, Government of India, to the Commander-in-Chief's Office, outside which he was introduced to Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Deputy Commander-in-Chief in India.

Pandit Nehru also met members of the C.-in-C.'s Committee, including Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, Flag Officer Commanding R. I. N.; Lt.-Gen. Sir Keneth Lock, Acting Principal Administrative Officer; Mr. Mohammed Ali, Financial Adviser, War and Supplies, and Air Vice-Marshal E. G. Kingston-McCloughry, Acting Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India.

Entertained to Tea

Pandit Nehru discussed with the Deputy C.-in-C. and members of the C.-in-C.'s Committee matters relating to procedure and the conduct of business in the new Defence Department. Then, accompanied by Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith and members of the C.-in-C.'s Committee, he inspected the War Room and the Joint Operations Room.

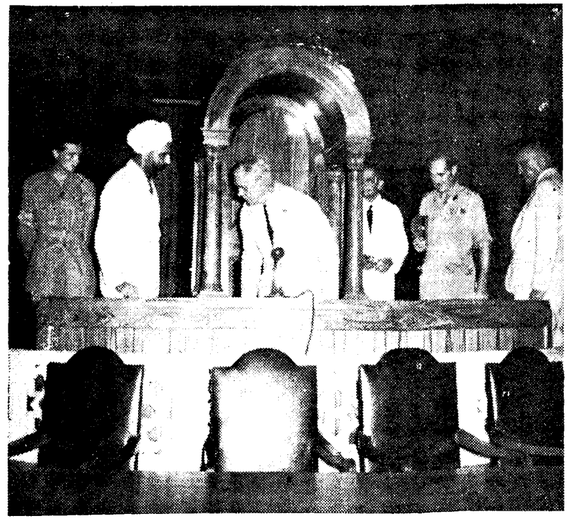
He was later entertained to tea in the Defence Member's Room, which will shortly be occupied by the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh.

IDENTITY CERTIFICATES FOR BURMA EVACUEES

As representations have been received that there are still a few evacuees desirous of proceeding to Burma who have not yet taken out Identity Certificates, the Government of India have decided to issue Identity Certificates up to October 31, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on August 20.

As no certificates will be issued after that date evacuees who have not already taken out Identity Certificates are advised to apply forthwith to their respective Provincial Governments. Taking out an Identity Certificate does not make it compulsory for the holder thereof to proceed to Burma now or at any time.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri, Bar-at-Law, Lahore, and Khan Bahadur Khwaja Dil Mohammad, M. A., have been appointed as members of the Advisory Committee for the Lahore Station of All India Radio *vice* Syed Imtiaz Ali Taj and Mr. Bhagat Ram Puri, Bar-at-Law, Lahore, respectively, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Information and Arts, Government of India, on August 22.



H.E. THE VICEROY VISITED THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CHAMBER RECENTLY TO INSPECT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY. PICTURE SHOWS LORD WAVELL IN THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR WITH THE MICROPHONE IN FRONT OF HIM.

VICEROY VISITS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

HIS Excellency the Viceroy paid a brief visit to the Constituent Assembly Chamber on August 28. Arrangements have reached the final stage of completion. The rostrum with the President's Chair, from where His Excellency surveyed the stately Hall, faces rows upon rows of green upholstered seats for the 389 Members of the Assembly.

All furnishings are of teak from the Central Provinces and Lord Wavell remarked on the beautiful quality of teak from India. He inspected the lobbies, the distinguished visitors and Press galleries above. The walls have been treated specially for perfect accoustics. His Excellency also inspected the microphone arrangements made not only inside the Chamber but also in the galleries.

Viceroy's Congratulations

The Viceroy was received by Mr. B. K. Gokhale, Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department, Government of India, who introduced the Chief Engineer, Khan Bahadur Mohd. Sulaiman; Mr. B. F. H. B. Tyabjee, Deputy Secretary, Constituent Assembly Secretariat; the Consulting Architect, Mr. Medd, Superintending Engineers, Messrs Barman and Gateley and Sardar Mohan Singh.

Lord Wavell was obviously impressed by the arrangements made at such a short notice, and expressed his congratulations. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Abell, P. S. V., Sir B.N Rau, Constitution Adviser, Rao Bahadur V.P. Menon, Reforms Commissioner and Col. D. H. Currie, Military Secretary.

PREPARATIONS FOR SESSION

General arrangements for the Constituent Assembly session are being speeded up so as to be completed before the end of the week (August 31) if possible. The Secretariat of the Constitutional Adviser as well as the engineers, contractors and workmen attending to the structural side of the Assembly Chamber and to the residential accommodation of the Constituent Assembly members have been working overtime to complete these preparations within the scheduled time.

The Library Hall of the Central Legislature is being renovated and reconditioned for the meeting of the Constituent Assembly. Besides providing suitable and comfortable seating accommodation for the entire membership of the Assembly, namely 389 (including those from Indian States) accommodation is also being arranged for the Secretariat staff, official reporters, the Press and the public.

The members will be accommodated in 13 arc-shaped rows of varying length on a graduated wooden elevation in the circular hall. They will face the Chairman, who will be seated on an enclosed dais with a few office-bearers below him on either side. Two microphones are being installed, one for the Chairman and the other in the rostrum nearby which every speaker



LORD WAVELL TALKING TO MR. B.F.H.B. TYABJEE, DEPUTY SECRETARY, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT. BEHIND THE VICEROY IS MR. B.K. GOKHALE, SECRETARY, WORKS, MINES AND POWER DEPARTMENT. FACING HIS EXCELLENCY ON THE RIGHT IS SIR B.N. RAU, CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISER.

will have to mount to address the House.

Passages between the rows of upholstered benches should allow of easy movement, even assuming that the maximum number is present at a time.

The Hall is being air-conditioned. In addition, 40 pedestal fans will be installed in various parts of the hall. There will also be heating arrangements for the winter. To improve the acoustics the walls and ceiling have been specially sprayed with asbestos. A feature of the lighting arrangements is an enormous candelabrum, suspended from the centre of the 80-foot-high centre dome.

A special library will be provided for the convenience of the members in a room or rooms adjoining the Assembly Hall.

"Constitution House"

Circular letters have been issued to members enquiring about their housing requirements. In the meanwhile, the former American Officers' hostel, re-named "Constitution House", on Curzon Road has been taken over by Government for the accommodation of over 200 members; the rest will be housed in other Government hostels or hotels. Arrangements include the provision of a few double-suites for families. Both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food is to be provided.

Each member of the Constituent Assembly will have a telephone connection in his or her suite.

Subject to confirmation or final decision by the Assembly itself, the emoluments and allowances for members will be the same as those of the members of the Central Legislature.

Staff and Office

A limited staff has been recruited from the various Departments of the Government on a temporary basis to expedite the heavy preparatory work that is to be completed within a limited time.

It is proposed to recruit a number of stenographers conversant with English, Hindi or Urdu to report the proceedings of the Assembly or the Sections from day to day, or, as the occasion arises, for the purpose of official records.

The Office of the Constitutional Adviser (the present embryonic skeleton Secretariat of the Assembly) is now housed in a few rooms of the Central Legislature in the Council House. But there is not sufficient accommodation in this building for the Secretariats of the Central Assembly, the Council of State, the Chamber of Princes and the Constituent Assembly. Serious difficulties would arise in the event of all the four legislative bodies meeting at the same time. It is, therefore, proposed to find alternative accommodation elsewhere (within easy reach) for the

(Continued on Page 168)



H.E. THE VICEROY (RIGHT) ACCOMPANIED BY THE BENGAL GOVERNOR AND HIGH MILITARY AND CIVIL OFFICERS, MADE AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF CALCUTTA'S RIOT-STRICKEN AREAS ON AUGUST 25. HERE, LORD WAVELL AND THE BENGAL GOVERNOR ARE GOING THROUGH TERETTA BAZAAR, A HINDU LOCALITY, WHICH SUFFERED IN THE RIOTS.

VICEROY VISITS RIOT-SCARRED CALCUTTA

AT H. E. the Viceroy's instance immediate arrangements have been made by the Government of India to provide for Calcutta's relief with large numbers of blankets, *dhotis, saris* and *lungis* outside the ordinary Provincial quota. The Viceroy has also directed the Food Department to obtain milk powder.

Men, women and children of all classes and communities, thronging balconies and every vantage point, saw Field Marshal Lord Wavell, accompanied by the Bengal Governor, spent two hours in Calcutta's riot-areas on August 25.

The small Viceregal party, which brought its own rations, had the smoothest flight from Delhi, a virtual glide over a canopy of clouds extending from Benares to Bengal's great metropolis. During the five-hour journey Lord Wavell eagerly scrutinised newspapers laid on his desk in the Viceregal plane.

Arson, Loot and Murder

At Dum Dum the Bengal Governor, accompanied by his Secretary, Mr. J. D. Tyson, and the Military Secretary, Lt.-Col. J. M. Hugo, and Lt.-Gen. Bucher, G. O. C.-in-C., Eastern Command, and Brigadier Sixsmith, Officiating Commander, Bengal and Assam Area, greeted Lord Wavell, the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Mr. George Abell, and the Military Secretary, Col. Douglas Currie. The Viceroy chatted briefly with Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, who was also present.

From the aerodrome the Viceregal party, followed by a large party of foreign and Indian journalists, motored through Upper Circular Road, Harrison Road, Zakaria Street, Bow Bazaar, Syed Ameer Ali Avenue, Ballygunge, Kalighat and other areas, where smashed and charred doors and windows and the debris-strewn interiors bore silent testimony to arson, loot and murder.

The Viceroy halted at several spots, where he closely questioned the Police Commissioner, Army officers and British and Indian Other Ranks. Lord Wavell traversed the Burra Bazaar end of Clive Street and entered Harrison Road. He also walked through Mullick Market and Teretta Bazaar, whose burnt-out roofs and stalls were grim reminders of hours of horror almost belied now by bustling pedestrians of all communities.

In some areas fruit and vegetable vendors have reoccupied the pavements. So brisk is business that in one spot near the Nakoda Mosque the vendors' baskets are spread almost to the centre of the road.

Disposal squads aided by troops cleared roads and streets of corpses, while the Civil Pioneer Force and citizen voluntary parties removed debris charred furniture and garbage.

Strangely enough, while worse affected area had virtually returned to normal, Chowringhee Road which was least affected wore seemingly deserted aspect. This could probably be explained by the fact that most of the cinemas had not reopened, while others had restricted the number of shows.

Trams, taxis and even the humble gharry and rickshaw had reappeared, but the familiar Calcutta sight of passengers clinging to trams and busses was still a memory of the past.

In the evening Lord Wavell interviewed the Bengal Governor, the Chief Minister, Bengal, soldiers, officials and police personnel.

Visit to Relief Centres

Wounded persons, convalescing at improvised hospitals, destitute men, women and children rescued from riot-affected areas and refugees sheltered in temporary camps, were seen by the Viceroy when he visited two relief centres on August 26. His Excellency was accompanied by the Governor of Bengal; Sir Walter Gurner, Relief Commissioner, and other high officials of the Bengal Government.

At the Lady Brabourne College, where a relief centre for Muslims is being run by the local Muslim League, the party was received by Mrs. Hakum, M.L.A., and other prominent Muslim Members of the Bengal Assembly. Nearly 4,000 men, women and children are receiving relief at this centre. A temporary hospital has been opened for the treatment of persons with minor injuries and also to administer first-aid to serious cases before their removal to permanent hospitals.

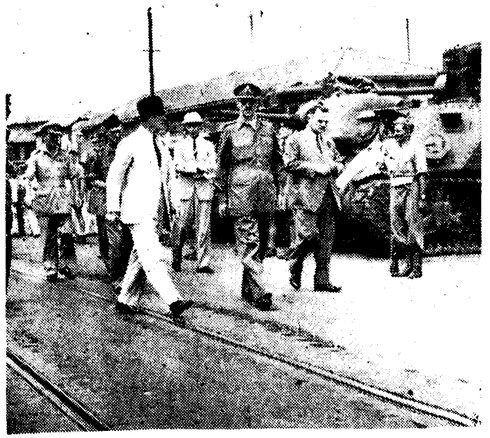
Lord Wavell went round the beds, talked to the injured and inspected arrangements made for relief. On the first floor of the Lady Brabourne College, the Viceroy saw a large number of women and children evacuated from



LORD WAVELL AND THE BENGAL GOVERNOR GOING ROUND MULLICK MARKET (A MUSLIM LOCALITY) SCENE OF RECENT RIOTING.



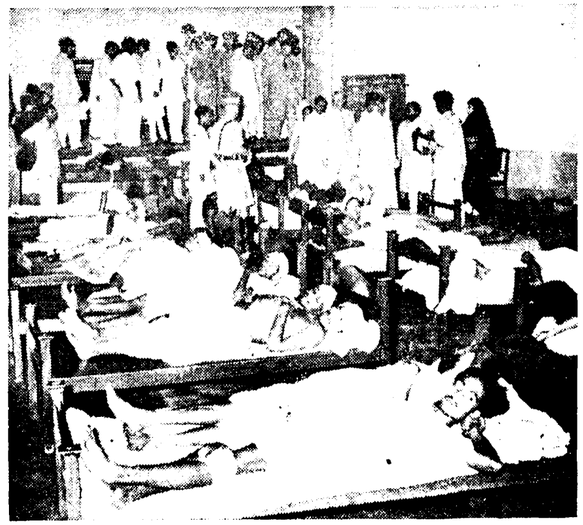
THE VICEROY IN AN AFFECTED LOCALITY IN THE HEART OF NORTH CALCUTTA.



LORD WAVELL INSPECTS TROOPS WHO HAVE BEEN WARMLY PRAISED FOR RELIEF WORK DURING THE CALCUTTA RIOTS.



A WOMAN VOLUNTEER DRESSING AN INJURED MAN IN THE ASUTOSH COLLEGE, WHICH HOUSED NEARLY 6,000 HINDU REFUGEES.



THE VICEROY AT THE MUSLIM LEAGUE RELIEF CENTRE IN THE LADY BRABOURNE COLLEGE.

"Magnificent"

A message sent by Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Deputy Commander-in-Chief in India, to Lt.-Gen. F.R.R. Bucher, Officiating G.O.-C.-in-C., Eastern Command reads:

"I have heard on all sides gratitude for the work carried out by British, Indian and Gurkha troops in Calcutta during the recent riots. Their bearing and discipline in most trying circumstances has been magnificent and worthy of the highest traditions of the Army.

"Please convey my thanks to all Officers and men and emphasise that this is no mere formal recognition but is an expression of genuine appreciation for duty well done of which all may be proud."

dangerous areas. They are being fed, clothed and properly looked after until their repatriation to their former places of residence. Free passes on Railways have also been provided for nearly 3,000 persons who left for their native places outside Calcutta from this centre.

In Southern Calcutta, the Asutosh College, which has housed nearly 6,000 Hindu refugees, was the next place visited.

Large class rooms of the College have been turned into separate wards for men and women evacuees from Park Circus, Raja Bazar and Manicktolla areas, The Viceroy party was taken round different wards by Mr. Rama Prasad Mukerjee, Dr. Subodh and other organisers of this relief centre.

Medicine and foodstuff rice, *dal*, salt, sugar, flour as well as fuel are being provided at these centres by the Government of Bengal which has opened an emergency relief office. Private charities in the form of free supply of tea, bread, cloth, milk, etc., have also been forthcoming. The Friends Ambulance Corps and the Indian Red Cross have supplied powdered milk for feeding children.

The Party returned to Government House at 9.30 a.m. after the tour which lasted nearly an hour.

After these visits, His Excellency granted interviews to Mr. Kiran Shankar Roy, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Messrs. D. Gladding, C. W. Miles, A. Stark, M.A.H. Ispahani, S.M. Osman, V. *Hamidul* Haq Chaudhury and Hashem, Khwaja Nazimuddin, Sir Adamjee Hajee Dawood and Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.

His Excellency accompanied by his Private Secretary and Personal Staff left Calcutta by air in the afternoon on August 26, arriving in Delhi in the evening.

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The booking of all classes of telegrams to Calcutta, except telegrams at ordinary private and Press rates, has been resumed with effect from August 28, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on August 28.

Indian Medical Mission's Work in Malaya

THE Government of India's Medical Mission reached Malaya on March 17, 1946, and started work with its headquarters at Kuala Lumpur on March 27, 1946. During the 13 months ending July 1946, it set up 26 centres of work in Southern half of Malaya comprising Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johore. By agreement, the Government of India's Medical Mission and the Congress Medical Mission, which was also working in Malaya, undertook to work in different areas without overlapping.

The centres chosen were not only in the interior of the Peninsula but also in districts with a preponderence of Indians.

The total number of persons examined up to the end of July, 1946, was 61,389 out of which 28,825 were treated for various ailments. A large percentage of the cases was of malaria and consequent enlargement of the spleen. Other notable ailments amongst those treated were chiefly, worm trouble, anaemia and scabies, all due to mal-nutrition and bad food. Still, the state of mal-nutrition or famine diseases was happily not found to be so prominent a feature as was feared at one time.

Besides medical relief, the Mission also distributed a small quantity of clothing received through the kind courtesy of the Indian Red Cross Society, Madras.

Congress Medical Mission

The Congress Medical Mission after completing its work in the Northern States of Malaya has already returned to India. However, the rather [illegible] Mersing and Kota Tinggi districts of Johore State and the townships such as Kuantan, Dungun and Kuala Trengganu in the Eastern shores of Malaya, which have a percentage of Indians, have not had the benefit of either of the two Medical Missions; the Government of India's Medical Mission is staying in Malaya for some time more to serve the people in these localities and thus cover the entire area of the Malayan Peninsula.

The Malayan Government authorities gave full co-operation and every facility to the Mission and have also expressed their keen appreciation of the relief administered.

* * * *

The Railway Board have sanctioned an engineering and traffic survey to be carried out by the agency of the North Western Railway Administration for a broad-gauge line of railway to connect Viramgam on the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway to a suitable station on the North Western Railway, a distance of about 300 miles; the line to pass through Cutch State.

The survey will be known as Bombay-Sind-Connection (Cutch Route) Railway Survey.

WHEAT DIVERTED TO INDIA

TO help India tide over the difficult food position during the next three months, certain organisations and countries have agreed to divert immediately some of their food ships to India. Three ships carrying about 25,000 tons of wheat for U.N.R.R.A. will now reach India, in addition to two other ships intended for Norway and Switzerland.

The quantities advanced by these countries and U.N.R.R.A. will be replaced by India later when her needs are no longer so pressing.

A high official of the Central Food Department expressed the Government's grateful appreciation of this gesture of sympathy and goodwill shown to India.

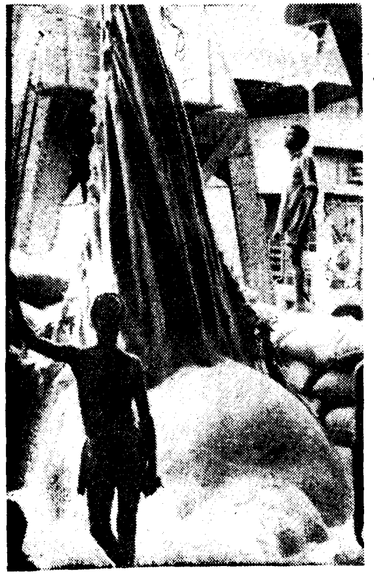
GRAIN IMPORTS

During the week ended August 29, India received from overseas 25,700 tons of wheat and wheat-flour, 3,000 tons of rice, 4,700 tons of maize and 19,600 tons of millets. The total arrivals of these grains since January, 1946, amount to wheat and wheat-flour 872,200 tons, rice 146,460 tons, maize 100,200 tons and millets 19,600 tons.



THE AMERICAN SHIP, "THOMAS CRESAP," RECENTLY ARRIVED IN BOMBAY WITH 8,492 TONS OF WHEAT FROM BALTIMORE. HERE, LOOSE WHEAT UNLOADED FROM THE SHIP IS BEING PUT INTO GUNNY BAGS.

WHEAT BEING TRANSFERRED FROM THE SHIP'S HOLD TO A GODOWN.





WHEAT BAGS STACKED IN ONE OF THE DOCK-SHEDS IN BOMBAY.

INCREASED PUBLIC DEMAND FOR AIR TRAVEL IN INDIA

"The public demand for air travel increased at a rate far exceeding expectations a year ago," says a survey (by the Civil Aviation Directorate) of internal air transport in India during the half year ended June, 1946, a period in which there was considerable all round development in all spheres of civil aviation.

An Air Transport Licensing Board has been established. Flying Clubs employed in flying for the Armed Services have been re-established on a new peacetime subsidy basis, which includes the loan of aircraft.

The pre-war system of aeronautical radio communications is being taken over this year by the Civil Aviation Directorate, which is being re-organised into two divisions dealing respectively with aerodromes and administration and aircraft operations. A separate aviation wing of the C.P.W.D. was formed on July 1, 1946.

The Air Forces have agreed to continue to provide communications and flying control facilities at a number of important aerodromes, until they can be relieved by the developing civil organisation. The airway radio equipment installed in India by the U.S.A.A.F. has been purchased and will be employed to supplement the post-war civil aviation network.

Re-organisation of Civil Aviation Directorate

"DURING the half-year ended June, 1946, there was considerable all-round development in all spheres of civil aviation," says a survey, by the Civil Aviation Directorate of internal air transport in India during the half year ended June 1946.

The Survey adds: The civil air services were restored to commercial operation on January 1, 1946 and by July 1, 1946 the mileage of air routes had been nearly doubled—from 4,781 to 9,225 miles—whilst the number of routes in operation had been increased from six to 11. Mileage flown was 1,652,200 miles as compared with 1,117,400 and 1,929,830 miles respectively in the first and second half year periods of 1945. Although the mileage flown was no greater the carrying capacity operated, expressed in ton-miles was substantially higher, at 3,007,387 against 1,023,653 and 1,879,115 in the two previous half-years.

Demand for Air Travel

The public demand for air travel increased at a rate far exceeding expectations a year ago. During the first half of 1946 the total number of passengers carried by the air services was 37,633 as compared with 24,090 in the whole of 1945. In 1945 practically all passengers were priority passengers. In 1946 rather less than half travelled on priority. In June this year 236 passengers a day were being carried against 65 in June 1945.

In ton-miles the load carried during the half-year was 2,355,750 ton-miles against 771,210 and 1,247,720 ton-miles respectively in the two half-year periods of 1945. An average load factor of 78 per cent was achieved on the services and no calls were made on the guarantee of minimum revenue given to Tata Sons' Ltd., and Indian National Airways, Ltd., by Government.

This large increase in traffic was made possible by the rapid expansion of aircraft fleets and operational resources accomplished by the operating companies. On July 1, 1946, there were four operating companies employing 19 large and six small transport aircraft, as compared with two companies employing three large and 21 small aircraft on July 1, 1945. The number of pilots and other aircrew personnel employed rose from 63 to 130.

The following Air Services were operating on July 1, 1946:—

Indian National Airways, Limited.: Delhi-Calcutta (Daily), Delhi-Karachi (Daily), Delhi-Peshawar (3 Weekly), Delhi-Lucknow (Daily), Delhi-Madras (2 Weekly) and Delhi-Lahore-Ahmedabad (2 Weekly).

Tata Air Lines. (Tata Sons Ltd.): Delhi-Bombay (Daily), Karachi-Bombay (Daily), Bombay-Colombo (6 Weekly) and Bombay-Calcutta (1 Weekly).

Air Services of India, Limited: Bombay-Bhuj (7 Weekly), Bhuj-Karachi (3 Weekly) and Bombay-Lucknow (1 Weekly).

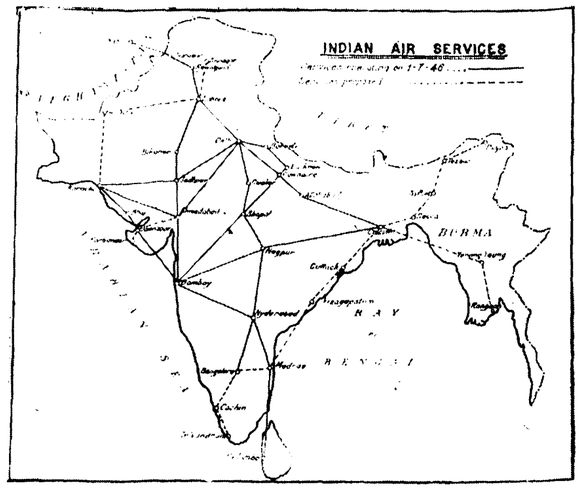
Deccan Airways Ltd: Delhi-Madras (2 Weekly) and Hyderabad-Bangalore (2 Weekly).

Government Policy

These air services were scheduled to fly 75,630 miles weekly, with a load capacity equivalent to 6½ million ton-miles a year as compared with the post-war plan of 17 million ton-miles.

Including existing operators, 14 air transport companies have been registered, with a total authorised capital of Rs. 27 crores. The issue of a part only of this capital has been sanctioned. It is already evident that the whole of it cannot be effectively employed in the operation of air transport in India, as pointed out by the Government of India in a Press Communique issued on May 21, 1945. Here are relevant extracts:—

"The policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial [illegible]





A COCHIN STATE LABOUR UNIT ENGAGED IN AERODROME CONSTRUCTION.

"The operation of all air transport services will be subject to licences granted by a Licensing Board constituted under the authority of Government, and without such a licence no air transport service can be operated. .....The object of licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of services, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent the exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilise the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on right lines and in the right direction. In fact, the object is to secure Order in the Air."

International Air Transport

The Air Transport Licensing Board has been established under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Din Muhammad and has begun the examination of applications for licences.

The Air Services connecting India with other countries to the West and East are now beginning to build up rapidly, but still fall short of the public demand for air passages, particularly, between India and the United Kingdom.

The British Overseas Airways Corporation are now operating weekly five York landplane services direct to the U. K. and two 'C' Class flying boat services providing a through connection to the U. K. These services afford accommodation for 102 passengers to and from India each week. The York services are being progressively raised to a daily frequency.

In addition B.O.A.C. are operating flying boat services twice weekly from the U. K. to Singapore and three times weekly from the U. K. to Sydney, with stops in India at Karachi and Calcutta.

Negotiations are in progress regarding the establishment of Indian air services on external air routes.

As compared with the position at the end of December, 1945, the total number of aircraft registered and delivered in India at the end of June 1946 increased from 129 to 318, commercial (B) class pilots from 62 to 105, and private (A) class pilots from 51 to 100.

The wartime subsidy agreements with the five flying clubs employed in flying for the Armed Forces were terminated on February 28, 1946. Since April 1, 1946, the original flying clubs have been established on a new peacetime subsidy basis which enables them to provide flying for their members at the rate of Rs. 15 per hour for those up to 28 years of age, at Rs. 30 per hour to all others. This financial help from Government together with the loan by Government of Tiger Moth and L-5 Aircraft, has quickly revived the normal flying activities, attracted new members and resuscitated the dormant clubs.

Flying Clubs

There is already evidence that the new subsidy terms and flying rates have produced greater activity in the clubs than before the war. There is no lack of applicants for flying training. The clubs now in active operation are: (i) Karachi Aero Club (ii) Bombay Flying Club; (iii) Madras Flying Club; (iv) Bihar Flying Club; (v) Northern India Flying Club, Lahore; (vi) Delhi Flying Club; (vii) Bengal Flying Club. The U. P. Flying Club will re-open in the near future.

Twenty-four aircraft have already been issued on loan to the Clubs. The new subsidy terms provide a fixed subsidy of Rs. 40,000 per annum to each Club, a bonus of Rs. 250 per pilot trained for initial issue of 'A' licence Rs. 5 per hour for flying in excess of 1,000 hours a year by each Club, a subvention of Rs. 20 per hour on Flying sold at Rs. 15 per hour and a subvention of Rs. 5 per hour on flying sold at Rs. 30 per hour.

Progress has been made in taking over aerodromes from the Air Forces and re-establishing control of the civil aerodromes that had been loaned to the Air Forces during the war. The Karachi Airport was taken over from the U.S.A.A.F. on June 25, 1946, and reopened to civil traffic, while it is being reconditioned and reorganised as the major customs airport of India. The small pre-war aerodrome control staff is adequate only to provide the nucleus on which to build.

Ex-R.I.A.F. and ex-R.I.N. officers have been recruited on a temporary basis pending final selection and will shortly be placed under training in a civil school of aerodrome administration and flying control. The Air Forces have agreed to continue to provide communication and flying control facilities at a number of important aerodromes until they can be relieved by the developing civil organisation.

Civil Aerodromes

When the network of civil aerodromes to be provided by Government is complete, there will be a total of 146 aerodromes available for public use. Of these 27 aerodromes are already being administered and maintained by the Civil Aviation Directorate and are open to civil aircraft. In addition, a large number of aerodromes belonging to the Air Forces or to the Indian States will be available for use by civil aircraft subject to appropriate conditions.

The pre-war system of aeronautical radio communications which was provided by the Posts and Telegraphs Department is being taken over this year by the Civil Aviation Directorate. This consisted of 12 Medium Frequency Communication and Direction finding stations and 7 High Frequency Communication station.

A beginning has been made on plans for reorganisation and expansion designed to produce some 50 new stations, with modern equipment, in the next two years. The airway radio equipment installed in India by the U.S.A.A.F. has been purchased and will be employed to supplement the pre-war Civil Aviation network.

Recruitment of Personnel

The American equipment comprises point-to-point transmitters and receivers, air-to-ground transmitters and receivers, airfield control equipment, radio beacons and ranges, High Frequency and Very High Frequency Direction Finding Installations and Teletype and other landline equipment.

This equipment is modern in design and originally cost approximately Rs. 28,00,000. Some of it is installed at aerodromes and some in depots. The acquisition of this equipment will considerably speed up the process of equipping the civil air routes and, together with the recruitment of personnel which is now proceeding, it will assist in relieving the Air Forces who are at present providing the bulk of

the radio communication services required for the operation of the civil airlines.

A Communication Advisory Committee for Civil Aviation has been formed to co-ordinate the development programme with the needs of the operators of air services.

A separate Aviation Wing of the Central Public Works Department with a Chief Engineer at its head, five Superintending Engineers and 13 Divisional Officers has been formed with effect from July 1, 1946. This Wing will be responsible for the planning, direction and execution of all Civil Aviation works. The Planning Circle of the Civil Aviation Directorate has now been transferred to this Wing.

Aerodrome Construction

The Santa Cruz Aerodrome Development Committee have submitted their final report. An estimate amounting to Rs. 2.34 crores for the development of the aerodrome, based on their recommendations, has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee and the work is being taken in hand immediately.

Seventeen hangars have been purchased from American surplus stocks and are being erected at Delhi, Dum Dum (Calcutta) and (Bombay) Santa Cruz aerodromes to meet part of the urgent demands for accommodation for aircraft.

The main office of the Directorate was transferred from Simla to Delhi in February, 1946, and for the first time in six years the Headquarters organisation was housed together in one place. The office has been reorganised into two divisions dealing respectively with Aerodromes and Administration and the Aircraft Operations. The total strength of officers of the Directorate as a whole increased from 50 on June 30, 1945, to 89 on June 30, 1946.

IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS

Requests have recently been received from licence-holders for import of capital goods for extension of the validity of their licences for shipment during 1947 or early 1948 on the ground that their suppliers in the exporting countries have intimated that the goods cannot be shipped earlier. According to the present practice all licences which are valid upto the end of June, 1946, are automatically revalidated to cover shipment during July-December 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 22.

With a view, however, to obviate any difficulty to holders of licences on the ground stated above, it has been all such licences for whatever period the licence-holders desire, subject to the production of satisfactory evidence to the effect that a firm order has been placed on the suppliers and that the goods cannot be shipped before that particular period.

PAYMENT OF WAGES TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Working of the Act in 1944-45

THE number of railwaymen protected by the Payment of Wages Act (1936) increased to 12,13,100 (including nearly one lakh of workers employed by contractors) during 1944-45 from 9,69,174 employees in the previous year according to the latest Annual Report of the Conciliation Officer and Supervisor of Railway Labour.

The Payment of Wages Act applies to all employees on railways who receive wages below Rs. 200 a month. The total amount of such wages paid during the year under report was Rs. 38,19,54,732.

Inspection of Establishments

The Report says that 6,158 Railway establishments including 160 Contractors' establishments were inspected during the year and 3,694 cases of delay in payment of wages were discovered as against 6,003 during the previous year. Most of the cases of delay related to the payment of increments, overtime, leave salary, officiating allowance, etc.

There were 251 cases in which requirements of the law had been overlooked in imposing fines as against 183 in the previous year. All such fines were refunded on the advice of the Conciliation Officer, Railways. The number of cases of fines increased by 2,438 and the total amount by Rs. 3,184 in comparison with the figures for the preceding year.

A few cases in which employees had been put off-duty as a measure of punishment, even though they were actually present, came to light on the O. and T. Railway. The Railway Administration was advised to refund the amounts deducted from the wages of such employees and to issue specific instructions to stop this illegal practice. A number of cases of deductions from wages, in which the provisions of the law had not been complied with, were taken up with the Railway Administrations and the amounts refunded to the employees.

Although the amount for deductions for damage or loss rose to Rs. 1,07,111 from Rs. 89,766 in the previous year, the number of cases of deductions decreased to 29,198 from 30,307 in 1943-44. The Report states that the registers of wages, fines and deductions are now better maintained by the Railway Administrations, but there is still scope for improvement.

The inspection of Contractors establishments, the Report observes, was handicapped by the absence of statutory rules requiring contractors to maintain registers of wages, fines and deductions. Most of the irregularities were rectified, resulting in benefit to the labour employed.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

Chief Labour Commissioner's Annual Report

THE number of railwaymen entitled to protection under the Hours of Employment Regulations increased from 5,98,151 in 1943-44 to 6,50,148 in 1944-45, according to the latest Annual Report of the Chief Labour Commissioner.

These regulations implement the Washington Hours of Work Convention on Class I Railways in British India and prescribe a 60-hour week, compensatory rest and overtime allowances to railwaymen classified as "continuous." The number of continuous workers increased by 53,932 in 1944-45 as compared with the previous year.

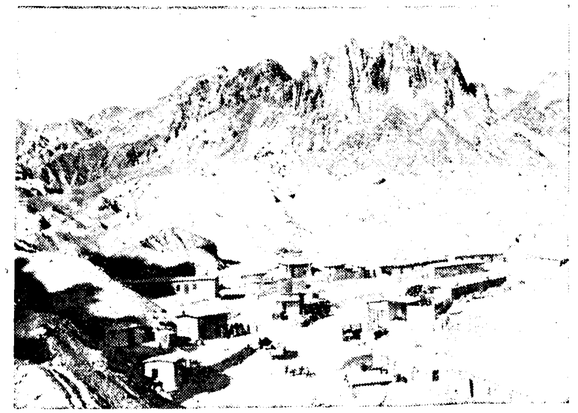
Classification of Employees

The Report mentions that the classification of watchmen employed by G.I.P. Railway, most of whom were excluded from the scope of the regulations, was improved owing to the efforts of the Railway Labour Inspectors. Similarly, the classification of Ticket Collectors, Luggage Clerks and some other categories of railwaymen employed by the B.B. and C.I. Railway was changed for the better. There were fewer cases in which the classification was challenged or was considered as open to doubt during 1944-45 than in the previous year.

The percentage of "continuous" workers improved considerably on all Railways except in East Indian, B. and A., O. and T. and G.I.P. Railways. The percentage of "essentially intermittent" staff, *i.e.*, those who have an 84-hour week without any period of weekly rest, decreased on all Railways excepting the East Indian, O. and T., and G.I.P. Railways. The position as regards "excluded" staff deteriorated on N.W., E.I., B. and A., and G.I.P. Railways.

The percentage of staff who got a calendar day's weekly rest improved on N.W., B. and A. and S.I. Railways, the increase being 16.8 in S.I. Railway.

The number of establishments inspected by Railway Labour Inspectors during 1944-45 was 5,518 as against 7,741 in the previous year.



KOH-I-SULTAN, WHICH DURING WORLD WAR II, WAS ONE OF THE CHIEF SOURCES OF SULPHUR.

SULPHUR OPERATIONS IN KOH-I-SULTAN

RESERVES of nearly 85,000 tons of sulphur ore exist in the Koh-i-Sultan area in Baluchistan some 10,000 tons of high grade ore being available at Nok Kundi railhead. Although it is doubtful if mining could be operated successfully in competition with imported sulphur, it may perhaps be possible to utilise the higher grade ore economically as a fungicide. Finely pulverised plus 50 per cent Baluchistan sulphur ore was found to be very efficacious particularly in preventing grain smut in *Jowar*. This view is expressed in an illustrated article in a recent issue of *The Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*, describing the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur operations.

Sulphur being one of the strategic minerals essential to war industries, India had to look for and develop indigenous sources of the material when imports fell off owing to the war. Before the war, Indian demands amounting to 25,000 tons annually were wholly met by imports. The demand increased appreciably during the war on account of the increased use of sulphuric acid in the manufacture of explosives and in metallurgical industries.

Towards the end of 1940 the Geological Survey of India decided upon an extensive exploration of the Koh-i-Sultan area in Baluchistan for obtaining the sulphur supplies required for war purposes.

The operations were carried out under extraordinarily difficult conditions, lack of transport and of fresh water supplies, to mention only two unfavourable factors—but sufficient reserves of high grade ore which promised to make good the shortage of imported American sulphur were found within 20 to 25 miles of the North Western Railway line in Baluchistan. Roads for lorry transport were constructed in the rugged volcanic regions and a two-mile aerial ropeway from the roadhead to the mining locality was also erected. Between 1941 and 1944 nearly 66,300 tons of sulphur ore was extracted and transported from this area.



LABOURERS WEAR GOGGLES FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SULPHUR PARTICLES. SULPHUR ORE IN BACKGROUND.

High Grade Limestone

Processing and storage equipment used in chemical industries can be made to resist corrosive and abrasive agents by rubber lining. The processes for bonding rubber to metal have been investigated at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore under a scheme of research financed by the Council of Scientific and industrial Research. The results of some of these investigations are described in two articles appearing in the Journal.

As India is an important source of primary rubber and as chemical industries requiring corrosion-proof equipment are being developed in the country, these investigations are of special interest. Some of the processes developed in the Institute are covered by Indian patents.

A brief account of high grade limestone deposits in India with results of chemical analysis and estimates of available quantities is published in another article in the journal.

Limestone is valuable to the chemical industry for example in the manufacture of bleaching powder—and transparent calcite (Iceland spar) finds use in scientific instruments. Coral limestone, crystalline calcite, marbles of varying hues, nummilitic and cliff limestones are all known to occur in India.

The Central Government's monthly accounts for May, 1946, show that, excluding periodical adjustments and the transactions of Railways, and Posts and Telegraphs, expenditure in the first two months of the financial year 1946-47 exceeded revenue by Rs. 23½ crores against Rs. 40½ crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Revenue was worse by Rs. 3 1/3 crores but Defence expenditure decreased by about Rs. 18 1/3 crores to Rs. 42 2/3 crores and Civil expenditure by Rs. 2 crores. Net receipts from Railways were worse by Rs. 1½ crores.

There has been an increase of about Rs. 19 crores under the Permanent Debt during this period.

HAJ PILGRIMAGE NOTIFICATIONS

THE following notifications have been issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, in connection with the forthcoming Haj Pilgrimage.

Information has been received that about 50 pilgrims who went to the Hejaz in the pre-Ramzan sailings did not have money to pay the compulsory taxes of Rs. 186/8/- levied by the Saudi Arabian Government. They are therefore not allowed to proceed to Mecca and are at present detained in Jeddia. Arrangements are being made for their immediate repatriation to India.

Intending pilgrims for the post-Ramzan period are therefore advised that they must not proceed to the Hejaz with inadequate funds. If they have received reservation cards, but do not have funds to meet Saudi charges, they should get their passages cancelled by intimating it to the Haj Booking Office, New Delhi.

If they ignore this warning they will not only be not able to perform the Haj themselves but will deprive others, who can afford it, of such an opportunity in addition to incurring unnecessary expenditure on steamer fares, etc.

*

Reservation Cards

Intending Haj pilgrims are informed that Reservation Cards have been despatched by registered post by the Haj Booking Officer to all the successful applicants from all Provinces and States except in a few cases from Sind and Baluchistan. Pilgrims should contact the postal authorities concerned if they have not received their cards.

Intimations have also been sent to those of the applicants whose applications were received in the Haj Booking Office before the booking for a particular province or State was closed but who have not been successful in securing passages.

*

Export of Currency Notes

The Government of India have as a special case allowed pilgrims leaving for the Hejaz post-Ramzan sailings to export gold sovereigns and currency notes this year as under:

Deck pilgrims, Gold sovereigns 8, Currency Notes Rs. 1,500, per head.

Cabin Class Pilgrims, Gold Sovereigns Nil, Currency Notes Rs. 2,700, per head.

In addition to the above amounts that they can export in cash with them, pilgrims can export any amount of money through the usual banking channels.

Export of Wheat

Intending Haj pilgrims are informed that Government of India have decided to permit each Haj pilgrim to export wheat or rice at a rationed scale of 12 oz. per day and *dal* in reasonable quantity for their two months stay in the Hejaz. Arrangements for the supply of these provisions have been made at the ports of embarkation.

*

Haj Booking Office

The Haj Booking Office closed in Delhi on August 28, 1946 and split up into three portions, which have moved to Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta. All letters meant for that Office should be addressed, as indicated below:-

(1) Letters from N.-W.F.P. Punjab, Delhi, Ajmer, Sind, Baluchistan and the States situated in these parts of India, to the Haj Booking Office, care of Port Haj Committee, Karachi;

(2) Letters from Bengal and Assam and the States situated in these two Provinces to the Haj Booking Office, care of Port Haj Committee, Calcutta;

(3) Letters from the rest of India to the Haj Booking Office, care of Port Haj Committee, Bombay.

Pilgrims from Bengal and Assam, who are not to sail from Calcutta, should after September 12, address their letters to Karachi.

*

Peak Year For Haj

Over 18,700 Indian Pilgrims (the large number since 1927) will have visited the Hejaz by the end of this year. Even in 1939, when deck class return fares were sometimes as low as between Rs. 25/- and Rs. 50/-, the total number of Indian Pilgrims did not exceed 17,000.

Of the original fleet of ten pilgrim ships, three were lost during the war. The remainder are being used by the Government of India to their maximum capacity to carry pilgrims to the Hejaz.

The total number of passages, including pre-Ramzan sailings, available this year was 20,863, of which 19,123 passages were exclusively embarked for pilgrims from India. Of these 662 passages were not availed of in the pre-Ramzan sailings, but ships for post-Ramzan sailings, it is expected, will be filled to capacity.

It is learnt that Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, a member of the South African Parliament, and her husband, Mr. William Ballinger, are expected to leave Lourenco Marques for India by S.S. *Shirala* on or about the September 14, 1946. They will land at Bombay and will be the guests of Sir B. Rama Rau during their stay in Bombay.

EXPORT OF BLACK PEPPER PERMITTED

A Press Communique issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on August 11 stated:

The Government of India have decided to allow the export of black pepper by trade from India during August, September and October, 1946, to the following countries to the extent given below:

New Zealand 62 tons, Ceylon 80 tons, Russia 150 tons, Belgium 150 tons, Netherlands 150 tons Denmark 36 tons, Sweden 160 tons, Switzerland 25 tons, Spain (including Spanish Morocco) 20 tons, Turkey 110 tons, Jamaica 46 tons, Trinidad 42 tons, British Guiana 10½ tons, Barbados 4½ tons, Windward Islands 2 tons and 16 cwts., British Honduras 2 tons and 4 cwts., Bahamas 18 cwts., Leeward Islands 18 cwts. and Bermuda 12 cwts.

All parties in receipt of firm orders from traders in the countries concerned, supported by import permits or essentiality certificates from such of the countries as issue them, should apply to the Chief Director of Purchase, Department of Food, Division III, Jamnagar House, New Delhi, for export licences as from August 20, 1946.

The export licences will be issued at once on the production of the documents specified, in the strict order of priority of applications as from the above date.

EXCHANGE FACILITIES FOR PURCHASE OF SHIPS

The Government of India have recently agreed to provide exchange facilities to the extent of over six million United States dollars in one case and the equivalent of 30 lakhs of rupees in United States dollars or Norwegian or Swedish currency in another case so as to enable Indian Shipping Companies to purchase foreign tonnage, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India on August 22.

The Government of India wish to announce that they are prepared to consider sympathetically applications from other Indian Shipping Companies for the provision of exchange facilities for the purchase of ships. It should of course be understood that the Government of India cannot commit themselves to accepting all demands made on them for the above purpose. The amount of exchange which they are in a position to release will depend upon the foreign exchange position from time to time.

The Government of India have now opened a Liaison Office, in the charge of Mr. S. Sen, Indian Political Service, at the headquarters of the United Nations Organisation in New York.

EXPORT OF HIDES, SKINS AND LEATHER GOODS

IT had already been announced that exports of hides and skins, (raw and tanned) and leather manufactures other than men's and women's footwear would be freely allowed to all permissible destinations up to August 31, 1946. Exporters were, however, warned that it might not be possible to continue this liberal policy after this date and that they should not, therefore, enter into any commitments which were likely to require shipping after the month of August, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 31.

On the basis of the information made available during the period of liberal and free exports from April 1 to the end of August, Government has examined the question of export policy to be adopted hereafter and has now finalised the procedure for export of hides, skins, etc., from September 1, 1946.

Export on Liberal Scale

Export will now be allowed generally on a more liberal scale than that existing before April 1, 1946. The policy to be followed from September 1 has been based on the principle of encouraging export of processed and manufactured goods in preference to that of raw goods consistent with the supply position in the country. Exports of all leather manufactures except ladies' and gents' footwear have already been decontrolled. Export of gents' and ladies' footwear will be permitted with reference to the basic year 1941-42.

Manufacturers of footwear will also be permitted to the extent of 10 per cent. of their production of 1945 in case of gents' footwear and 25 per cent. of their production in case of women's footwear, or up to their exports in 1941-42 whichever is advantageous to them.

Export of some of the controlled items of tanned hides will be permitted to the extent of 50 per cent. of what was exported in 1937-39 and up to 10 per cent. of production by manufacturers, excepting certain items in short supply, export of which will be prohibited. Export of raw and tanned goatskins will be allowed freely.

Having regard to the difficult supply position and high prices of raw hides and raw and pickled sheepskins, and in view of the fact that the tanning industry in the country is at present working below capacity, it has been decided to prohibit export of raw sheepskins except Amritsar Papras which will be allowed freely from the port of Karachi. Token exports of raw hides will be allowed only up to 15 per cent. of the basic year exports in order to maintain India's connections with the foreign markets.

Exporters are advised to contact with the Export Trade Controllers at the ports concerned for further details.

INDO-CANADIAN TRADE

"Trade with India increased during the war and should now be built up as the resources of the two countries are complimentary rather than competitive." These words of the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce are quoted by the Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Canada in his monthly report on Indo-Canadian trade in June.

The Minister, who was addressing the Canadian Junior Chamber of Commerce and reviewing the markets open to Canada, stated that with Japan defeated, Canada now had a great opportunity to increase her trade with the Orient on a mutual and profitable basis if she addressed herself to the task with vigour and efficiency.

Business Conditions

The Trade Commissioner also reviews business conditions in Canada during the month, and refers to a report by the Chairman of the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board, which reveals for the first time, that Canada's holdings of gold and United States dollars rose from 393,100,000 on September 15, 1939, to 1,508,000,000 on December 31, 1945. This substantial increase is attributed to sales to the United States, purchase by U.S. of Canadian grain and a vigorous flow of capital into Canada resulting from purchases of Canadian securities by American investors and some special gold and U.S. dollar receipts from the United Kingdom.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH MIDDLE EAST

"EGYPT exported to India goods worth £8,748,652 in 1945, more than 97 per cent of it being accounted for by raw cotton", observes the Government of Indian Trade Commissioner in Alexandria in his latest monthly report. An analysis of imports into Egypt from India reveals that its total value of £2,930,153 was made up of £1,639,859 worth of jute manufactures, £169,869 of tobacco and cigars, £170,467 of cotton piecegoods and yarn, and £95,438 of tea. Though the demand for Indian goods never slackened, India's imports showed a drop of £500,000 in 1945 from its value in the previous year.

Imports into Sudan

Imports into the Sudan from India were of the value of £2,823,232 or 28.1 per cent of that country's total imports in 1945, cotton piecegoods being the main import item from India—6,007 tons valued at £2,272,280. The Sudan exported to India 25,114 tons of ginned cotton of the value of £2,232,003. In the first quarter of 1946, there was a considerable increase in imports into the Sudan, India occupying a commanding position among the supplier countries. The value of Indian imports in the three months was £1,115,517 or 36 per cent of the total.

The value of the Sudan market for India lies at the moment in cotton piecegoods. Practically all the cotton yarn, all the matches and very nearly all the sacks have come from India. A great demand exists in that country for other consumer goods, in particular canvas shoes. Exports from the Sudan to India in that quarter was of the value of £644,437 or 32.6 per cent of the total.

Imports in Palestine amounted to the value of £(P)2,047,035 in 1945, more than half the total value being accounted for by groundnuts decorticated. Palestine exported to India in that year goods worth £(P)963,608, cut diamonds being the chief item valued at £(P)861,874. The diamond cutting industry, which has been growing rapidly of late in Palestine, has become a major item in that country's export trade.

Syria and Lebanon imported £(S)6,281,000 worth of goods from India in 1945 as against £(S)5,755,000 in 1944, about half the value (same as in 1944) being attributable to jute manufactures.

IMPORT DUTY ON BRASS INGOTS TO CONTINUE

In a Press Communique dated July 16, 1946, the Government of India announced their decision to exempt certain raw materials of industry, including brass ingots, from import duty. Several representations have since been received to the effect that the removal of the import duty on brass ingots would adversely affect the alloy ingot industry in India, said a press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 24.

Government have, therefore, carefully re-considered the matter, and in view of the new facts which have been brought to light through these representations and also since the case of this industry is being investigated by the Tariff Board, whose report is expected in the near future, have decided that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if their original orders regarding the removal of import duty on brass ingots were held in abeyance pending the receipt and examination of the Tariff Board Report. Necessary instructions to the Collectors of Customs have been issued accordingly.



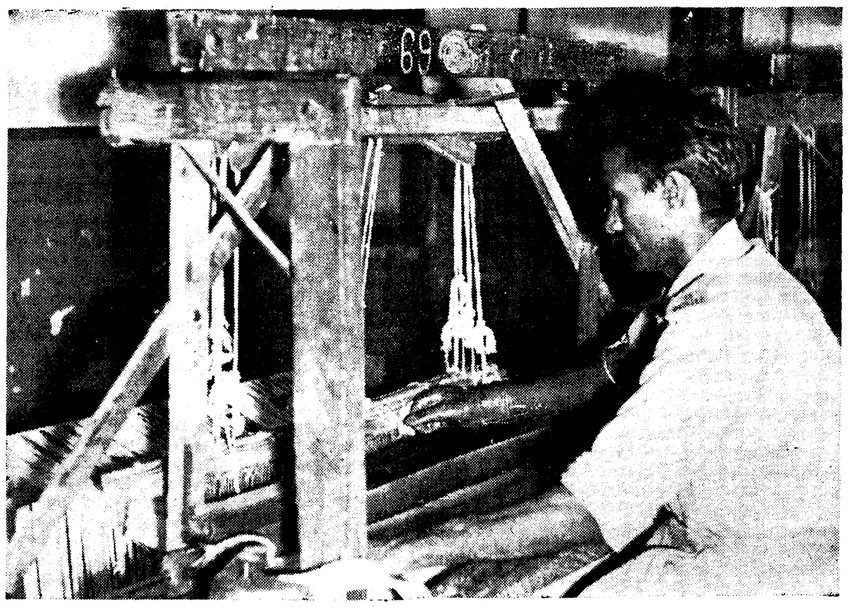
SERVICES' CONVALESCENT REHABILITATION CENTRES

To rehabilitate approximately 60,000 men of the Indian Defence Services disabled during the war, an ambitious scheme—Services' Convalescent Rehabilitation Centres has been jointly undertaken by the War, and Labour Departments, Government of India. The scheme applies to disabled men still in service and also to those who have been discharged. The latter, if accepted for the scheme, will continue to draw their pay as at the time of their discharge. The subjects taught at these centres include carpentry, tailoring, poultry farming, hand-loom weaving, basket-making, agriculture, leather work, etc.

These pictures show (above) a trainee with one hand learning carpentry; (below, left) trainees with one leg learning tailoring and (below, right) trainees with artificial legs and some with artificial hands being given a lesson in poultry farming.







A TRAINEE WITH AN ARTIFICIAL HAND W ORKING ON A HAND-LOOM. (BELOW) A TRAINEE WITH ONE LEG GETTING A LESSON IN WEAVING.



INDIAN TROOPS IN JAPAN

IN brilliant sunshine on August 15 "Brindiv" celebrated the first anniversary of V.-J. Day by staging a motorised parade through the main streets of Okayama (Japan).

Thousands of Japanese lined the route as armoured vehicles of the 7th Light Cavalry, guns of the 30th Field Battery R. A. and the 16th Indian Field Battery, R.I.A., carriers of the 2 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles and the 8th Gurkha Defence Company and specialist vehicles of the 429th Indian Field Company, R.I.E., rumbled through the town. Overhead roared Spitfires of No. 4 Squadron, R.I.A.F.

Taking the salute was Maj.-Gen. D. T. Cowan, commanding the British-Indian Division. Among the spectators were American and Russian officials.

The day was also marked by a message from Gen. Cowan in which he said: "We are here in Japan as representatives of the British and Indian forces who fought for 5½ years to bring the war in the Far East to a successful conclusion.

"Now we are faced with another task to tackle together—that of helping to build a successful and lasting peace which, as all the world knows, is an even more difficult business."

*

"Id" Celebrations

Dressed in traditional village garb Muslim soldiers of "Brindiv", the British Indian Division of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force today celebrated "ID" on Okayama airstrip on August, 29.

After prayers, Muslim embraced Muslim and others, irrespective of class, race or creed. There were many visitors—Indians of other communities, British and American troops. Japanese civilians also turned out.

Maj.-Gen. Cowan, who is commanding "Brindiv", was present throughout the celebrations and wished all participants, *Id Mubarak*.

During the day, the troops were entertained to a cinema show and a Japanese display of folk dancing, Kendo and Judo bouts, Geisha and sword dances arranged by the Welfare Branch of "Brindiv".

*

Radio Programmes

Special programmes for Indians of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force will be broadcast by a radio station, which has been opened recently by Lt.-Gen. H. C. Robertson, C.-in-C. of B.C.O.F.

The station is located at No. 92 Indian General Hospital and is run by a volunteer staff drawn from base units who devote their off-duty time to this work.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Gen. Robertson said: "I want all Indian troops under my command to realise that, just like troops from the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, they are my troops and I hope that if they want anything they will contact me through their commanding officers. The best possible will be done for them."

Continuing, he said: "India has every right to be proud of her troops in Japan."

*

Welfare Work

Miss Sosa Matthews, National General Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in India, Burma and Ceylon, recently paid a four-day visit to "Brindiv."

Miss Matthews, the first Indian to be elected General National Secretary, arrived in Kure from Burma and China where she attended the first Y.W.C.A. conference since the end of the war.

Coming to see the welfare work done by the Y.W.C.A., Miss Matthews toured various Indian units in "Brindiv" and addressed the troops.

"Make the best of your stay in Japan and study everything," said Miss Matthews. She pointed out that there was no begging in Japan. She asked the jawans to remember that when they returned to India they must be prepared to help their countrymen.

*

Dock Operating Company

After the successful completion of its occupational duties in Japan, No. 241 Indian Dock Operating Company is returning to India. At a farewell parade held in Kure recently Brig. A.G. Wilson, Officer Commanding the British Commonwealth Base, complemented the Company on its splendid work.

In his address, Brig. Wilson said, "I want first to congratulate you on the magnificent parade. As the shipping position has now eased at Kure you are going back to your homeland and I thank you for the good work you have done in operating the docks during the peak period."

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, arrived by air on the night of September 4 from the U.K. He was accompanied by Maj.-Gen. F.W. Reid, Commanding 10th Indian Division, Lt.-Col. S.S. Hamid, the C.-in-C.'s Private Secretary, and his personal staff.

During his stay in Britain, the C.-in-C. took part in the conference of military commanders called by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery.

Six Months' Occupation of Japan

SIX months have elapsed since the British Commonwealth Occupation Force landed in Japan and during that time impressive results have been achieved. The tasks of building up the Force and concentrating it into the areas of occupation in Southern Japan have been completed and now the work of demilitarising the whole area and assisting the Japanese to rehabilitate their shattered and hungry country is proceeding apace.

This progress is reviewed in a statement issued from British Commonwealth Occupation Force Headquarters at Kure. Within two months of the landing of advanced elements more than 20,000 British Commonwealth troops, representing the armies and air forces of Great Britain, India, Australia and New Zealand, had arrived. The prefectures of Hiroshima, Shimane and Yamaguchi were the first to be occupied, but as the strength of the Force was built up to 38,000 the occupation army spread to include the prefectures of Totiori and Okayan and the islands of Shikoku—a total area of 20,000 square miles with a population of 11,000,000.

The destruction of enemy equipment and stocks is one of the Force's main tasks. Army patrols have found huge vast caves and underground factories throughout the area. In Hiroshima arsenals of arms and ammunition in prefecture alone, 100,000 tons of high explosives were located. On one small island in the Inland Sea, a poison gas-producing plant and bulk storage of lethal gas were found.

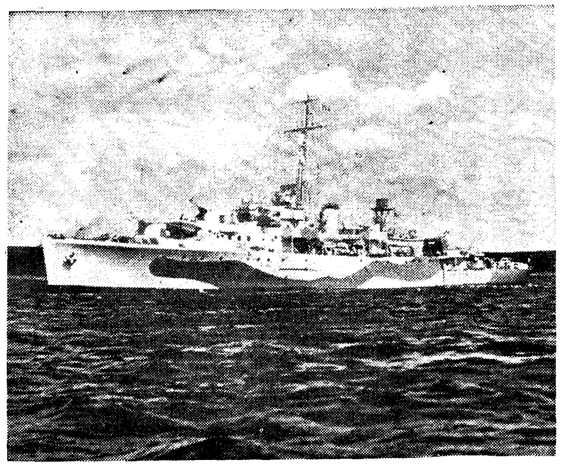
Twenty-five thousand tons of ammunition and high explosives have been destroyed. A considerable quantity of poison gas has been dumped into the Pacific.

Rehabilitation

Large quantities of household goods and scrap not required by the Occupation Force have been directed to the Japanese Home Ministry to aid civilian rehabilitation.

The engineer and signals services of the Occupation Force have been faced with a colossal project in rehabilitating damaged buildings and providing essential services and communication facilities in key areas. Kure port has been put into working order and the Japanese rail system, reorganised.

More than 58,000 Japanese soldiers have passed through the B.C.O.F. area on their way to demobilisation and nearly 22,000 Koreans and Chinese have been returned to their own countries. Before the task is completed, it is estimated that 4,000,000 returning Japanese soldiers will have passed through this area and 474,000 Koreans and Chinese will have been repatriated.



H.M.I.S. "NARBADA", WHICH IS AMONG THE NAVAL VESSELS MAINTAINING AN ENDLESS WATCH AND HELPING TO STAMP OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OF KOREANS INTO JAPAN.

R.I.N. HELPS CHECK ILLEGAL ENTRY OF KOREANS INTO JAPAN

SLOOPS of the R.I.N. are busy on dawn and dusk patrols in helping stamp out the illegal immigration into Japan of thousands of Koreans. The object of most Koreans in returning is to operate on the black market or to collect household goods which they were forced to leave behind when sent back to Korea by the Japanese.

Sea, land and air forces of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force are combining on a large-scale drive to combat this new racket. Black market operations apart, it is feared that this illegal influx of Koreans will give rise to the spread of such diseases as cholera and typhus.

Already, about 5,000 Koreans landed by night on lonely coasts or picked up from intercepted ships, have been rounded up and returned to Korea. Among the Naval vessels which are maintaining an endless watch are H.M.I.S. *Sutlej* and *Narbada*.

While with the Pacific Fleet, H.M.I.S. *Sutlej*, was engaged in various duties which included escort work on the China Coast and in Japan. She also took part in Anti-infiltration patrols off the north coast of Honshu and in the sinking of Japanese submarines.

H.M.I.S. *Sutlej* represented the Indian Navy amongst the Naval contingents of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in the Pacific.

H.M.I.S. "SUTLEJ" RETURNS TO INDIA

H.M.I.S. *Sutlej* (Commander H.A. Todd, O.B.E., R.I.N.R.,) will arrive in Bombay from Hong Kong, *via* Singapore and Penang, on September 15, 1946, after seven months' service with the British Pacific Fleet.

Leave will be granted to the majority of the Ships' Company on arrival in Bombay.

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN I.A.V.C.

Permanent commissions in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps, suspended during the late war, are now being offered again and a limited number of suitable officers will be commissioned as early as possible.

Serving Indian emergency commissioned officers as well as all members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Indian domicile are eligible to apply for permanent commissions in the I.A.V.C.

The total strength of Army livestock is even greater now than before the war and, unlike his predecessor, the present day veterinary officer does not deal exclusively with horses and mules. Under his care will be a variety of animals, such as buffaloes, cows, pigs and rabbits as well as poultry.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS IN INDIAN ARMY

SHORT Service Commissions for three and five years plus a reserve liability for three years are now being offered in the Indian Army, says a Special Army Instruction (India).

Provided they are British subjects of Indian domicile or descent or subjects of Indian States, those eligible for these Commissions are I.E.C.O.s now holding commissions in the Indian Land Forces, the R.I.N. and the R.I.A.F., including those released since May 8, 1945; Indian cadets due to complete training for emergency commissions after the date of issue of this Instruction; serving V.C.O.s, Indian Warrant Officers and I.O.R.s, and A.I.R.O.s (Indian Wing) and officers of the I.T.F. and A.F. (I).

There will be no age limit for candidates who were serving on a regular engagement before September 25, 1939. For those holding emergency commissions or enlisted on a war engagement the age limits will be 18 to 42 years for a three-year commission and 18 to 35 years for a five-year commission.

Educational Qualifications

Officers of the I.T.F. and A.F.(I) and serving V.C.O.s, I.W.O.s and I.O.R.s must be in possession of one of the following educational qualifications: Army Special, Matriculation and the Senior Cambridge or School Leaving Certificate. They must be proficient in English.

Candidates must normally be in Medical category 'A.' Those in Medical Category 'B' will be considered for Short Service Commissions only if suitable employment can be found for them.

A gratuity of Rs. 900 per annum will be admissible for each year of satisfactory Short Service Commissioned Service.

Persons accepting these Commissions will be liable for service in any part of the world in the same way as regular officers.

In the booklet "Regular Commissions in the Post-War Indian Army" which has been widely distributed throughout India, it was stated that an academic qualifying examination, under the control of the Federal Public Service Commission, would be introduced for the fourth course commencing at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, in January, 1948.

The intention to introduce this examination has now been abandoned and candidates will continue to be selected by Services Selection Boards.

NATIONAL WAR ACADEMY PROJECT

Dr. Amarnath Jha's Visit to Provinces and States



DR. AMARNATH JHA

DR. AMARNATH JHA, Vice-Chairman of the Working Committee of the National War Academy, has started on an all-India tour to discuss the National War Academy project with Provinces and States. The tour, which will last two months, has been undertaken at the instance of the Commander-in-Chief in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck.

Dr. Amarnath Jha will visit the United Provinces, Bihar, Assam, Bengal, Orissa, Madras, Bombay, Sind and the Punjab. Among the States he will tour are Travancore, Mysore, Hyderabad, Baroda and Kashmir.

Dr. Jha will meet the various Provincial Governors, Premiers and other leading figures and will explain to them the main features of the project and secure their goodwill and support for the scheme. He told an Army Observer that he was looking forward to meeting the Education Ministers and the Directors of Public Instruction and would particularly impress upon them the need for junior U.O.T.Cs. in schools and intermediate colleges which would act as "feeders" for the Academy.

Admission to N.W.A.

He emphasised that admission to the N.W.A. would be by merit only. There would be no entries reserved for Provinces or classes.

The object of the scheme, as Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck has explained, is to set up "an institution which may well be the best and most advanced of its kind in the world and a real nursery of leaders for the India of the future."

The C.-in-C. has written to all Provincial Governors and the Rulers of Travancore, Mysore, Hyderabad, Baroda, Kashmir, Gwalior, Bhopal and Jodhpur, explaining how keen he is to seize the opportunity provided by this project and emphasising the need for the support of all leaders of public opinion throughout India.

SIR T. B. SAPRU COMMENDS N.W.A. PROJECT

"Self-Government is not worth having unless we are able to defend ourselves," says Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, in the course of a letter to Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chairman of the Working Committee of the National War Academy, commenting on the Academy project.

"The National War Academy will provide the necessary material for defending the country and I sincerely hope and trust that the Indian Government, which is in the offing, (since formed) will lend their support to the project.

Cultural Education

"I have studied the recommendations of the Working Committee and am in complete agreement with their suggestions as regards the curriculum. The young men, who join the Academy, should be given first a thorough cultural education and then the next two years may be devoted by them to the study of technical subjects. I am glad you are making it compulsory for them to study languages other than their own.

"There should be no distinction between the rich and the poor. I hope a proper *esprit de corps* will be developed," concludes Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.

At a recent meeting in Delhi of the National Cadet Corps Committee, senior Indian officers of the Armed Services offered their suggestions on the future organisation of the National Cadet Corps.

Among the officers who expressed their views before the Committee were Brig. S.P.P. Thorat, D.S.O., Colonel Kumar Shri Himmatsinghji; Colonel Gurdip Singh Dhillion and Lt.-Col. Nasir Ali Khan.

The Committee is shortly proceeding on tour to interview prominent personages and educationalists of the Provinces and Indian States, in order to obtain their advice and views.

Land Colonisation Schemes for Ex-Servicemen

EX-SERVICEMEN will be given opportunities to possess holdings under new land colonisation schemes sponsored by Provincial Governments.

Bombay is excluded because no land is available there at present. It is estimated that for these schemes about 350,000 acres will be available on which approximately 34,000 men can be settled.

The allotments of land to be made under these schemes are not to be regarded as rewards for gallantry or military service. They are intended primarily to improve the agricultural layout and the standard of agriculture in the provinces.

Naval Headquarters, corps and recruiting centre commanders and Air Headquarters are preparing lists of qualified men who wish to take part in these schemes.

Co-operative Society

A prospective colonist must be an ex-serviceman or about to leave the Service and must have served between September 1, 1939, and August 31, 1945. He must not already posses an economic holding. Previous experience in farming is essential and he must settle on the land allotted and be willing to work it as a member of co-operative society. He should be prepared to deposit a maximum sum of Rs. 500 and he must be domiciled in the Province concerned.

Among those who fulfil the above conditions, preference may be given to men with meritorious service. Members of all the three Services will be given equal opportunity to take part in any Provincial scheme for which they are qualified.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

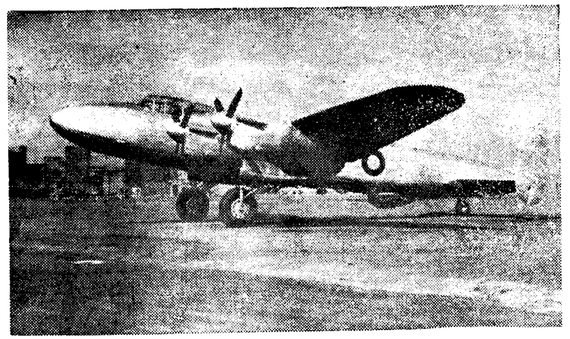
(*Continued from Page 154*)

Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly.

The telegraphic address of the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly is "CONSTITUTION" NEW DELHI.

The gallaries of the Constituent Assembly are smaller than those of the Central Assembly and it may not be possible to provide the Press with more than 100 seats.

Though it is for the Constituent Assembly to decide whether to hold the sittings in public or *in camera*, limited seating arrangements are being made for the Press and distinguished visitors in the high gallaries around the Hall. Unfortunately the Hall does not permit of proper arrangements being made as it was not built for being used as an Assembly Hall.



"ARIES", THE R.A.F. BOMBER, WHICH MADE A RECORD FLIGHT FROM LONDON TO MADRAS IN 23 HOURS ON AUGUST 21.

'ARIES' NON-STOP ENGLAND-INDIA FLIGHT

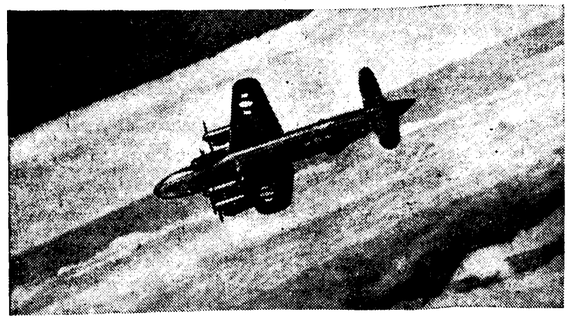
ARIES, the R.A.F. bomber which last year flew to the North Pole, earned fresh triumphs last month. The 30-ton four-engined Lancastrian with her special crew from the Empire Air Navigation School, left London on August 21 and reached Madras 23 hours later.

The route flown, via Malta and Cairo, is 600 miles longer than the direct Great Circle which sweeps over Stalingrad and Kandahar. From Madras the Aries will fly another 10,000 miles to New Zealand, landing at Darwin on the way.

The 60-hour flight from England to New Zealand will constitute a new record, but that is incidental to the main business of proving the latest theories of really long-range navigation over this air route.

In Australia and New Zealand, the Aries crew will demonstrate the many navigational devices being tested on these very long flights, and will return to England in September.

THE "ARIES" FLEW TO THE NORTH POLE LAST YEAR.



MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OPEN TO PUBLIC

To familiarise the public with life in the Indian army various military installations throughout India are to have special visitors' days when they will be open for inspection by members of the public.

Among the establishments that may be visited are the R.I.A.S.C. School at Kakul, the R.I.A.S.C. School for V.C.Os at Bareilly, the Remount Depot at Saharanpur, all Military Farms, the Remount Depot at Sargodha and Indian Military Veterinary Hospitals at Meerut, Lucknow, Dehra Dun, Mhow, Jubbulpore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Kohat and Ambala.

Tours of inspection will be organised by local military commanders in conjunction with the civil authorities who will issue invitations to a wide section of the public.

830,000 DEMOBILISED FROM SERVICES

OVER 830,000 men and women have now been demobilised from the three Services according to figures issued by General Headquarters on August 31.

Of the figures for July this year, 79,211 were accounted for by the Indian Army, 586 by the Royal Indian Navy and 4,604 by the Royal Indian Air Force. The Army figure includes 62,105 Indian ranks, 1,534 officers, 306 members of the W. A. C. (I), the Demobilisation of 2,605 B.O.Rs. attached to the Indian Army and 12,661 civilians.

The total decrease in the strength of the Royal Indian Navy up to the end of July amounts to 17,842, including 536 W.R.I.N.S.

Since V.-J. Day and up to the end of July, 810,355 men and women were reduced from the Indian Army. Of these, 664 were W.A.C. (I) officers and 1,777 were auxiliaries.

Release from R.I.A.F.

Net decrease of other ranks serving in the Indian Army in all theatres is now 12,364. A total of 779,202 Indian ranks have been demobilised, including 27,929 civilians. In July, 430 Indian Army units were disbanded and 2 Indian State forces units were returned to their States, making a total of 4,069 Indian Army units disbanded and 63 I.S.F. units returned to Indian States, up to July 31. The total number of I.S.F. personnel returned to Indian States now amounts to 32,309 and Nepalese returned to Nepal 9,178.

The R.I.A.F., during July, released 19 officers, 1,148 airmen and 3,437 enrolled followers. Total releases from the R.I.A.F. are 144 officers, 7,829 Airmen and 4,980 enrolled followers.

INDIAN MILITARY MISSION IN GERMANY

One of the heroes of the Irrawaddy crossings in Central Burma, Col. Mian Hayaud-Din, M. B. E., M. C., has been appointed a member of the Indian Military Mission in Germany, in place of Col. S. M. Srinagesh, Kumaon Regiment, who is returning to India shortly. Col. Mian Hayaud-Din left New Delhi by air on August 5 for Germany.

Commissioned in 1931, Col. Hayaud-Din saw service in Iraq, Persia and Burma during World War II. He commanded the 9th Frontier Force Regiment in Burma and won the M. C. in the fighting for the Myinmu Bridgehead.

Col. Hayaud-Din was until recently President of the Staff Selection Board at Belgaum.

INDIA GIVES £1,000 TO TWO FRENCH VILLAGES

Gift for Helping Escaped Indian War Prisoners

FOR the help they gave to Indian prisoners of war who had escaped from a German internment camp, the two French villages of Etobon and Chenebier, in the province of Haute-Saone in Eastern France, are to receive a sum of £1,000 from the Government of India.

This gift is for the establishment of a joint library for Etobon and Chenebier. A plaque will also be placed at the memorial in Etobon which prepetuates the memory of those villagers who rendered valuable help to the Allied cause.

Taking advantage of the confusion that resulted after a heavy Allied air raid in May 1944, in the Epinal area in the Vosges mountains region, north of Haute-Saone, a large number of Indian prisoners of war from the local German internment camp took to the surrounding forests in an endeavour to reach Switzerland, or to lie up in the woods whilst awaiting the arrival of liberating troops.

Between 150 and 200 prisoners gravitated to the vicinity of Etobon and Chenebier. Under cover of the surrounding forests the escapees lived hidden in rough log shelters in the woods for about six months until they were finally liberated by the arrival of French and U.S. troops from the south.

The men were welcomed by the French inhabitants of the two villages who supplied them with food, clothing and medical aid throughout their enforced stay. Wireless sets were placed at their disposal to enable them to listen to the progress of the war, tobacco rations were handed to the escapees and woollen garments were made for them by the French. To the prisoners' hide-out, in the woods food was carried by the villagers, often at night, at the risk of possible arrest by German patrols.

SERVICES' PEACETIME SPORTS ACTIVITIES

IN an ambitious programme for the resumption of peacetime sporting activities in all three Services, the Services Sports Control Board has arranged several large events throughout the country for the 1946-47 season.

First of these fixtures takes place in New Delhi between November 20 and 23 with the semi-finals and finals of the All India Boys' Boxing Tournament. This is followed by the Indian Army Football Tournament at Dehra Dun between December 11 and 16, the individual Boxing Championship at Lahore between January 13 and 18 and the Inter-Services Squash Rackets Championship at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, in the third week of January, 1947.

The semi-finals and finals of the Indian Hockey Tournament—with Colonel's Cup will take place at Lahore between February 21 and March 8.

This season the Services Lawn Tennis Championship will be held at the Lahore Gymkhana Club between March 13 and 16. The Indian Army Team Boxing Championship will also take place at Lahore between March 17 and 22.



THE 15 INDIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL HOCKEY TEAM, WINNERS OF THE CAIRO DISTRICT INDIAN ARMY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT, 1946.

Reorganisation of Royal Indian Artillery

AT Kamareddi, 60 miles north of Secunderabad in the Deccan plateau, there is assembled the largest concentration of gunners ever to be in one area in India, of which the gunner manpower alone equals the infantry strength of one division.

This is part of a comprehensive reorganisation scheme now taking place to make the Royal Indian Artillery self-supporting and not dependent on the Royal Artillery, as previously.

Twelve regiments of the Royal Indian Artillery are reorganising and training as part of this vast scheme. Every class is represented and conditions are ideal for sowing the seeds of tradition and *esprit de corps*.

New Policy

Before the late war, the Royal Indian Artillery consisted of six Mountain Regiments and one Field Regiment. By V.-J. Day it had grown to the impressive total of 12 Mountain Regiments, 11 Field Regiments, seven anti-tank Regiments, two Medium Regiments, two Coast Regiments, one Survey Regiment and 14 Heavy and 15 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments.

The new policy of the R.I.A. makes it second only to the Infantry in numbers. Its present Indian officer strength is only 19 per cent of the anticipated establishment. This fact opens up new possibilities to Indians who wish to make the Army their career.

SANSKRIT BOOKS IN GERMANY

As His Majesty's Government has laid down that scholastic material and works of art now in Germany are not to be used as reparations material, India cannot expect the return, under this head, of a large number of Sanskrit books and manuscripts, purchased by Germans from various sources in India.

Only objects looted by the Nazis may be confiscated and these must be returned to the countries to which they belong.

Search for Material

This is revealed in a letter from Maj.-Gen. D. Stuart, Chief of the Indian Military Mission in Berlin, to the War Department of the Government of India.

Gen. Stuart states that the Mission has asked the appropriate authorities to search for any Sanskrit material and to find out whether the owners are willing to sell and, if so, at what price. When a worthwhile amount of such material has been located the Mission suggests that specialists be sent to Germany to examine them.



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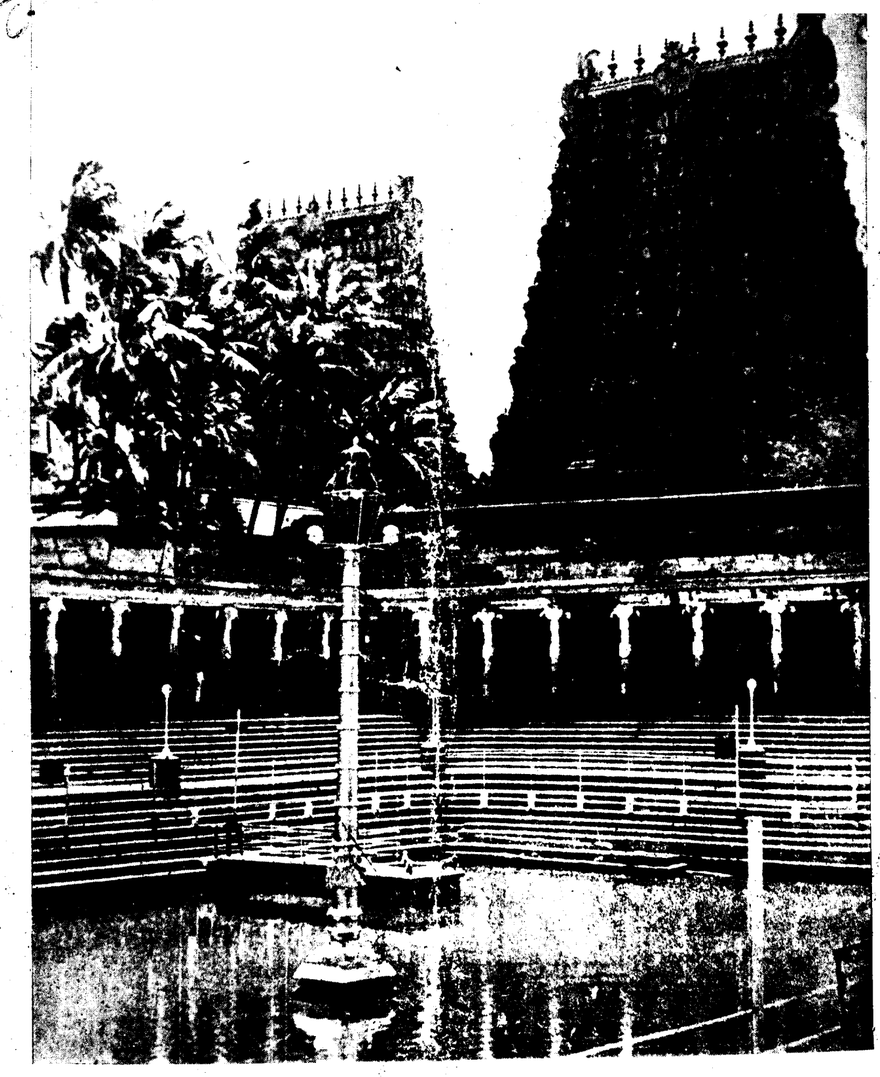
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Film Portraits of the Month

For information on "DUNYA" outside India apply to the Publicity Officer c/o the Indian High Commissioner or the Indian Agent General or the Indian Trade Commissioner in the following countries:

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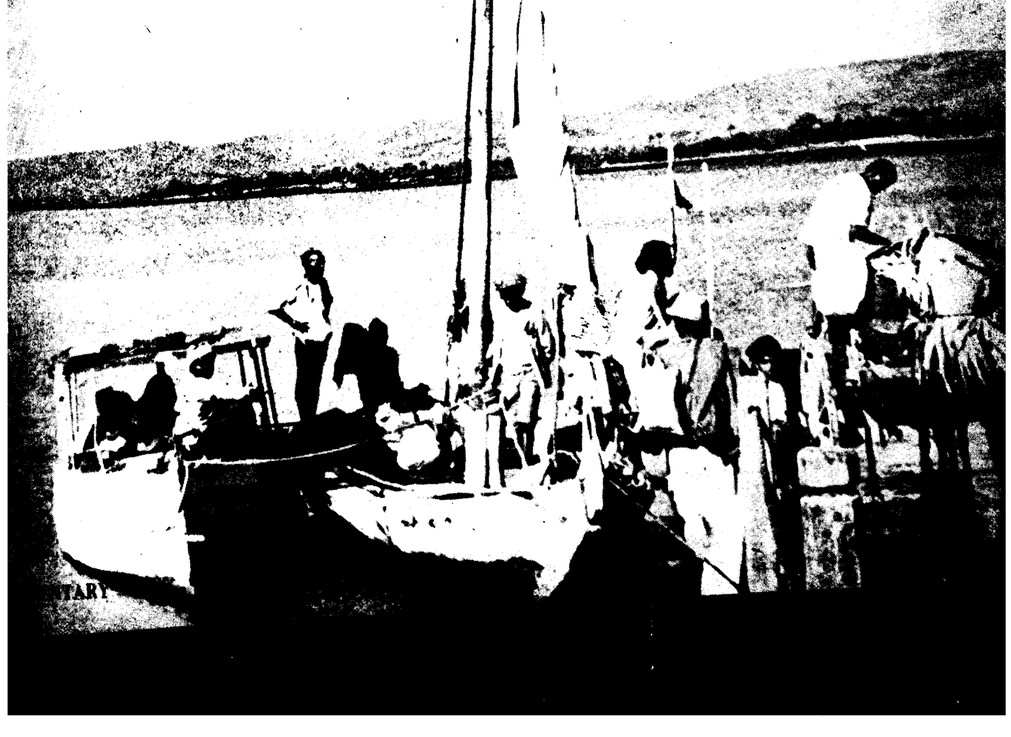
THE FAMOUS MINAKSHI TEMPLE, MADURA (SOUTH INDIA)

THIS FAMOUS TEMPLE AT MADURA DATES BACK TO THE 13TH CENTURY AND IS ONE OF THE FINEST EDIFICES OF DRAVIDIAN ARCHITECTURE. THE TEMPLE IS NEARLY RECTANGULAR—725 FT. BY 840 FT. AND HAS FOUR BIG GOPURAMS AND SIX SMALLER ONES, A BEAUTIFUL TANK WHICH IS POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE 'TANK OF GOLDEN LILLIES,' SURROUNDED BY ARCADES AND A HALL OF 1,000 COLUMNS WHOSE SCULPTURES ARE OF SURPASSING BEAUTY. PICTURE SHOWS THE GOLDEN LILY TANK, AND TWO OF THE GOPURAMS IN THE BACKGROUND.

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INDIAN INFORMATION

NAVAL RECORD OFFICE
WARSAW





LT.-COL. VIDYA DHAR JAYAL, OF THE FRONTIER FORCE RIFLES, WAS DECORATED WITH THE D.S.O. BY H.M. THE KING-EMPEROR AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE RECENTLY. HERE, LT.-COL. JAYAL SHOWS HIS DECORATION AFTER THE INVESTITURE TO LT.-COL. P.S. GYANI, O.B.E., WHO WAS WITH HIM AT THE PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN.

Vol. 19, No. 193, INDIAN INFORMATION Oct. 1, 1946.

AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

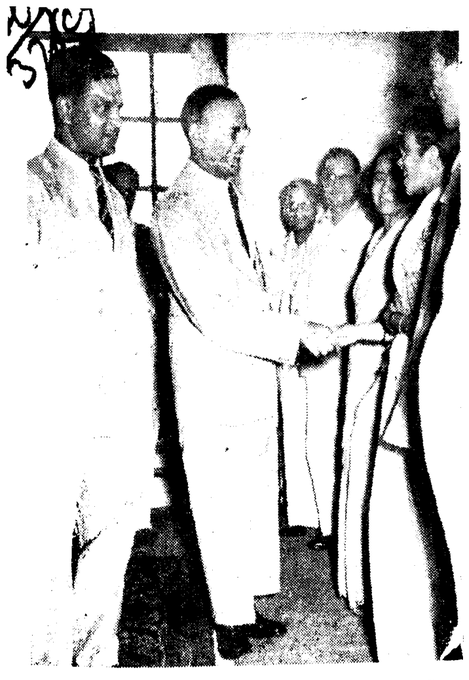
FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

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

Edited by A.S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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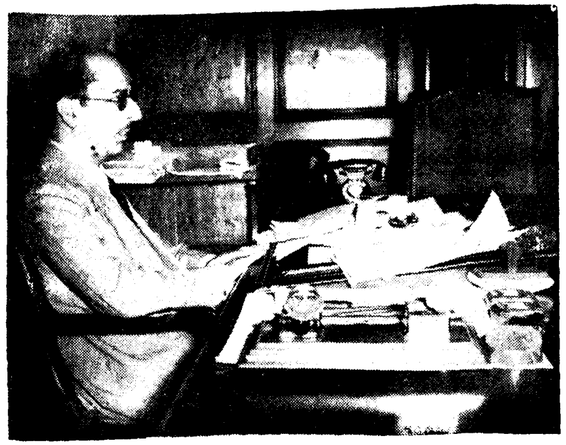


OFFICERS OF THE EDUCATION AND ARTS DEPARTMENT BEING INTRODUCED TO SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN AFTER HE TOOK OVER CHARGE ON SEPTEMBER 11.



DR. JOHN MATTHAI (SECOND FROM LEFT) LEAVING FOR LUNCH AFTER THE MORNING'S WORK ON SEPTEMBER 9 WHEN HE ASSUMED CHARGE OF HIS OFFICE.

Five More Interim Government Members Assume Office



MR. C.H. BHABHA, COMMERCE MEMBER.

Five more Members of the Interim Government have assumed office. They are: Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan (Education, Health and Arts), Dr. John Matthai (Finance), Mr. C. Rajagopalachari (Industries and Supplies), Mr. C. H. Bhabha (Commerce) and Sardar Baldev Singh (Defence).

GREETINGS TO PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

UNRRA's Appreciation of India's Contribution

"I wish to make public acknowledgment of U.N.R.R.A.'s and the world's great debt to India for the supplies contributed by India to the suffering peoples of other lands. India has made one contribution of Rs. 80 million to U.N.R.R.A.'s work and a second contribution of Rs. 20 million has been voted by the Legislative Assembly. This money is being spent in India for the purchase of relief supplies," says Mr. F. H. LaGuardia, Director-General of U.N.R.R.A., in a message addressed to the Indian people thanking them for their support and help to U.N.R.R.A.

The message was delivered on September 9 to the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the leader of the New Government by Mr. Henry R. Atkinson, Acting Chief of Office of U.N.R.R.A. in India, "on the momentous occasion of the assumption of the reins of Government by an Indian National Cabinet."

Heartening Factor

The message adds: "I would like to make clear to every one that U.N.R.R.A. has taken no food from India except a small portion of the exportable surplus of groundnuts, all of which was purchased and shipped before January 1, 1946, and small portions of the pepper and tea surpluses, and Indian Red Cross P.O.W. food packages, all purchased in 1945.

"During the present emergency, namely from January 1, 1946, no food products of any kind have been purchased. To me it is probably the most heartening *single factor in the* sombre happenings of the world to-day that although in such desperate need herself India has seen her way clear to express in so faithful and generous a manner her belief in world fellowship. This is the quality of mercy at its very best. I am humbly grateful to a people who in the midst of pain and great suffering have found place in their hearts for the misery of others."

India's Urgent Needs

Pointing out that India has constantly been in his thoughts ever since he became the Director-General of U.N.R.R.A., because of her own great need for food, Mr. LaGuardia says: "I think it has been by no means clear to the suffering people of India that U.N.R.R.A. is prevented by the rules of our international charter from sending food to a member country like India, which is in a position to pay for relief supplies. Nevertheless, U.N.R.R.A. has emphatically spoken for India's urgent needs before the food allocating authorities in Washington and has fought side by side with Indian food experts and officials to secure India's full fair share from desperately limited world stocks. I have again and again called attention to India's plight. I am continuing to do all within my power to increase food shipments to India."

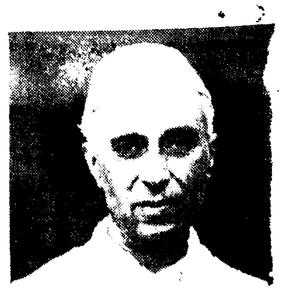
In forwarding the message to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Henry R. Atkinson says: "It is of particular interest to India, and a fact not always understood, that U.N.R.R.A.'s specialised agricultural rehabilitation programme in Central Europe and in China, although indirectly, has substantially helped to ease India's procurement of foodgrain imports, both for this season and for the future.

"Thus under its agricultural rehabilitation programme, U.N.R.R.A. had, prior to April 1, 1946, shipped over 600,000 tons of seeds and plants, fertilizers, livestock, tractors, pesticides, and other necessary aids to crop production, into ten different countries. Its present total shipments of such supplies now approach 1,000,000 tons.

"These specialized tools and raw materials for the production of food in war-devastated areas have increased the total world crops for the current year, and will for years to come. They are restoring agriculture in former grain exporting countries and also making the deficit areas more self-supporting. Such operations of U.N.R.R.A. increase the world supply of exportable grain upon which India can reliably depend.

"In addition to its specialized agricultural rehabilitation programme U.N.R.R.A. has also procured and shipped some 13,000,000 tons for direct relief and industrial rehabilitation. In this greatest of international co-operative enterprises, and in whatever form its work may later continue, in the provision of food, shelter, health, and opportunity for the surviving sufferers of the war, U.N.R.R.A. looks to India for continued leadership and support."

*



PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

The following messages have been exchanged between the Agent to the Bhutan Government and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

From Bhutan Government

From the Agent to the Bhutan Government: "The Bhutan Government send warmest greetings to you and your colleagues and sincere good wishes for every ... your responsible duties."

From Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: "Please convey to the Bhutan Government our thanks for their greetings and our good wishes to them and the people of Bhutan. We hope that we shall have close co-operation in common tasks in the future."

*

Hundreds of overseas telegrams of greetings and good wishes from 5 different countries have been received by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru during the course of the last few days. They are from individuals, associations, youth and student movements and workers' organisations.

Telegrams from Overseas

Congratulating Pandit Nehru on the formation of the Interim Government the telegrams wish him success.

Amongst those who have sent the telegrams are: Mr. Gobind Ram Watumull of the Watumull Foundation; Professor Barua of Horn Church (Chile); Secretary, Thai Bharat Culture Lodge, Bangkok; Mr. Sundram Pillay, Chairman and Mr. Cassim Amra, Secretary, Cape Passive Resistance Council, Capetown; and Mr. A. I. Meer, Secretary, Natal Indian Congress, Natal.

*

The following messages have been exchanged between H. H. the Maharaja and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Nepal and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

From Maharaja of Nepal

From the Maharaja of Nepal: "It gives me sincere pleasure to offer you and your colleagues our hearty congratulations on the formation of the Interim Government and send you our sincere good wishes for the future."

From Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: "I am grateful to you for your message of good wishes to the Interim Government. We look forward to the most intimate and friendly relations with Nepal and send you and the people of Nepal our greetings."

*

Many Women's Organisations from abroad have sent telegrams of greetings and good wishes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

From Women's Organisations

They include the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva; the British section of Women's International League; the Women's Indian Club, Durban; and the Hindu Stree Samaj, Pietermaritzberg.

The telegram from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva, reads: "Rejoice formation Interim Government. Great hopes India's share in building world community, especially liberation peoples in dependent areas. Warm greetings to you and Mrs. Pandit."

*

Mr. Senanayaka, Leader, State Council, Ceylon; U Saw, Leader, Myochit Party of Burma; Professor Rahul Sankrityayana, Leningrad; Professor Lesny, Prague; and Bhikku Amritananda of Colombo, have sent messages of goodwill to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

From Ceylon and Burma

U Saw, Leader, Myochit Party, Burma, says: "Hearty congratulations on your success forming Government. We hope and pray Muslim League will join soon. Best regards to Sarat Bose and all."

Mr. Senanayaka, Leader, State Council, Ceylon: "Heartiest congratulations from Ceylon Ministers on formation of Interim Government and best wishes from Ceylon for speedy realisation of full freedom for India."

Professor Rahul Sankrityayana, Leningrad: "Accept best wishes for your great responsibilities to New India."

*

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has received several messages of greetings and good wishes from Nigeria, Gold Coast and Italian Somaliland. The messages are from Prince Adeleke Adedoyn, President of the Nigerian Young Democratic Party, Mr. Sekyi, President of the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society and the Asian Association, Mogadiscio, Italian Somaliland. Prince Adedoyn from Nigeria wishes the Indian Government and Indian people every success.

From West Africa

Workers' Organisations from Malaya and other parts of the world have also sent greetings to Pandit Nehru.

The messages received are from the General Labour Union, Bahru, Singapore and Klang in Malaya; the Indian Workers' Association, Coventry; the Indian Welfare Centre, Glasgow, and the Railway Workers' Union Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

*

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has received greetings and messages of goodwill from many student and youth organisations abroad, including the Nigerian Youth Movement, Lagos (British West Africa); the federation of East Africa Students, Mombasa; the Young Egypt Party, Cairo; the Young Men's Hindu Association, Port Louis, Mauritius, and the Indian Youth League, Tabora, Tanganyika.

From Student Organisations

Mr. Ahmed Hussein, President, Young Egypt Party, Cairo, says: "Our joy is boundless on your assuming premiership of Nationalist Government. May Almighty God permit me soon to offer hearty congratulation on Indian liberty, complete independence, and real unity."

AT PANDIT NEHRU'S OWN REQUEST

A number of letters have been received by Government attributing discourtesy to All India Radio in announcing Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru before his broadcast on Saturday, September 7, 1946, without any title such as Pandit, the Hon'ble or Mister. The method of announcement was adopted at Pandit Nehru's own request, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, on September 14.

U.N.O. CONFERENCE

Facilities for Indian Pressmen

The opening date of the U.N.O. Conference having been postponed to October 23, the date for the receipt of applications from newspapers wishing to send correspondents to cover the Conference has been extended up to September 26, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, on September 16.

The Government of India will provide facilities for a maximum of 12 correspondents, nine nominated by newspapers represented by the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference and three by others.

Applications from newspapers represented by A.I.N.E.C. should be made to the Convener Secretary in Delhi and from others to the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, New Delhi.

Each correspondent should carry with him a letter of authority signed by his editor for accreditation to the U.N.O. A separate letter of authority would be necessary if any correspondent wished to visit the State Department or attend the Presidential Press Conferences in Washington.

SARDAR BALDEV SINGH AT D.H.Q.

More than 20 generals and senior officers of the fighting Services were among those introduced to Sardar Baldev Singh, India's new Defence Member, when he took up the reins of office on September 19. On arrival at Defence Headquarters, Sardar Baldev Singh, who was accompanied by Mr. G. S. Bhalja, Defence Secretary, was greeted by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India.

In the C.-in-C.'s Committee Room the Defence Member was introduced to members of the Commander-in-Chief's Committee including Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Chief of the General Staff; Gen. Sir Reid Godwin-Austen, Principal Administrative Officer; Mr. Mohamed Ali, Financial Adviser, War and Supplies; Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, War Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India; and Commodore W. Jefford, Officiating Chief of Staff, R.I.N.

In the War Room

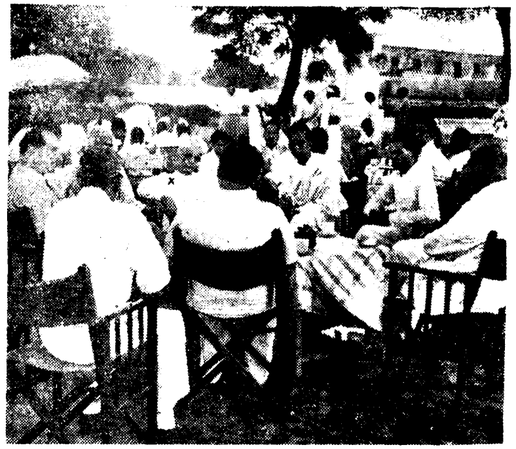
The C.-in-C. then accompanied Sardar Baldev Singh to the War Room, where the Defence Member met senior officers of the three Services, heads of departments, branches and directorates. Among those who were introduced to the Defence Member were Lt.-Gen. C. M. P. Durnford, Quartermaster General in India; Air Vice-Marshal H. F. P. Walmsley, Air Officer, Administration; Air Vice-Marshal E. J. Kingston-McCloughry, Senior Air Staff Officer; Mr. P. Mason, Lt.-Col. Iskandar Mirza and Mr. S. N. Russell, Joint Secretaries, Defence Department.

BANDITS' ACTIVITIES ON KASHMIR BORDER

A Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India on September 14 stated:

The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to reports which allege military activity on the border north of Kashmir. To the extent that they are not wholly imaginary these reports appear to be based on an exaggerated version of the recent activities of bandits who have been operating across the direct route from Gilgit to Sinkiang, which has consequently had to be closed for some time as being unsafe for travel.

Latest reports, however, are to the effect that the bandits are being satisfactorily dealt with by the local authorities and it is hoped that this route will again be safe for normal traffic in the very near future. The other route from Kashmir to Sinkiang *via* Leh is already open and in use.





Sardar Patel Meets Pressmen

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, met Pressmen informally at a tea party at the Chelmsford Club, New Delhi, on September 11. These pictures show (above and right) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (×) chatting with Pressmen and (below) a view of the party.



DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD SURVEYS FOOD POSITION IN INDIA

Call For Discipline and Sacrifice



DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD.

"WITH the failure of crops in our own country, short allocations from abroad, a heavy shortfall 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 2 or 3 months", said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member in the Interim Government, broadcasting from the Delhi station of A. I. R., on the food situation in India, on September 23.

"The overall picture, although gloomy, is not altogether dark" continued the Food Member. "Our people have a knack of facing up to calamities which may well break others. 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."

Crop Failures

Here is the full text of Dr. Rajendra Prasad's 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 foodstuffs, 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 3 million tons and of *rabi* crops in Northern India of 4 million tons—a misfortune which the country experiences only once or twice in half a century.

There were only three ways of facing up to 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 Agriculture, 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 remissions, 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 20 million tons against supplies of 12 million tons and the demands for rice for the second quarter only were 2 million tons against supplies of 523,000 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 lakh tons India has till now received only 12½ lakh tons of which only 173,000 tons is rice.

Tribute to Provincial Ministries

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 overall stocks held by the deficit Provinces and States represented about six weeks' reserve. With the prospect of increased shipments from abroad it was hoped that we would somehow be able to manage at least up to the end of November when the new *kharif* crops will start coming in. The position, however, 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 October arrivals of nearly 100,000 tons, if not more.

We had been hoping for large imports of maize and other grains from Argentine and to expedite matters we had sent out a Mission headed by Dewan Chaman Lal. 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 U.N.R.R.A. 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.

Shortfall from Siam

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 shortfall of 70,000 tons.

The shortfall from Siam is due largely to internal difficulties and lack of sufficient facilities of transport some of which we have tried to meet. 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 5 lakh tons of rice or 7 lakh 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.

Transport Difficulties

With the failure of crops in our own country, short allocations from abroad, a heavy shortfall 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 3 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.

Need for Sacrifice

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 short time. It requires only a little attention, forethought 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 smaller quantiy without detriment to health, the deficit in 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. But 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 of cereals, particularly of rice.

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.

Risk in Stocking

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 rains in others, which are 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.

(*Continued on Page* 180)

PANDIT NEHRU'S APPEAL TO AMERICA

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has sent the following personal message to Mr. Clayton, Acting Secretary of State, U.S.A.:

In view of very serious food situation in India which is being aggravated by delay in arrival of promised allotments due to shipping strikes in America, I would earnestly request you and through you the Labour Leaders to permit and arrange for earliest despatch of food ships to India. We would be very grateful to you and to the Labour Leaders concerned if they will make a special exception in favour of sending foodgrains abroad which will bring urgently needed relief to millions of people.

Food Member Appeals For Co-operation

"So far as the food administration of the country is concerned I shall be guided by no other consideration than the good of the country as a whole," said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food and Agriculture in the Interim Government, addressing an informal meeting of the officials of the Central Food Department on September 12.

Excusing his lack of knowledge of the "intricacies of government administration," the Food Member explained that for the past 30 years he had been associated with a different kind of work, *i.e.*, of criticising Government. To-day however he had assumed responsibility for feeding the entire population of the country.

Difficult Problems

The problem was one of great urgency and difficulty, but with the willing co-operation of all, the situation could be faced with confidence. In his opinion it was necessary to steer clear of complacency on the one hand, and panicky defeatism on the other. While it was too early to say anything about the country's food policy, it seemed obvious to him that it would be influenced not only by internal conditions, but the world situation as well.

On the question of agricultural prices, the Food Member felt that the problem could not be tackled as an isolated phenomenon, but in the context of the internal economy of the country as a whole. The time had however come when they had to break the vicious circle of rising prices and rising wages.

Department's Co-operation

Dr. Rajendra Prasad expressed the hope that the change in the Government had made it clear that there should be no distance between the man at the top and the man at the bottom, for in the words of a Persian saying "duty well performed makes a man great."

The Food Secretary assured Dr. Rajendra Prasad of the Department's full co-operation and ungrudging support.

"You already have our respect" he stated "and it will be surprising if before long you have not won our affection. Under your leadership we can face the future with confidence."

The Food Member later addressed the ministerial staff in Hindustani.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kamalakanta Verma, a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, to be Chief Justice of that High Court upon the retirement of the Hon'ble Sir Iqbal Ahmad, said a Press Communique issued on September 9.

RICE IMPORTS FROM SOUTH-EAST ASIA

"THE offer to India of 700,000 tons of paddy made by Indonesia stands good. We have no intention of agreeing to its diversion, nor has Dr. Shariar or any other authority made any suggestion to us that we should do so," said an official of the Central Food Department, when interviewed on a report that Indonesian paddy was likely to be sent to other countries in South-East Asia.

As regards rice imports from countries in the S.E.A.C. area, excluding Indonesia, the spokesman confirmed that the position had deteriorated during the last few weeks, owing to a short fall in the rice availabilities in Siam. It was revealed that as originally estimated, rice shipments to India during the quarter July-September should have approximated to 1,03,750 tons on the basis of a total allocation of 2,07,500 tons of rice for the second half of the year from Burma and Siam. As against this India had already been shipped 81,500 tons of rice, the total quantity that should have been shipped from Burma for the six months ending December 1946; but shipments from Siam did not exceed 10,000 tons.

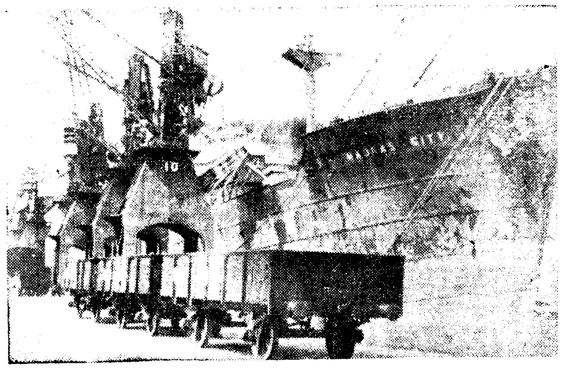
Exports from Burma

Referring to the quantity of 28,000 tons to be exported by Burma over and above her original surplus, out of which India had received no allocation, it was explained that even so India would have received by the end of September, 80 per cent of the total rice exported from S.E.A.C. area for the current quarter. India therefore had not been unfairly treated in comparison with other countries affected by the rice shortage. Owing to Siam's failure to fulfil her commitments, it was pointed out that Singapore and the Malayan Union had curtailed their rice rations to 3.8 and 2.3 ozs. a day respectively, Ceylon to 2.3 ozs., and North Borneo and Sarawak to 2 ozs. per head, and Hong Kong had no rice supplies in sight till September 20.

"VERY GENEROUS GESTURE"

Closely following U.N.R.R.A.'s diversion of wheat to India reported recently, His Majesty's Government have agreed to divert 3 ships carrying appproximately 26,000 tons of Canadian wheat which are expected to reach India during November. This quantity will be repaid to the U. K. at a later date.

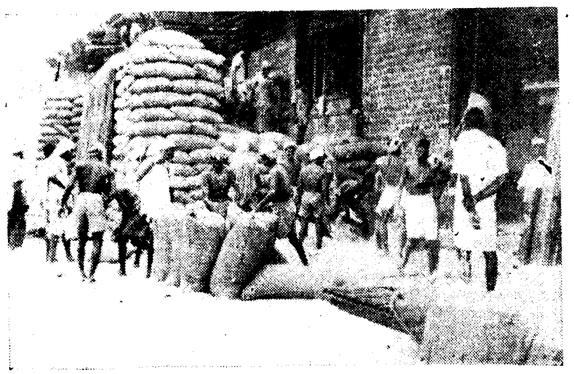
Commenting upon this "very generous gesture" by the U.K., an official spokesman of the Central Food Department stated that in view of U. K.'s own difficult supply position, H.M.G. had taken a bold step to assist India.



MORE AND MORE SHIPS CARRYING GRAIN FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO HELP FILL THE WIDE GAP BETWEEN SUPPLY AND CONSUMPTION IN INDIA ARE ARRIVING AT INDIAN PORTS. PICTURE SHOWS THE "MADRAS CITY" WHICH ARRIVED AT BOMBAY RECENTLY WITH WHEAT FROM AUSTRALIA.



WHEAT UNLOADED FROM ANOTHER SHIP, "KING EDGAR," BEING PUT INTO GUNNY BAGS AT THE BOMBAY HARBOUR.



GUNNY BAGS CONTAINING AUSTRALIAN WHEAT UNLOADED FROM THE "KING EDGAR" ARE READY FOR DESPATCH TO DISTRIBUTING CENTRES.

SALE OF U.S. SURPLUS FOOD STORES

ABOUT 15,000 tons of processed food and cigarettes, left surplus by the U.S.A. Army are being disposed of by the Food Department, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on September 15.

The procedure for disposal has taken account of the facts that the food items are liable to deterioration and that they should be made immediately available to help mitigate the severity of the present austerity measures.

The prices for the various items have been fixed in consultation with the trade with due regard to safeguarding the interests of Indian production and trade, and the interests of the Government of India revenues, to which the sale proceeds belong. To date more than half the total quantity has been sold. In respect of the balance, full information of quantities and prices is available to intending purchasers from the Public Relations Officer, Food Department Division III.

Terms of Sale

To prevent the sale of deteriorated foods, the Food Department have appointed chemists at the different depots to continually watch and test the stocks. All deteriorated and doubtful stocks are disposed of under the orders of Survey Boards, on which there is a representative of the Public Health Department. The terms of sale also allow purchasers, to refuse acceptance of deteriorated stocks.

The prices at which the trade can buy these products from the Food Department and consumers from Messrs. Spencer and Co., have been published, and the prices at which the trade may sell to the public are regulated by the Hoarding and Profiteering Ordinance.

REDUCTION IN RICE RATION

To effect economy in the consumption of rice, Bengal and U.P. have recently made a cut in the rice quantum of both basic and supplementary cereal rations. Hitherto the full daily ration of 12 ozs. in Bengal Eastern and Central U.P. and the District of Dehra Dun could be taken in rice. The rice ration in these areas has now been lowered to 8, 6, 4 and 5 ozs. a day respectively. In western U.P. where wheat is normally consumed in larger quantities than rice, the maximum quantity of rice permissible to an individual has been reduced from 8 ozs. to 3 ozs.

The quantum of rice in the supplementary ration of cereals to Heavy Manual Workers has been reduced from 4 ozs. per day to a little over 2 ozs. per day in Bengal and from 2 ozs. to 1 oz. per day in the western Districts of U.P. In other parts of U.P. no part of the supplementary ration is given in rice.

Alkali Treatment of Rice-Straw

Rice-straw, as cattle feed, becomes more digestible and more nutritive after it has been soaked in dilute caustic soda solution. The improvement in the nutritive value by this alkali treatment accelerates growth in cattle by 67-74 per cent. It has been found that the feeding of treated straw to young stock is economical; the animals look healthier and enter into reproductive life earlier.

The soaking and washing of rice-straw in plain water, although it does not produce the spectacular results of alkali treatment, is also beneficial and the feeding value of rice-straw is brought at par with that of the wheat-straw.

Preliminary Experiments

Preliminary experiments were carried out in this connection at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar later on, and schemes were sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for extensive use of alkali-treated straw under feeding conditions actually practised by private livestock owners in different parts of the country.

Work has been carried on at three different centres, including Sodepur (Bengal) and Puri (Orissa), which are rice-straw feeding areas.

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD'S BROADCAST

(*Continued from Page* 178)

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 to 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, remember 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.

JUTE IN EXCHANGE FOR FOODGRAINS

The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to certain Press reports regarding difficulties which are being experienced since the last few weeks by certain countries, from whom we expect assistance in foodgrains, in procuring their quotas of raw jute and jute goods from India, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on September 13.

The question whether the present control on internal price ceilings on raw jute and jute goods should be continued after the Defence of India Rules expire on September 30, is now under examination by the Bengal Government. Uncertainty about continuance of internal price control has resulted in difficulties of procurement, and accounts for countries from whom we are expecting assistance in foodgrains not being able to purchase through the trade.

The report that the Bengal Government are unwilling to allot requisite quotas to these countries is incorrect, as allotment of quotas is not the function of the Bengal Government, nor procurement of the quantities allotted which the foreign countries are expected to arrange themselves through the normal channels of trade.

SUGAR FOR FRUIT PRESERVES

To assist the development of the fruit preservation industry, for the improvement and extension of which the Agriculture Department is making special efforts, the Central Government have made a special allotment of 2,800 tons of sugar. This will be placed at the disposal of the Fruit Development Adviser to the Government of India, who will make allotments to individual manufacturers, after inspecting their equipment and satisfying himself regarding the quality of their products.

In addition, 1,700 tons of sugar are allotted direct by the Food Department to certain important manufacturers of preserved fruit, whose production capacity during the war was utilised for meeting the requirements of the Defence Services.

Prof. L. Siri Ram, M.A., has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Peshawar Station of All India Radio *vice* Rai Bahadur Mehr Chand Khanna, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, on September 13.



MR. C. H. BHABHA, COMMERCE MEMBER, ADDRESSING THE TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE IN NEW DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 19.

"LIVING STANDARDS OF ALL PEOPLES MUST BE RAISED"

Commerce Member Outlines India's Trade Policy

"OUR general approach to the problem of trade policy is based on the principle, which was recently enunciated by the Vice-President of our Interim Government, namely that India must take full part in all international conferences and develop close and direct contacts with other countries and co-operate with them in the furtherance of world peace and freedom," declared the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Member for Commerce, Government of India, in his opening address at the Trade Policy Committee meeting which began in New Delhi on September 19.

The meeting which lasted two days unanimously supported the Government of India's decision to participate in the Preparation Committee of the United Nations Social and Economic Committee to be held in London on October 15 and discussed the U. S. Government's Proposals for the Expansion of World Trade and Employment. It was attended by representatives of States, Industry, Commerce and Labour and the Commerce Member presided.

But no scheme of co-operation in the sphere of trade and employment could be accepted as genuine, Mr. Bhabha emphasised, which failed to provide for the rapid development of countries which have lagged behind in material progress and are still dependent both economically and politically on the great industrial powers. Expansion of trade was not an end in itself; the main purpose of international co-operation and of any organisation set up to promote co-operation between nations must be the raising of living standards and real income of all peoples and more particularly the less advanced peoples of the world.

Mr. Bhabha also referred to the Interim Government's determination to "initiate measures for the rapid economic development of this country for it is our firm conviction that if our people are to be freed from the shackles of poverty and other evils our national resources must be developed to the full."

Here is the full text of Mr. Bhabha's speech:

"It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that within a few days of my assuming office in the new Government, it should be my privilege to welcome you to a meeting of this Committee. I regret that a later date could not be fixed for the meeting because of the urgency of our future programme. This must have caused you some inconvenience and I would like, therefore, to thank you very warmly for the trouble you have taken in coming to Delhi at short notice to participate in the discussions.

"This Committee, as you are aware, was set up 2 years ago by splitting one of the old Advisory Committees, the Policy Committee for Trade and Industries. The new Committee which was named the "Trade Policy Committee" was apparently intended to be a body representing Indian commercial interests. On assuming office, I discovered that this Committee had never met and that its membership, through lapse of time, had become partly out of date. Since a meeting had to be called without delay, I decided to make some changes in the membership in order to strengthen the Committee temporarily, while leaving the permanent constitution and functions of the Committee for later consideration.

Urgency of Programme

"The entire consultative procedure at present in force will need revision in the light of any new policies which the new Government may lay down. Our endeavour, will be to evolve a procedure which will enable rapid decisions to be taken after consulting all shades of opinion. The immediate purpose, however, is to ascertain your views on the proposals for the expansion of world trade and employment which have been published by the U.S. Government.

"I have referred to the urgency of our future programme, and the dates of the various meetings which are to

take place in preparation for the International Conference will convince you that the meeting of this Committee could not have been put off to a later date.

"The American proposal will be discussed between the Governments concerned at a series of meetings the first two of which are fixed for early next month. On October 1 there will be a meeting of British Commonwealth countries followed on October 15 by meeting of a Preparatory Committee consisting of representatives of 19 nations which has been set up by the United Nations Economic and Social Council for this purpose. These meetings we understand, will be at expert level and will provide a forum for the exchange of views between the Governments concerned as a preliminary to the drafting of a charter. No commitments will be made at either meeting and if a charter for the proposed Trade Organisation is drafted by the experts, the draft will be circulated for further consideration and study.

India Accepts Invitation

"The commitment stage will be reached at a third meeting of drafting countries which has been convened by the U.S. Government but is not expected to meet before next April. The Government of India has been invited to all the three meetings and has accepted the invitation to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee and to the meeting convened by the U. S. Government.

"As regards the first meeting of the British Commonwealth Countries we have informed the Government of the U. K. that in view of the recent change of Government here it will not be possible to complete preparations in time to enable this country to participate in the talks commencing on October 1. Our first appearance will thus be at a meeting held at international level and having regard to the purpose of the meeting we have decided to send a delegation of experts, both official and non-official, to participate in these talks.

Indian Delegation

"To the third meeting at which Tariff negotiations will take place and firm decisions will be reached, as also to the plenary conference which may eventually be convened by UNO it is our intention to send a more high powered delegation which will include representatives of commercial, industrial and other interests, apart from experts and officials. We shall hold discussions in India and sound public opinion more fully before any instructions are given to the delegation to these latter meetings.

"I have endeavoured, gentlemen to explain to you briefly the urgency of the present consultation. Although the delegation to the October meeting will not be authorised to make any commitments, it will need clear instructions from this Government as to the views to be put forward on its behalf. This brings me again to the purpose of this meeting which is explained fully in the agenda. Certain



SIR ROBERT HUTCHINGS (LEFT) SECRETARY, FOOD DEPARTMENT, MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI (CENTRE) AND DR JOHN MATTHAI WERE AMONG THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING.

documents have been placed on the table which will give you a clear idea of the American plans and the reactions of our own experts to the proposals which have been put forward. You are no doubt aware that these proposals have the support not only of the U. S. Government but also, on broad questions of principle, of the Government of the U. K. The approach is, therefore, essentially a joint approach of the two Governments and the question before us is whether these proposals meet the vital requirements of a country in the position of India, and if not, what is the correct attitude for India towards this scheme.

"I do not wish to anticipate the discussion by commenting on the proposals in detail. The views of the experts have been given publicity and I am anxious now to have the views of this representative gathering also. The experts have given full consideration to the comments and suggestions made by various commercial organisations. In formulating its attitude the new Government will give due weight to all the opinions expressed and will follow a course which is fully consistent with the vital interests of our country.

Our General Approach

"Since the new Government has only recently come into being you will not expect me to give detailed exposition of our concrete plans for the future. These plans have not yet been prepared, but the country is entitled to know what objectives we have in view and the principles which will determine our policy. Perhaps a brief statement on this subject from me may be helpful to this Committee also.

"Our general approach to the problem of trade policy is based on the principle which was recently enunciated by the Vice-President of our Interim Government namely that India must take full part in all International Conferences and develop close and direct contacts with other countries and co-operate with them in the furtherance of world peace and freedom.

"We believe in the principle of international co-operation in the sphere of trade and employment and other spheres and at every international meeting to which we are invited our representatives will press for the adoption of policies and measures which will strengthen the cause of genuine and constructive co-operation.

Expansion of Trade

"No scheme of co-operation in the sphere of trade and employment could be accepted as genuine and constructive which fails to provide for the rapid development of countries which have lagged behind in material progress and are still dependent, both economically and politically on the great industrial powers. The expansion of trade is not, in our view an end in itself the main purpose of international co-operation and of any organisation which may be set up with a view to promoting co-operation between the nations must be the raising of living standards and the real income of all peoples and more particularly the less advanced peoples of the world.

"In pressing the claims of such peoples and countries and suggesting the adoption of measures which may lead to their economic advancement our representatives will be lending their support to a policy which in the long run will benefit the leading industrial countries also.

"A substantial increase of trade cannot be brought about by the hasty removal of so called trade barriers which must inevitably hamper the development of backward countries and sterilise the purchasing power and real income of their vast populations. The correct objective, in our view, is to make full provision for the use of such instruments of trade regulation by all countries as are suited to their essential requirements and are primarily designed to bring about a net increase of employment and real income in the world as a whole. Adequate safeguards could of course be adopted to prevent the misuse of such powers and to ensure that so-called restrictive measures are applied mainly for purposes of development.

Rapid Economic Development

"I said that it was not my intention to comment on the proposals in detail. There are certain points, however, to which I must refer in view of their bearing on our future trade policy. We are determined to initiate effective measures for the rapid economic development of this country, for it is our firm conviction that if our people are to be freed from the shackles of poverty and other evils, our national resources must be developed to the full.

"In the past, economic progress has been slow and haphazard, largely as a result of the adoption of policies such as the policy of discriminating protection which have discouraged and hampered the industrialisation of this country. The outlook has now changed and the policies and measures which we propose to adopt involve a large-scale expansion of industry and agriculture and the complete modernisation of our methods of production.

"We will need assistance from other countries in the shape of capital goods and equipment technical advice and food and raw materials. To pay for these goods and services it will be necessary to explore every avenue in sight for the expansion of our country's export trade. This problem may, however present some difficulty since the domestic consumption of Indian raw materials, which constitute our principal exports, is increasing and is likely to increase still further.

Ultimate Objective

"Our ultimate objective must therefore be twofold; first to increase the export of manufactured goods, the natural markets for which are the countries of Asia and Africa; and secondly, to control imports not only by the use of tariffs, but by the application of more direct measures also which will ensure that our limited resources are not frittered away on less essential goods and that the products of our new industries are suitably and adequately protected.

"It is our belief that a healthy and rapid expansion of Indian resources and a rise in the standard of living of the Indian people can only be brought about by a system of planned development which must include a planned regulation of external trade.

"We also believe that, in the conditions facing us, a system of non-discriminatory trade which will give us free access to all markets, both for making purchases and for selling our products will be more in our interest than a system of preferences or other forms of trade discrimination. As a creditor country with vast sums of money owing to her, India has everything to gain by the removal of discrimination in trade relations.

"I have mentioned some of the considerations which will guide us in the planning of our future policy. Our attitude to the proposals will be determined very largely by what we conceive to be a correct trade policy for India. Our objectives are clear and the problem before us is primarily one of the means of attaining them by a constructive regulation of external trade. On this subject any advice that you may wish to offer will receive my careful consideration and I would welcome a full and frank expression of your views on the American proposals."

INDIAN DELEGATION

Following the discussions in the Trade Policy Committee, the Government of India have decided to send a delegation to attend the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council which will meet in London on October 15 to prepare a draft charter for an International Trade Organisation. The draft charter will then be circulated for consideration by various Governments.

The delegation will be headed by Mr. R.K. Nehru, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department; and Dr. P.S. Lokanathan, Dr. B.N. Ganguli, Mr. B.N. Adarkar and Dr. A.I. Qureshi will be members, and Mr. M.A. Mulky, secretary. A few other members will be added to the delegation later.

Commerce Member's Assurance

In formulating any plans for the expansion of external or internal trade the Government would always keep in mind the interests not only of industry and commerce but also of industrial workers and agriculturists—this assurance was given by Mr. C. H. Bhabha in his concluding remarks when the Committee reassembled on September 20.

The Committee concluded its two-day session on September 20 after having made in Mr. Bhabha's words "extremely valuable and significant" suggestions and after generally endorsing the amendments to U. S. Government's Proposals contained in the Report of the Trade and Tariffs Committee of the Consultative Committee of Economists and in other memoranda prepared by the Commerce Department.

Mr. Bhabha in winding up the proceedings said that the Government were very grateful for the opportunity provided by the meeting, for ascertaining the views of representatives of States Labour, Industry and Commerce. He specially thanked Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Dewan of Mysore and Chairman of the United Nations Economic and Social Council for his detailed survey of international conferences and other background information he was able to place before the Committee.

Mr. Bhabha pointed out that no commitments would be made at the forthcoming meeting of the Preparatory Committe of the United Nations Economic and Social Council which India would attend. Before the commitments stage was reached, Government would consult all shades of opinion in the country and the interests of labour and agriculturist, as the primary producers would receive special attention.

Long-Term Tariff Policy

Referring to various suggestions made by the Committee, Mr. Bhabha said that Government did not underestimate the important role of internal trade in India's economy but considered that there should be an integral development of both external and internal trade.

As regards a long-term tariff policy Mr. Bhabha agreed that India's policy must be determined by our own interests and not by the trend of discussions in these international meetings.

"But I don't see how at this early stage, before our plans of development are ready and the needs and requirements of the future are known, we can commit ourselves to any specific long-term tariff policy. Our immediate task is to clarify our trade objectives and to ensure that no international commitments are made by India which would prevent us from adopting a suitable trade policy at any time, rather than to determine finally the specific measures we are going to adopt.

"As conditions change our trade policy too will change for trade—as I cannot too often repeat—will not be regarded by us as an end in itself, but merely a a means—perhaps a very subordinate means—of furthering India's economic development as part of our larger plans for the promotion of the welfare of the Indian people."

Continuing Mr. Bhabha said that Government were aware of India's urgent need for a strong mercantile marine and for the rapid and planned development of the economic resources of the country. As regards India's participation in international conferences, which the Committee had endorsed, he promised that India would sponsor and champion the cause of economically backward countries.

General Discussion

After the Chairman's opening address on September 19, there was a general discussion in which almost all the members participated of the U. S. Government's proposals the Trade and Tariffs Sub-Committee's Report and other memoranda prepared by the Commerce Department on the Proposals. While unanimously agreeing that India should participate in the International Trade Conference, there was general agreement on the following points;

(i) India should reserve the right to use all economic measures such as tariffs, subsidies, etc., as would be essential for the planned development of the country for the purpose of raising the standard of living and the real income of her people.

(i) India should have a mercantile marine large enough to enable her to carry her coastal and foreign trade.

(iii) The importance of internal trade should not be overshadowed by plans for the development of foreign trade.

(iv) India should not agree to any system of voting in the International Organisation to be set up, which would not enable the views of economically backward countries to influence international trade policies.

Among the points which emerged at the meeting on September 20 were:

(i) If highly developed countries desire free access to raw materials, economically backward countries should have a reciprocal free access to capital goods and technological skill.

(ii) Indians should have equal rights to establish businesses in foreign countries such as U.S.A., whose nationals are given similar rights in India.

(iii) Unfair trade practice by which highly developed countries descriminate against the produce or trade of less developed countries should be exposed and put an end to.

The following attended the meeting:

The Hon'ble Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Sir Sultan Ahmed, Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Mr. H. S. Malik, Mr. Zahid Husain, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, Sir Padampat Singhania, Mr. H. D. Townend, Sir Gokul Chand Narang, the Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Sapru, Lala Guru Saran Lal, Mr. A. D. Shroff, Sir Shri Ram, Mr. M. A. Master, Mr. M. H. Hasham Premji, Mr. K. T. Shah, Mr. S. P. Jain, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. S. Pramanik, Mr. N. Narayanamurthi, Mr. V. Gangaraju, Sardar Dhupia, Mr. M.A. Fazalbhoy, Miss Maniben Kara, Sir Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar and Mr. B. R. Shenoy.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

A draft Bill for providing reciprocity with the Indian States in the matter of the compulsory third party insurance of motor vehicles was published in the *Gazette of India* of August 24, and has been circulated for comments to associations and other interested bodies through Provincial Governments. The draft is tentative and will be modified if necessary in the light of comments received through Provincial Governments.

Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act which came into force on July 1 and which is sought to be amended does not at present contain any provision for such reciprocity and, if no such provision were made when the States enacted their legislation, motorists would be required to obtain separate insurance policies for many of the States visited or traversed.

INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Report on U.S. Government's Proposals

PARTICIPATION by India in the proposed International Trade Conference so that she can take her full share in working out plans for the expansion of world trade and employment is recommended to the Government of India in a Report submitted by the *Trade and Tariffs* sub-committee of the Consultative Committee of Economists on the U.S. Government's Proposals for the Expansion of World Trade and Employment. The Report is based on the discussions of the 6th meeting of the Committee which was held in Simla on August 12 and 13 under the chairmanship of Sir Jeremath Bewoor, the then Commerce Member.

An appropriate commercial policy for India, the Report considers, should

(1) be shaped primarily with reference to India's own needs as a country on the eve of rapid economic development which is necessary for the raising of the standard of living of her people; and

(2) also take account of wider considerations and be adapted to enable India to take her place in the world economy on a co-operative basis with a view to assisting the constructive effort which is being made for economic harmony and all-sided progress.

Planned Economic Development

Pointing out that these two objectives are not inconsistent but complementary, the Report continues: "To the extent to which India succeeds in raising the standard of living of her people, she will be making her greatest contribution to the recovery of world trade and employment. But the task of securing a rapid and substantial rise in India's national income necessarily involves the adoption of a programme of planned economic development and for this purpose, India must equip herself with all the necessary instruments of regulation, control and direction of trade and enterprise.

"The American Proposals, with their emphasis on 'the release from restrictions imposed by Governments' do not seem to recognise this need. Emanating from a country like the United States and accepted in principle by the United Kingdom, these proposals obviously reflect the needs and attitudes of advanced industrial countries and do not take sufficient note of the special difficulties and problems of undeveloped countries like India. Indeed, the difference between the outlook revealed in the proposals and the policies necessary for the economic uplift of undeveloped countries is so fundamental that misgivings have naturally been expressed as to whether the freedom of these countries to develop themselves could not be seriously curtailed by the acceptance of these proposals.

"There is also a widespread feeling that India should retain full liberty to pursue a policy of vigorous economic development unhampered by any international obligations of the kind proposed. While these feelings are understandable, we consider that it will not be in India's long-term interest to miss the opportunity of placing her point of view before a world conference both on behalf of herself and in the interest of other countries similarly situated."

India's Economic Position

The Report draws attention to certain special features of India's present economic position "which reinforce the general conclusion in favour of participation." As a creditor nation, anxious to secure a smooth and speedy liquidation of her claims, India is vitally interested in the expansion of world trade on a non-discriminatory basis. The multilateral trading system is more suited to her needs and will enable her to utilise the proceeds of her exports to some countries for the purchase of her requirements of capital goods in others.

Further the success of India's expansionist programme is dependent on the prevalence of a high level of employment and activity in the rest of the world. The Report therefore considers that India cannot insulate herself from economic developments in other countries and that any measures designed to mitigate fluctuations in world economic activity should have India's support.

The Report also draws attention to "evidence of genuine desire" on the part of the sponsors of the Proposals "to fill up the lacuna in respect of the claims and requirements of undeveloped countries and quotes the Resolution passed by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on February 18, 1946, which stated *inter alia*: "The Economic and Social Council requests the Preparatory Committee to take into account the special conditions which prevail in countries whose manufacturing industry is still in its initial stages of development....."

Negative Approach

Examining the principles set forth in the American Proposals, the Report considers that the entire approach is of a negative rather than a positive character. The Proposals lay down what countries should not do rather than what they should do to help each other.

"We believe that if the basic objective of promoting world trade is to be attained," the Report affirms, "the Proposals must be recast in a positive mould, and must, *inter alia*, place an obligation on the more advanced countries to assist the development of backward areas. The advanced countries can render such assistance, partly by ... and other means of economic development needed by the backward areas, and partly by being prepared to carry out the necessary re-adaptation of their own economies.

"We are convinced that there can be no sounder basis for international economic co-operation than a clear recognition of the need for doing everything possible to lessen the disparities in the living standards prevailing in different countries. Thirdly, it should be borne in mind that international trade is not, as seems to have been assumed in these Proposals, an end in itself but a means to an end, the end being the maintenance of high and stable employment and an improvement in the standards of living.

"In a world in which different countries are in different stages of economic development, free trade or freer trade will not necessarily be to the advantage of all. In fact, it may create new stresses which it should be the object of these Proposals to avoid.....The high degree of economic development attained by certain countries has been in no small measure due to the use of tariffs and other regulatory devices; and it is only proper that the use of these instruments should not be denied to countries which have just started on the path of development."

Amendments

The Report then goes on to examine and suggests amendments to the Proposals paragraph by paragraph. Among the important suggestions made are:

The Report does not accept the idea that full employment in major industrial countries alone would be enough to bring about full prosperity of other nations. For this purpose, it is equally essential, the Report emphasises, that the purchasing power and standards of living of the peoples of primary producing areas should improve through, among other measures, the maintenance of their purchasing power.

On the question of tariffs, the Report rejects the principle enunciated in the Proposals that any country should be called upon to agree to a substantial reduction of tariffs and to complete elimination of tariff preferences irrespective of its position. In the case of undeveloped countries, it is necessary to take into account certain special factors which make it impossible for them to agree to a substantial reduction of tariffs and tariff preferences. With regard to India in particular, the following considerations are relevant and must be borne in mind:

(i) "The protective duties in India are few in number and in every case are imposed after a judicious examination of the needs and requirements of the industries concerned. They are also subject to a review both in regard to their levels and duration.

(ii) The general level of our tariff is also moderate and would not admit of a substantial reduction.

(iii) Revenue duties provide a substantial proportion of the tax revenues of the Central Government and cannot safely be reduced without unduly curtailing the resources available to Government for its functions.

(iv) While India is prepared to surrender some of the preferences now enjoyed by her, such surrender should be effected only on a mutually advantageous basis."

As regards quantitative trade restrictions, the Report while agreeing that such restrictions should be used as sparingly as possible, considers that suitable exceptions should be devised to permit their use for constructive purposes, that is, to expand production and employment with a view to increasing the purchasing power of the people.

India's Resources

On the question of membership of the Executive Board of the International Trade Organisation, the Report states: "It has been proposed that the permanent seats on the Executive Board should be allotted to member states of 'chief economic importance.'

"The economic importance of a country for the purpose of determining its share in the management of the International Trade Organisation should be judged, among other things, by reference to the following criteria: (a) foreign trade; (b) total national income; and (c) population. To these, however, should be added certain other factors which are intangible, but are, nevertheless, real and highly significant.

"So far as India is concerned, it is necessary to lay stress on her economic potentialities and her place as the leading Asiatic nation. We think that India's position in an international organisation should not be judged exclusively or mainly by reference to her existing status, but that adequate account should be taken of the possibilities of development which are indicated by the magnitude of her resources.

"Moreover, no international trade organisation can function properly which fails to accord a rightful position to Asiatic countries, among which India occupies a leading place. We believe, therefore, that India is fully entitled to a permanent seat on the Executive Board of the International Trade Organisation."

The Report of the sub-committee is signed by Messrs. P. S. Lokanathan (Chairman), Gyan Chand, B. N. Ganguli, Anwar Iqbal Qureshi, D. Ghosh, B. N. Adarkar (members) and M. A. Mulky (Secretary).

CLAIMS AGAINST ENEMIES AND ENEMY CONCERNS

A PRESS Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 4 stated:

Numerous requests and enquiries have been received by the Government of India in connection with the settlement of claims of Indian firms against enemies and enemy concerns. These claims fall under the following three categories:

A. Claims against persons and concerns resident in belligerent enemy countries;

B. Claims against persons and concerns resident in liberated Allied countries; and

C. Claims against enemy firms in India whose assets are vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property.

Settlement of Claims

The position in regard to registration and settlement of claims against firms, etc., falling under the above categories, is set out in the following paragraphs.

Category A: Claims against persons and concerns resident in belligerent enemy countries have been and are being registered by the Director, Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, and will, as a general rule be settled after Peace Treaties have been signed with the respective belligerent countries. Meanwhile, claimants are advised to carry on correspondence with their agents residing in the belligerent enemy States, with whom business correspondence has now been permitted, with a view to ascertaining the present position and other facts regarding their property and interests in those States.

Category B: Claims against persons and concerns resident in liberated Allied territories have been and are being registered by the Director, Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, and will be settled in terms of debt settlement agreements which may be entered into with the Governments of those countries.

The question of negotiating such agreements is at present under the consideration of the Government of India. Creditors are advised to get these claims verified as far as possible in direct communication with the debtors concerned. Difficulties experienced in this connection should be brought to the notice of the Government of India.

Category C: Claims against vested enemy concerns in British India have been registered with the British Indian Custodian of Enemy Property. Where such concerns are owned or controlled by subjects of a belligerent enemy State, claims against them will, as a general rule, be settled after Peace Treaties have been signed with the respective countries. Where the vested concerns in India are branches of concerns in liberated Allied territories, claims against such concerns will be settled in terms of debt settlement agreements with the respective countries.

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR INDIA

Central Organisation to be Established

THE Government of India have decided to set up an organisation called the Indian Standards Institution with headquarters in New Delhi with the object of evolving national standards in respect of structures, commodities, materials and operations, and for promoting standardisation, quality control and simplification in industry and commerce.

The Institution will be managed by a General Council consisting of the Hon'ble Member for Industries and Supplies (President), and 64 representatives from the Central Government Departments, Provinces, States, Research Institutions, Chambers of Commerce and others.

It will be financed by Government grants and contributions from industry, the Provinces, States and interested public bodies, subscriptions from members and by sale of Indian standards and specifications. The Government of India have *decided* initially to make annual grants for a period of five years.

The Institution will be divided into five sections namely, engineering, building, chemicals, textiles, and food and agricultural products, each to be controlled by a Divisional Council. The actual preparation of standards will be done by small committees of experts representing various interests such as the producers, consumers and technical experts.

The Institution will be non-official although supported by the Government of India. The membership will be open to all interested in its objects. Organisations, companies, firms, educational institutions and corporate commercial bodies will be enrolled as Sustaining Members and individuals interested in the work of the Institution as Ordinary Members. The annual subscription has been left to the discretion of the subscriber, but to allow even the smallest industry to benefit by the scheme, the minimum subscriptions have been fixed at Rs. 250 per annum for Sustaining Members and Rs. 25 per annum for ordinary Members.

Maintenance of Standards

The establishment of the Institution is intended to raise the standard of Indian products to the level of other industrial countries. It is recognised that the marketability of any commodity or product depends, firstly upon the intrinsic worth of the commodity and, secondly, on the consumer's confidence in the specifications; in other words, on efficiency in production and on the maintenance of standards. One of the chief problems of industries in India is the quality of production.

Again, unless India falls in line with international standards, her export trade will suffer. It is, therefore, of considerable importance to India's post-war production that her industries, old and new, should be helped to organise on scientific lines and that the standard of Indian products should be raised to the international level. A national standards organisation is thus indispensable to the industrial development of a country.

Vast Industrial Plans

Due to the diversity of raw materials available in India and the processes employed for manufacture, the British and other standards are not always suitable for adoption in this country.

The proposal to establish a central standards organisation in India for fixing Indian standards was first raised at the 12th Industries Conference held in Lucknow in December, 1940. Due to the war, however, the Government could not pay much attention to this. With the vast industrial plans that are contemplated in the immediate future, this question has become one of urgent importance. The Government of India accordingly prepared a scheme for establishing a central standards organisation in India which has been generally accepted by all Provincial Governments, Indian States, Chambers of Commerce, and other important industrial and technical organisations.

Objects of Institution

The objects for which the Institution is being established, says a notification in the Gazette of India, dated September 7, 1946 are *inter alia* to:

(1) Prepare and promote the general adoption of standards on National and International basis relating to structures, commodities, materials, practices, operations, etc., and from time to time revise, alter and amend the same.

(2) Consider and recommend to Government, national standards for the measurement of length, weight, volume and energy.

(3) Promote standardization, quality control and simplification in industry and commerce.

(4) Adopt such measures and take such steps and do all such things, as may in the opinion of the General Council, be conducive to the promotion of cordial relations between the Institution and persons interested in the objects of the Institution.

(5) Co-ordinate the efforts of producers and users for the improvement of materials, products, appliances, processes and methods.

(6) Provide for the registration of standardization marks applicable to the products, commodities, etc., for which it issues standards, to be branded on or applied to those products, commodities, etc., which conform to the standards set.

(7) Provide or arrange facilities for the examination and testing of commodities, processes, and practices and for any investigation or research that may be necessary.

(8) Procure the recognition of the Institution in any foreign country or place.

(9) Collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to standardization in all its branches.

(10) Establish and maintain libraries, museums and laboratories for the purpose of furthering the practice of standardization.

It has been decided that the Institution should be registered under the Registration of Societies Act. A meeting of the General Council will be convened early to consider the terms of the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations.

Illegal Import of Salt from Middle East

Importers of salt from abroad are informed that instances have recently come to the notice of the Government of India of imports of salt in large quantities from the Middle East into Bengal which are not covered by valid import licences. Such imports involve a direct contravention of the Import Trade Control Regulations under which no shipments can be made without regular import licences, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India on September 14.

The Government take a serious view of such attempts at evasion of the Regulations and they are determined to put a stop immediately to such unauthorised shipments by all possible means, such as confiscation of the salt cargoes on arrival, imposition of heavy penalties in addition on the importers and even refusal of permission and facilities to vessels to discharge the cargoes in port.

A Warning

There is also no reason to fear any shortage of salt as according to information received by Government supply position is satisfactory. Importers are, therefore, warned in their own interest that they should refrain from making arrangements for shipment of salt from the Middle East countries including Aden to Bengal except for quantities which are covered in advance by licences issued by the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Calcutta.





Paris Peace Conference Delegates Entertained

Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India in London, and leader of the Indian Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, entertained Delegates to the Peace Conference at a dinner party in Paris recently.

(Above) Mr. Ernest Bevin (centre) the British Foreign Secretary, photographed with Sir N. Raghavan Pillai (left) and Sir Samuel Runganadhan at the dinner.

(Right) Mr. A. V. Alexander (second from right) First Lord of the Admiralty, in conversation with (L. to R.) Sir Samuel Runganadhan, Mr. A. V. Pai and Sir N. R. Pillai.

MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI ON SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

"MAHATMA GANDHI'S spiritual guidance does play an effective part in the present administration, but it would be wrong to think that Mahatmaji is against industrial development. On the contrary Mahatmaji is keen on industrial development. But we should not blindly imitate the activities in other countries where the Governments are functioning in different conditions altogether. We should not for instance desire the extinction of the rural civilisation which is our heritage," said the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies, in the Interim Government, presiding over the meetings of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and its Advisory Board which met in New Delhi on September 16 and 17.

Sir Shri Ram in welcoming Mr. Rajagopalachari as the new President of the Council eulogised his services to the country and his great independence of outlook. Sir Shri Ram pointed out that with its limited resources the Council had done very useful work during the war and had succeeded in mobilising the talent of the country. The Council had also prepared several plans of national importance.



MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

Industrial Development

Mr. Rajagopalachari in his reply emphasised that the Board should aim at real help to industry. He deplored that India had to depend on other countries for food. He felt that things would have to be organised so that in the matters of food and clothing we should not depend on external assistance, and any industrial development in the country that would help this must have priority.

All industrialisation plans and schemes should keep in mind the unalterable facts of our population and our rural economy. But, it was not the intention that all round scientific investigation should not be encouraged. He appealed to the scientists that they should not subordinate themselves to the whims and fancies of politicians however illustrious they may be. They should owe allegiance only to Science and Truth.

Atomic Research

The Governing Body sanctioned several new schemes of research on the recommendation of the Advisory Board costing about Rs. 2,60,000. The schemes include Atomic research at the Tata Institute of Industrial Research, Bombay and the Bose Research Institute; research on Nuclear Physics by Prof. M.N. Saha and preparation of tannic acid from myrobalans.

The Governing Body approved the final plans for the establishment of the Fuel Research Institute and the National Metallurgical Laboratory in India. The Fuel Research Institute is to be located at Digwadih near Dhanbad at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 11 lakhs and the National Metallurgical Laboratory will be located at Jamshedpur with an initial capital expenditure of Rs. 12.8 lakhs. Architects for these laboratories have already been appointed by the Council and detailed estimates, plans and designs will be submitted by them for the approval of the Council.

The Governing Body noted with satisfaction that the Government of Bombay had agreed to the location of the National Chemical Laboratory on the Pashan Road at Poona and that the required land would be transferred to the Council for this purpose.

UNESCO CONFERENCE

India will participate in the first General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, to be held in Paris in November, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Education Department, Government of India, on September 26.

Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor of Benares Hindu University, will lead the Indian delegation which includes Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and three others, whose names will be announced shortly. One will be a representative from the Indian States. The delegation will leave India at the end of October.

A representative collection of modern Indian paintings, numbering about 50, and 20 films depicting Indian life and culture will be sent to the International Exhibition of Art, Architecture, Science and Music, which will be held during the UNESCO month.

Indian Businessmen May Visit Germany

THE Control Office for Germany and Austria, in the United Kingdom, has made arrangements under which a limited number of businessmen, or their representatives, with established interests in property in Germany or substantial holdings of their own or their company in German concerns or undertakings may visit the British Zone of Germany for the purpose of inspecting their properties and evaluating the present position and future prospects of the German business concerned, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 25.

These arrangements, do not extend to persons wishing to visit Germany on the grounds that they claim to own property confiscated by the Nazis or subjected to such measures as forced sales as a result of Nazi discriminatory legislation.

The present shortage of transport and accommodation imposes a severe restriction on the number of visits permissible, and priority has to be given to those applicants whose presence will be of use to the Control Commission in that the efficient running of their German business is important to the need of Military Government, the Occupying Forces or the German economy.

The present overall maximum of visitors to the British Zone is 30 at one time, though this number can be increased by another 30 if they can provide their own transport. Within this number, however, provision has to be made for visitors of U.S., French and other Allied or Neutral nationality.

Reciprocal Arrangements

Reciprocal arrangements are being made with the Commanders of the U.S. and French Zones for the entry of British and Dominions Businessmen into the area under their control.

Visits will be for not more than one month's duration, but it is expected that many visitors will be able to conclude their business in a much shorter time than this.

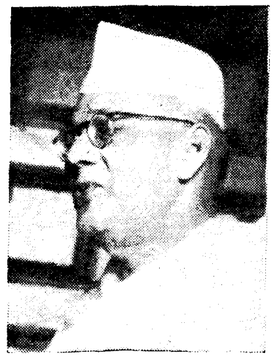
Applications of businessmen intending to visit Germany should be addressed to the Government of India, Department of Commerce, Simla, who would forward them to the India Office, London, for consideration with a view to securing necessary facilities.

The Government of India have withdrawn the Factories (Control of Production) Order 1942, according to a notification in the *Gazette of India* dated September 7, 1946.

This Order was promulgated as a war measure on December 4, 1942, giving statutory powers to the Government to exercise control over factories engaged in the production of fabrication of metal or in any engineering work.

DEVELOPMENT OF MICA INDUSTRY

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose's Address



MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE.

"MICA is at present mainly exported as a raw material, but we feel that mica manufacture should be developed in this country to an infinitely greater extent than it is to-day. We should take steps to utilise our raw materials ourselves and with that end in view, we should examine the possibilities of starting manufacturing concerns in different parts of the country at an early date and encouraging and developing the manufacturing concerns that exist," observed the Hon'ble Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Member for Works, Mines and Power in the Interim Government, opening an exploratory conference of the Government of India with the representatives of the mica trade and industry in New Delhi on September 6.

Referring to the need for securing a co-ordinated and systematic development of this important mineral on uniform lines, he said it might be difficult for individual Provinces to cope with the problems of export policy and international trade, which would arise in connection with mica.

"The Central Government," continued Mr. Bose, "is probably in a better position than individual Provinces to evolve a common policy for the whole of India. The role of the Centre, as I envisage it, would be a co-ordinate policy throughout India and ensure that the mineral wealth of the country is conserved and utilised to the fullest advantage.

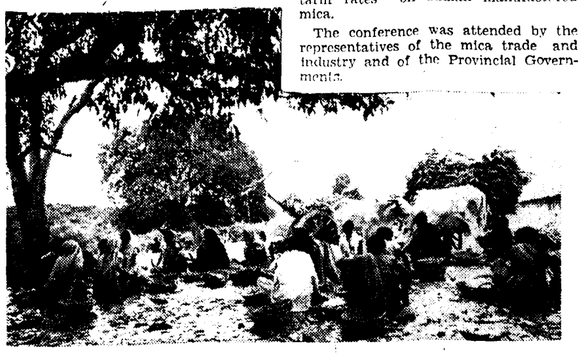
"The execution of policy may well be left in the hands of Provincial Governments, though it will also be a matter for very serious consideration how far Provincial Governments themselves should control future developments.

"I have no doubt in my mind that if we succeed in evolving a common policy of this nature, we could depend on the co-operation of the Provincial Governments and all others connected with the industry to implement that policy in the interests of post-war development of India."

Dealing with the question of marketing in general and grading and standardisation in particular, the Hon'ble Member suggested that in view of the difficulty in setting up a Mica Marketing Control Board as recommended by the Mica Enquiry Committee, an Interim Advisory Committee could be set up at once for regular consultation between the industry and the Central and Provincial Governments.

Discussions in the Conference were in favour of the formation of such an Advisory Committee which would be formed with the representatives of the trade in Bihar, Madras and Rajputana. It was decided to refer the questions of grading and classification of mica and the establishment of mica mining classes for training of mines managers to this Committee. It was also urged that the Government of India should take up the question of negotiating with the U.S.A. for the reduction of her tariff rates on Indian manufactured mica.

The conference was attended by the representatives of the mica trade and industry and of the Provincial Governments.



A NON-CONDUCTOR OF HEAT AND ELECTRICITY, MICA IS OF GREAT VALUE AS AN INSULATOR AND IS USED EXTENSIVELY IN ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY. THE CUTTING OF MICA TO THE REQUIRED SHAPES IS DONE MOSTLY BY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

FERTILIZER FACTORY IN BIHAR

Rs. 10½ Crores Scheme

THE proposed Rs. 10½-crore project for establishing a Fertilizer Factory at Sindhri in Bihar, which is expected to produce 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate per year, is now well under way, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on September 12.

The supply of specialist plants, such as boilers, gas compressors, gas plant, turbo-alternators, etc, have been ordered from abroad at a cost of nearly Rs. 3 crores. Certain other categories of heavy plant must also be imported owing to lack of facilities for manufacture of the plant in India.

A good deal of other items can be fabricated in India and the Government of India have decided that as much as possible of such requirements should be manufactured and supplied indigenously. These items cover a wide range of plant and machinery, such as structural steel, cranes, tanks, steel water mains and certain classes of electrical equipment, etc. Opportunity is now open to Indian producers to manufacture and supply their products.

Construction of Buildings

The main agents for the construction of the Factory, the Power-Gas Corporation, have set up an office at number 3, Esplanade East, Calcutta, which will deal with Indian inquiries for supply of structural steel, plant and equipment required for the factory.

Arrangements are being made for the construction of foundation for buildings, foundation for plant and machinery, roads, drainage and of a township to house staff and workmen. This work will be done by the Central P.W.D. under the direction of the Additional Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D., New Delhi. An extensive range of work under the water supply scheme is also being undertaken by the Bihar P.W.D.

Consequent on the revocation of the list of "enemy concerns" containing names of persons and firms belonging to neutral countries with whom commercial contact had been prohibited owing to suspected dealings with enemy interests, the Government of India propose to make arrangements for the release of property in India of such persons and firms which at present vests in the Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 4.

Applications and enquiries in this regard should be addressed to the Custodian of Enemy Property, Caltex House, Ballard Road, Bombay.



THE CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION TOOK ORAL EVIDENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATIONS AT ITS OPEN MEETINGS IN NEW DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 9, 10, 15 AND 19. FACING THE CAMERA (THIRD FROM RIGHT) IS MR. JUSTICE SRINIVASA VARAD ACHARIAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION.

CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION HEARS ORAL EVIDENCE

Witnesses of Service Associations Examined

THE Central Pay Commission began its open sittings in the Imperial Secretariat, New Delhi, on September 9, and heard several representatives of Service Associations at Headquarters of the Government of India. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Srinivasa Varadachariar, Kt., Chairman, presided and other members of the Commission present were: Mr. N. V. Gadgil, M.L.A., Mr. Frank Anthony, M.L.A., Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., Sardar Mangal Singh, M.L.A., Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Srinivasa Rao and Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai.

The representatives of the Imperial Secretariat Service Association, Defence Headquarters Association, Railway Board Ministerial Staff Association, Government of India Subordinate and Attached Offices' Association, Director-General, Industries and Supplies and Director-General (Disposals) Employees' Union and Government of India Stenographers' Association, gave oral evidence.

Pay Scales

Classification of services, pay scales, leave and pension and provident fund facilities were among the subjects on which the Commission examined witnesses. The general consensus of opinion among the representatives of the Associations was that a junior clerk in the Government of India should be paid a minimum basic salary of Rs. 100 with dearness allowances varying from time to time according to the cost of living indices.

To a question what should be the minimum and maximum that any Central Government servant should draw, the witnesses seemed to be of the view that the minimum should be Rs. 30 while there was a difference of opinion about the maximum, some maintaining that it should be Rs. 1,500 and others Rs. 2,500.

The Commission reassembled on September 10, when representatives of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service Officers' Association, Delhi, Military Accounts Superior Service Officers' Association, Meerut, and *Ad Hoc* Committee of Class I Officers (Revised Scales of Pay), Delhi, gave evidence.

There was general agreement among the representatives present that the basic minimum pay of a junior clerk of the Government of India should be Rs. 100. They also seemed to be of the view that the disparity in salaries between that of a junior clerk and that of the highest officer of the Government of India should not be more than 1:20, *i.e.*, a maximum of Rs. 2,000.

Dearness Allowance

They agreed that it would be just that no dearness allowance should be paid to any officer drawing Rs. 1,000 or above per mensem from the next financial year. Instead a graduated system of dearness allowance which would give the lower paid employees a higher percentage than those better paid received support. As regards pension facilities, the view appeared to be that without any additional burden to the Government the pension system should be reformed so as to provide greater security to the families of Government employees.

A sense of grievance regarding the discrimination in pay and other privileges at present existing between officers appointed by the Secretary of State and other officers was also voiced, and the need for maintaining the distinction between old scales and new scales was also stressed. The witnesses recognised that when Indianisation was completed, there would be a case for a radical change in the pay scales which might be more in accordance with the economic conditions in the country.

Inferior Services

Representatives of peons, daftaries, record sorters and other members of the "Inferior Services" of the Government of India gave evidence when the Commission met on September 16.

The witnesses strongly pleaded for upgrading of their basic salaries, complaining that the present salary grades were totally inadequate for the purchase of even the bare necessities of life.

Representatives of the Central Secretariat Peons and Jamadars urged a minimum basic salary of Rs. 40 per mensem rising to Rs. 65 while the representatives of peons from outstations wanted a minimum basic salary of Rs. 35. In addition, they claimed either free residential accommodation or a minimum residential allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem, free education for their children even up to University stage and free medical facilities.

In view of the high prices prevailing at present, they also demanded a dearness allowance of about Rs. 20 per mensem. As regards leave, the witnesses claimed for themselves the same privileges as are given to other Government servants including officers. An eight-hour working day and liberalisation of the pension and provident fund facilities so as to provide a man at retirement with a living income were also claimed.

Representatives on behalf of daftaries and record sorters asked for a minimum basic salary of Rs. 50 and Rs. 60, respectively and urged that opportunities should be provided for this class of employees for promotion as clerks if they possessed the required educational and other qualifications.

The open sittings of the Commission, which concluded on September 19, recorded evidence of representatives of 57 Associations of Government officers, clerks and peons. The Commission's next open session is likely to begin in New Delhi in the first week of October.

The Indian Delegation to East Africa returned recently to Nairobi from Uganda after consultations there with the Governor and leading officials and all sections of Indian opinion in the Protectorate as well as African leaders regarding the Immigration Bills.

Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, the leader of the Delegation, is attending a meeting of Indian Congress at Mombasa.

The Delegation was entertained at several functions in Uganda including lunch with the Governor.

RS. FIVE-CRORE CREDIT TO SIAM



THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, FINANCE DEPARTMENT, SIGNS THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND SIAM BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS GRANTED A CREDIT OF RS. 5 CRORES TO SIAM.

Formal Agreement Signed in New Delhi

THE formal agreement whereby the Government of India has granted a credit of Rs. 5 crores to the Government of Siam was signed in New Delhi on September 4. The simple ceremony took place in the room of the Principal Secretary, Finance Department, who signed as representative of the Government of India. The Siamese delegate who signed for his Government was Nai Halilamien, Permanent Head of the Siamese Treasury.

The loan, which was agreed to in June this year, is for 20 years, from 1946 and will carry interest at the rate of 3 per cent. It will be repaid in annual instalments of Rs. 34 lakhs covering interest and amortization charges beginning from 1947. The Siamese Government reserve the right to repay the outstanding amounts owing under the loan in part or whole at any date after August 1, 1951. The loan, the first ever made by the Government of India to a foreign country, is expected to help lay the foundation of intimate trade relations with Siam.

The Siamese have close cultural and religious links with India. The population totals 15 millions, the majority being Buddhists. Their old system of customary law, their art and even their script are unmistakably of Indian origin. Buddha Gaya in India is still visited by many Siamese Buddhists yearly.

The following figures illustrate Siam's national economy. The estimated revenue from April 1, 1938, to March 31, 1939, (which was the last normal year before the general upset of world conditions due to the outbreak of the war) was approximately £10,000,000 whilst expenditure out of revenue was assessed at an almost identical figure.

The chief sources of revenue were customs and excise duties, the opium monopoly, the royalty on tin, the land-tax and the income-tax. At the end of July 1941, the external national debt stood at £4,000,000 and there was in addition a small internal debt. Up to the outbreak of war, almost alone among the countries of the world she had the distinction of never once defaulting in her obligations towards her foreign creditors. In normal times the commerce of Siam shows a consistently favourable trade balance.

India's trade with Siam had been steadily improving till war intervened. India sold Siam goods worth Rs. 86 lakhs and bought goods worth Rs. 44 lakhs in 1939.

TEXT OF AGREEMENT

Here is the Text of the Agreement:

It is hereby agreed between the Government of India and the Government of Siam as follows:

1. *Credit*: The Government of India will extend to the Government of Siam a credit of Rs. 5,00,00,000 which may be drawn upon at any time between August 1, 1946, and July 31, 1947, inclusive.

2. *Purpose of the credit*: The purpose of the credit is to facilitate purchases by Siam of goods and services in India and thereby to assist in the early rehabilitation of Siam.

3. *Drawing on the credit* : The Government of Siam will instruct its bankers, the Bank of Siam to open an account with the Reserve Bank of India, and the Government of India will arrange for payment into this account of such sums in blocks of Rs. 5,00,000 as may be required under this credit from time to time by the Government of Siam in demands addressed to the Government of India in the Finance Department. No such demand will be made after July 31, 1947.

Interest

4. *Amortization and interest* : The amount of the credit drawn by July 31, 1947, shall be repaid with interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum in annual instalments of Rs. 34,00,000 beginning on August 1, 1947.

Each instalment shall consist of the full amout of the interest due, and the remainder of the instalment shall be the principal to be repaid in that year.

Interest for the year ending July 31, 1947, shall be computed on sums paid under Article 3 into the account of the Bank of Siam from the respective dates of such payments. For each subsequent year interest shall be computed on the principal sum outstanding on August 1 of that year.

The Government of Siam may after August 1, 1951, accelerate repayment of the amount drawn under this credit.

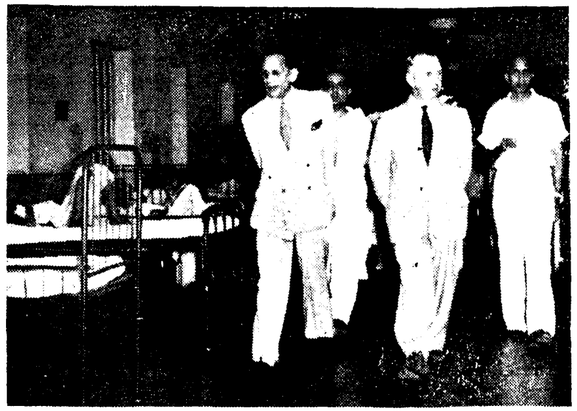
5. The annual instalments of principal repayments and interest shall be paid on August 1 of each year by transfer from the account of the Bank of Siam with the Reserve Bank of India to the account of the Government of India with the said Reserve Bank.

6. The Government of Siam will, in consultation with the Government of India, establish a purchasing policy in respect of all purchases to be made by the Government of Siam under this credit from sources in India other than Government sources.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Central Government's monthly accounts for June 1946 show that, excluding periodical adjustments and the transactions of Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, expenditure in the first three months of the financial year 1946-47 exceeded revenue by Rs. 36 1/3 crores against Rs. 55¾ crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Revenue was worse by Rs. 12¾ crores, but Defence expenditure decreased by about Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 64 crores and Civil expenditure by Rs. 2 crores. Net receipts from Railways were worse by Rs. 3 crores.

There has been an increase of about Rs. 18½ crores under Permanent Debt during this period.



SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN (LEFT) MEMBER FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION AND ARTS, VISITED THE IRWIN HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI, ON SEPTEMBER 17. WITH HIM IS COL. D. MAC D. FRASER (SECOND FROM RIGHT) DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, DELHI PROVINCE.

HEALTH MEMBER VISITS IRWIN HOSPITAL

THAT Delhi should be a model province for the whole of India in the matter of health services was the wish expressed by the Hon'ble Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Member for Health, Government of India, when he paid a visit to Irwin Hospital on September 17.

The Hon'ble Member was received by Col. D. Mac D. Fraser, Director of Health Services, Delhi Province, who introduced the Medical Officer of the Hospital, Khan Sahib Dr. Mir Abdul Haq Khan and Dr. Hakim Din, to the distinguished visitor.

Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan showed much interest in the proposed scheme to expand the Hospital as part of the post-war development plan. He closely inspected the chart of the new buildings that are to be constructed. Col. Fraser explained to him the details of the scheme, under which there will be an addition of 310 beds, making a total of 630 beds, and completely new and well-equipped Out-patients and Casualty Departments.

The Health Member went round the Hospital and saw the Operation Theatre, Children's Ward, Pathological Laboratory, X-ray and various other departments. He emphasised the necessity of providing adequate health services for the growing population of Delhi and showed great concern for the proper section of the people.

HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

THE Hon'ble Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Member for Health in the Interim Government, who assumed his duties in the Health Department on September 12, addressing the officers of the Department emphasized the need for providing health services in the rural areas as well as in the towns. While the towns should not be neglected, more should be done than in the past to bring the benefits of scientific progress to the rural areas.

He pointed out that there was now a new conception of the duty of the State in health matters. Every Indian was entitled to good health and it was the duty of the State to provide those services and create those conditions in which good health could be attained and enjoyed.

It might take many years, he added, to attain this objective and limitations of financial resources could not be ignored; but he was confident that with a new spirit, enthusiasm and a determination to create a better world, far more could be done in the future than in the past. They were fortunate in having available the valuable survey carried out by the Bhore Committee and their recommendations would be a starting point for their work.

Sir Shafaat said it was his intention to call a conference of Provincial Ministers to consider these recommendations as soon as possible.

REFRESHER COURSES IN TUBERCULOSIS

To secure the co-operation of general medical practitioners in the fight against tuberculosis, the Tuberculosis Association of India has drawn up a programme of post-graduate refresher courses in tuberculosis in different parts of the country. A course held in Calcutta at the beginning of this year was attended by 32 doctors.

The next course of about three weeks' duration will be held in Bombay in December next. In addition to lectures by well-known tuberculosis workers and by the Technical Adviser of the Tuberculosis Association of India, and demonstrations at a number of hospitals, the candidates will also visit two tuberculosis sanatoria.

Registered medical practitioners from all over the country, men and women, whether in Government service or in private practice, can avail themselves of this opportunity.

CONVERSION OF 3½ PER CENT LOANS

The attention of Government has been drawn to the situation created as a result of the recent disturbances in Calcutta and the absence from duty of the employees of certain banks in which it may not be practicable for holders of the 3½ per cent Loan of 1842-43, 3½ per cent Loan of 1854-55, 3½ per cent Loan of 1865, 3½ per cent Loan of 1879 and 3½ per cent Loan of 1900-1 to tender their holdings for conversion into the 3 per cent Conversion Loan of 1946 or the 2½ per cent Loan 1976 by September 16, 1946, the last date specified for this purpose in Government of India, Finance Department Notification No. D-4767-B-46 of May 24, 1946, said a Press Communique, issued by the Finance Department, Government of India on September 5.

The Government have decided, therefore, to extend the period for tendering the securities for conversion up to September 30, 1946 inclusive. Interest on the 3½ per cent paper tendered for conversion will cease from September 16, 1946, as stated in the Government of India, Finance Department Notification No. 1 D-4766-B-46 dated May 24, 1946. Interest on the 3 per cent Conversion Loan of 1946 and the 2½ per cent Loan 1976 will accrue from September 16, 1946.

The Government of India have decided to reintroduce import licence control in respect of quinine sulphate, quinine bisulphate, quinine hydrochloride and quinine bihydrochloride with immediate effect. Effect has been given to this decision by amending the Open General Licence No. VII by a *Gazette Extraordinary* published on September 17. Import licences will now be required for all imports of the quinine salts mentioned above. Import licences will be granted subject to certain conditions which can be ascertained from the Import Trade Controllers at ports.



A FREE WARD IN THE CANCER RESEARCH HOSPITAL, BOMBAY.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN BRITISH INDIA IN 1945

THAT on the whole the birth rate in India in 1945 seems to have increased over the rate in 1944 but it did not reach the level of the last intercensual years, is shown by the Preliminary Note on Health Conditions in British India during the year 1945 by the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.

In previous years there had been a progressive decline in the birth rate in British India. From a birth rate varying round the figure of 34 per one thousand during the last intercensual year it came to 29 per one thousand in 1941 and to 26 in 1942 and 1944. This reduction in the recorded birth rate was shown by nearly every province, the only difference being that in some the reduction was more pronounced than in others. Whether this decreasing birth rate was "due to a real decline in fertility rates; to a changed age—sex composition or is merely a transient phase—the result of passing conditions" cannot be stated with certainty; for an elaborate analysis would be necessary before any authoritative pronouncement could be made on the subject, states the Note.

Figures for 1945

The available figures for 1945 indicate an increase in birth rate compared to the corresponding figure in 1944 in U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Bengal, Assam, C.P., Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. A small lowering of birth rate is reported in the case of N.-W.F.P., Sind, Madras and Bombay. In the case of Coorg and the Punjab not much deviation from the rate in 1944 is shown.

The monthly total mortality figures received from the provinces show that the general health situation in the year under review was far from favourable in certain provinces.

In Bihar, Orissa, Bengal, the Central Provinces and Bombay mortality was above the medium level of the 1937—41 quinquennium. The situation in C.P. was particularly bad.

While "in the absence of any special investigation", the Note says, "it would be difficult to say how far this unfavourable situation was due to wartime strains on the health of the public", it seemed "not unlikely that in many cases the food situation, overcrowding and the difficulties that all Administrations experienced in maintaining properly staffed and equipped health services were factors that contributed not little to the general worsening of health conditions." In the remaining provinces the position was fairly satisfactory. Mortality in the Punjab was below the normal.

Epidemics and Other Diseases

There were violent outbreaks of epidemics in several parts of the country. Cholera raged high in U.P., Bihar, Orissa, C.P., and Bombay. Smallpox occurred in a virulent form in U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Bengal, C.P., and Madras. The country was comparatively free from plague except Bombay where it broke out in an epidemic form in certain parts of the province.

Mortality recorded under fevers in 1945 in Bihar, Orissa, Bengal, C.P., and Ajmer-Merwara was above the medium level in the quinquennium, 1937-41. Mortality recorded under the miscellaneous group 'all other causes', which excludes the diseases already mentioned and respiratory diseases, dysentery and diarrhoea, was abnormally high in C.P. and Delhi throughout the year.

IMPORT CONTROL RELAXATIONS

In pursuance of the policy to relax import trade control progressively, the Government of India have, by a *Gazette Extraordinary* dated September 12, removed a number of articles from all import restrictions. Effect has been given to this decision by the issue of a Universal Open General Licence which will enable any person to import the goods specified therein without restriction from any country whatsoever.

New Items

Among the items included in the Licence are potatoes, gum Arabic, copra, coconuts, fish products, cashewnuts, canned and bottled provisions, tallow, saccharine, matches, hemp manufactures, dyeing and tanning substances excluding wattle extract, hops, cinchona bark, plumbago and graphite and metallic ores other than antimony ore, ochres and other pigment ores.

The intention is to bring more and more items under this Licence and the Government have this matter already under consideration.

MORE ARTICLES DECONTROLLED

The Government of India by a *Gazette Extraordinary* published on September 17 have removed over 100 catagories of articles from Import Control restrictions. Effect to this decision has been given by including these articles under Open General Licence No. VII which will enable them to be imported free of licence from sterling area countries.

Among the articles thus decontrolled are: Iron and steel articles including machine screws, wire rope wire nails and bolts and nuts of certain specifications, precision and measuring tools, diesel engines, motors and generators, pneumatic plants, dyes derived from coaltar, China clay, plumbago, raw silk and silk yarn, cotton sewing thread, woollen cloth and carpets, motor spirit, kerosene, various kinds of machines, ships including steamers, launches and boats and industrial diamonds.

The Government of India have decided that there should be no control on typewriters after September 30, 1946. The Typewriter Control Order, 1943, will therefore be allowed to lapse after that date.



A CLASS IN A CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE IN BOMBAY.

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan's Plea

THAT the Sargent Plan would be taken as the starting point in India's educational programme was indicated by Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Member for Education and Arts, Government of India while addressing a meeting of the officers of the Department.

He said that a programme of universal compulsory basic education should be taken in hand, and that the foundation of a national system of education must be laid without delay.

There was also urgent need, he pointed out, for a body of technicians and scientists, who could bring about the economic progress of the country. Technological Institutes would have to be established soon and in a manner that they might become the pride of all Asia; and above all, fundamental research must be encouraged in every possible manner.

After dwelling on India's past eminence he appealed to the officers of the Department to work in the knowledge that they were helping the country to regain its rightful position in the comity of nations.



SCIENCE STUDENTS AT WORK IN THE PHYSICS LABORATORY OF A WELL-KNOWN BOMBAY COLLEGE.

INDIAN HISTORICAL SECTION'S WORK

FORMED in July 1945, the Historical Section of the Defence Department have already produced several narratives relating to the activities of the Indian Army in World War II.

Among the works completed are an outline narrative of the operations of Indian forces in the Middle East, a history of the Indian Army in Italy and Greece, an account of Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck's campaigns in the Western Desert and a 120,000 words' story dealing with the war effort in India.

Also scheduled are a popular history in one volume of the Indian military achievements in the War and a fully detailed and documented official history in several volumes.

Due for early publication is a volume on "British Officers of the Indian Army 1746 1946". This survey traces the growth of the Indian Army from the days of the East India Company and pay a tribute to the men who turned it into a fighting machine second to none in the chapters dealing with life in the Army in the late 18th and throughout the 19th centuries.

"CONTACT" CLOSES DOWN

After a life of just over three years *Contact* weekly newspaper for British Servicemen in India Command—has closed down. The last issue was published on September 19.

Contact was started in July, 1943 at the instance of the Commander-in-Chief in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck. From a four-page bi-weekly it developed into eight pages and then into a 16-page weekly. The paper was edited in New Delhi by an all Army staff and printed simultaneously at Delhi, Calcutta and Madras.

In addition to keeping British troops in touch with Home news, *Contact* also served as a forum where soldiers could express their views and have their queries answered. So many queries were received at one time at a rate of over 50 a day that a special department had to be set up at General Heaquarters to deal with them.

Not all the queries and requests were of a military nature. There was, for instance, the soldier who hopefully wrote asking for assistance in acquiring a set of false teeth. Then there was the Lancashire nurse who appealed for a pen pal—and had to send an S.O.S. to stop the response after the first 500 replies.

Now, owing to difficulties of production and shortage of staff, *Contact* has come through the printing presses for the last time. In a farewell message the C.-in-C. thanked *Contact's* staffs, past and present, for making the newspaper a success.



SIR S. RADHAKRISHNAN ADDRESSING THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY WHICH WAS HELD IN NEW DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 10.

FRESH DISCOVERIES FROM HARAPPA EXCAVATIONS

Report of Director-General of Archaeology

FRESH discoveries in Harappa, which provide final proof of the link between the Indus Valley civilization and the Mesopotamian, have been made by the Archaeological Department of India, according to a report submitted by Dr. Mortimer Wheeler, Director-General to the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology. The Board, which was constituted in February, 1945, held its third half-yearly meeting in New Delhi on September 10 under the chairmanship of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Member for Education and Arts, Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan. The meeting was also addressed by Sir S. Radhakrishnan.

Two Key Discoveries

Two key discoveries have been made from excavations at Harappa. One of them is a burial, the first of its kind found in India, in which the skeleton had been kept in a reed shroud within a wooden coffin surrounded by an extensive group of pottery. The exact similarity of this burial to the burials of the same date in Mesopotamia finally proves the connection between the two civilizations signifying influence in one direction or the other.

It has also been discovered that the principal mound at Harappa constituted a high citadel with a mud brick defence 40 feet wide and 40 feet high, faced externally by a wall of burnt brick. This discovery leads also to the inference that at Mohenjodaro too the central mound must have constituted a fortification.

These two discoveries taken together may effectively challenge the traditional interpretation of the Indus Valley civilisation, which has so long insisted on drawing a contrast between the rigid, centralised and hieratic administration of Mesopotamia and Egypt and the milder and perhaps more democratic system of the Indus Valley civilization. The whole scheme, on the contrary, indicates that Harappa and Mohenjodaro were organised on the same rigid system at the contemporary cities of Ur and Legash with their dominant priesthood and priest-kings.

The existence of massive fortifications, thus discovered, leads to another conclusion, which is equally important to historians and archaeologists; for, Dr. Wheeler suggests in his Report that it is these fortifications, which certain verses in the Rig Veda credit India with having destroyed.

Indra is described in the Rig Veda as 'Puramdara', fort-destroyer; he "rends forts as age consumes a garment". "On circumstantial evidence, Indra stands accused", says Dr. Wheeler, and as the conventional date for Indra's devastations is in the neighbourhood of 1500 B.C., he infers that the mature phase of the Indus Valley civilization should have extended up to that period. Already inferences have been made from other evidence that this phase should have begun in about 2500 B.C.

Preservation of Monuments

Describing the programme of conservation carried out by his Department during the last six months, Dr. Mortimer Wheeler said that the famous Shore Temple of Mahabalipuram, one of the earliest Pallava temples, dating from 700 A.D. had been saved from the sea by the construction of a massive semi-circular breakwater which both checks wave action and reduces spray. Weathering has reduced the building to little more than a stone core, but its actual destruction has now been stopped.

The famous wall-paintings round the shrine in the Brihadiswara temple at Tanjore, which were in a condition of decay, and the 16th century paintings of the Vijayanagar period of the ceiling of the 'Mandapam' of the Virabhadra temple at Lepakshi (Anantapur), are now being carefully conserved under the care of the Department's Archaeological Chemist.



A DANCING POSE: A SCULPTURE FROM THE CHENNA-KESHAVA TEMPLE AT BELUR (MYSORE STATE).

The Department is also taking particular care of a remarkable series of temples at Atholi (Bijapur), regarded as one of the key-sites in the evolution of Hindu architecture.

Conservation includes both the internal repair of monuments and the clearing of the neighbourhood. At Bhubaneswar (Orissa) the Department not only had to repair the group of temples (19) under its control, but also to remove a slum which encumbered the principal site. The imposing ruins of the Bassein Fort Area, near Bombay, was retrieved from wild jungle growth. Here the Department had also to compel the removal of a toddy shop from the interior of the site.

Exploration Work

Speaking of the work of exploration undertaken by the Department, Dr. Wheeler says, "it is my hope before I leave India to see resumed that essential process of ground-survey and exploration which is so honourably associated with the name of Sir Aurel Stein." The Departmental Pre-historian is proceeding actively with his survey of the megaliths and urn-fields of South India.

"It is not too much to say", remarks Dr. Wheeler, "that archaeolo-

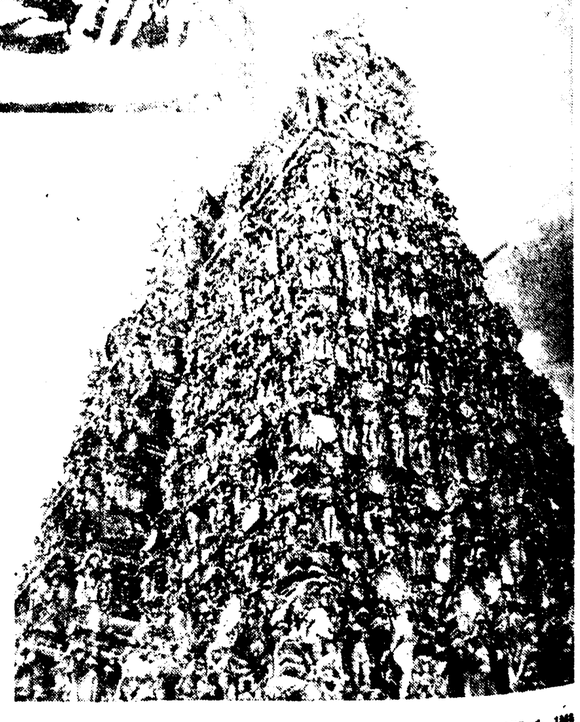
[illegible] throughout the world are waiting for its results. The problems which he is tackling are of a kind which links India with Western Asia, North Africa and Europe, and it may be that India in more than one sense will supply certain of the missing links."

Gwyer Committee's Report

The Department's publications during the period included the second volume of *Ancient India*, which contained a contribution dealing with the Department's excavations last year at Pondicherry. "I will not say more about this now," says the Director-General of Archaeology, "except that the occasion is the first in India on which archaeological sections of the kind normal to modern scientific field-work have ever published."

The Report of the Gwyer Committee on the National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology was placed before the Board. The Board also framed a directive on a

A GOPURAM (PINNACLE) OF THE MINAKSHI TEMPLE, MADURA (SOUTH INDIA) WHICH DATES BACK TO THE 13TH CENTURY AND IS ONE OF THE FINEST EDIFICES OF DRAVIDIAN ARCHITECTURE.



select bibliography of Indian Archaeology to libraries outside India, particularly to those in Asiatic and European Universities, which are now tackling the problem of post-war reconstruction. As it is desirable that they should include at least a minimum selection of works dealing with the Archaeology of India, the Board has taken special care to recommend to librarians abroad works of approved quality, covering an adequate range.

The importance of training young Indian archaeologists both in the Universities and by the Archaeological Survey of India was stressed at the meeting.

The meeting urged upon Government to secure close co-operation between Universities and the Archaeological Survey. It recommended that young officers of the Archaeological Department must be sent overseas for special training.

It was proposed that the next meeting of the Board may be held in January next in Poona.

CULTURAL TREASURES

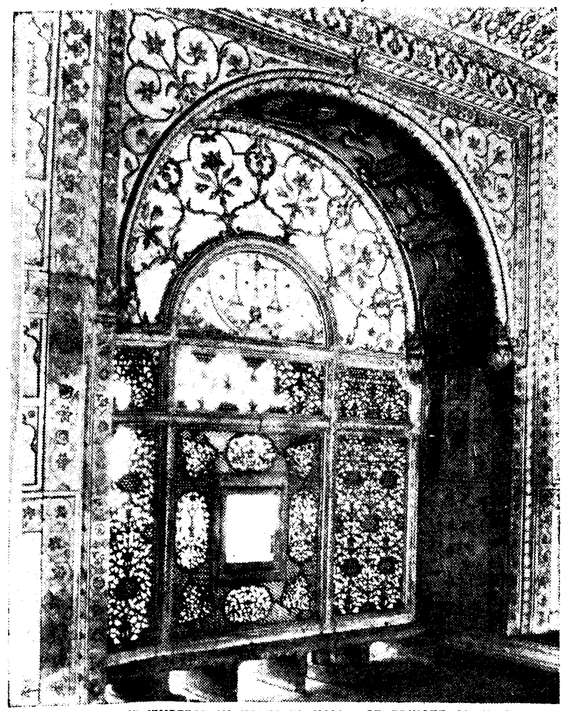
"All of us take great pride in our ancient civilisation, culture and traditions. We can study them in old manuscripts only, to preserve which we have unfortunately taken no steps. If these cultural treasures are lost, it will never be possible to form a correct idea of our past", said Professor G.M. Tabassum in a broadcast from the Lahore Station of All India Radio.

Prof. Tabassum regretted that most of the old manuscripts had fallen into the hands of people who could neither make use of them nor let others do so. This was responsible for defective books on Indian history which had to be re-written in the light of new facts. He suggested that a department to look after these manuscripts should be formed on the lines of the Archaeological Department.

He expressed appreciation of the move initiated by the Indian Historical Records Commission in asking the Provincial Governments to set up Regional Committees for Survey of Historical Records. Their object was to find out old records, arrange for their preservation and to prepare catalogues, which scholars might conveniently consult.

In conclusion, the Professor said: "These committees can prove useful only if the public realises that these old moth-eaten books constitute a precious national heritage which all must try to preserve."

His Excellency the Governor-General has decided to extend the life of the existing Council of State for a further period of one year from November 1, 1946, said a communique issued from the Viceroy's House on September 18.



THE "DIWAN-I-KHAS" (EMPEROR SHAHJAHAN'S HALL OF PRIVATE AUDIENCE) WAS BUILT IN THE RED FORT, DELHI, AT A COST OF RS. 14,00,000. PICTURE SHOWS AN INTERIOR VIEW OF THE "DIWAN-I-KHAS."

CENTRAL NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR INDIA

Gwyer Committee's Recommendations

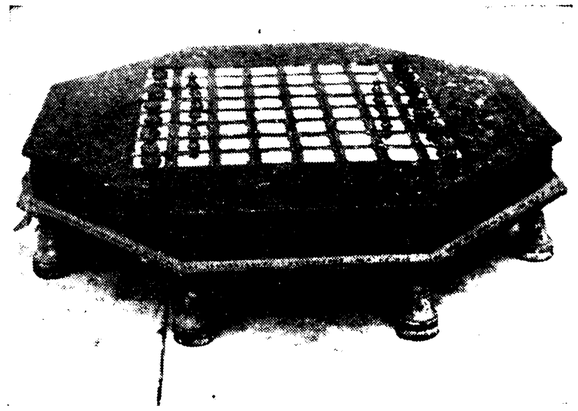
A plan for the early establishment of a Central National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology in Delhi, has been completed by the special committee appointed by the Government of India for the purpose.

The Committee, of which Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, was Chairman, has recommended that the Museum should comprise a Directorate and five Departments, namely, (1) Art (2) Prehistoric Archaeology (3) Historic Archaeology—Buddhist, Jaina, Brahminical, Muslim (4) Numismatics and Epigraphy and (5) Anthropology—cultural and physical. There will also be a Circulating Department, a Library and a Chemical Laboratory.

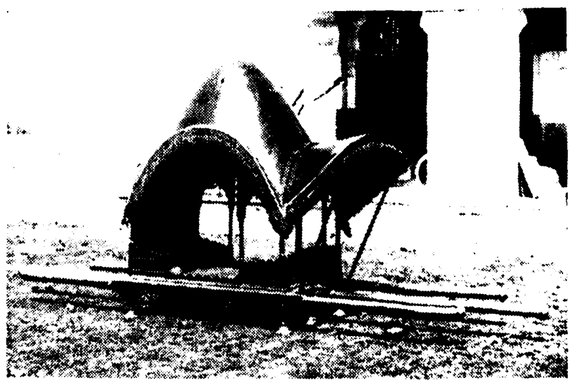
The need for such a central institution has been keenly felt in this country since 1912, when the Government of India approached the Secretary of State for the establishment of an Oriental Research Institute in India. This need was repeatedly discussed also in subsequent official reports.

Finally, in 1945, the need to establish a Central National Museum was expressed in a Resolution submitted to Government by the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, and was supported by the Standing Committee of the Legislature for Education. The Government of India accepted the recommendation in principle and appointed a Committee of 11 members, under the chairmanship of Sir Maurice Gwyer, to frame details. The terms of reference to the Committee included the functions (powers, etc.) of the Museum, general administration, internal organisation, site and building.

The main aim of the Central National Museum is to present to the world the material contribution of



A CHESS TABLE IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN THE DELHI FORT.
BY courtesy, Archaeological Survey of India.



A LACQUERED "PALKI" IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN THE DELHI FORT.
BY courtesy, Archaeological Survey of India.

India to the sum total of human civilisation. To achieve this the Museum will have to maintain a thoroughly representative collection illustrating the arts, crafts and cultures of India down to recent times; and at the same time museum technique and museum service in India will have to be raised to the high international standard.

Committee's Recommendations

The Committee have, therefore, recommended that in the first stage of the scheme a highly trained nucleus staff consisting of a Director and two Keepers may be appointed, and that the Keepers be sent on a carefully planned foreign tour, which should include a detailed examination of the construction, administration, methods of display, etc., of museums in Great Britain and America.

The function of the Museum will be twofold: to further research and to offer guidance to laymen. The Committee have laid special emphasis on the importance of selecting a suitable Chief Librarian, who will be competent to guide staff and approved research students and scholars in regard to published material in all branches of the Museum's work.

It has also recommended the appointment of five guide lecturers, one for each section, who will give a series of popular lectures both for schools and for the general public.

The creation of a Circulating Department is another feature of the scheme. The main purpose of this Department (Modelled on a similar department in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London) will be to prepare and send out classified loan collections to towns and educational institutions.



A PAINTING OF A PERSIAN PRINCESS DONE IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY.

BY courtesy, Archaeological Survey of India.

On the analogy of other institutions of the kind, the Committee have recommended that the Museum should be controlled by a Governing Body including representatives of appropriate Government Departments together with non-officials representing various special interests. The Governing Body should be autonomous, subject only to such conditions as the Government of India may attach to their block grant.

The Museum will be located in New Delhi, and the Committee has chosen a site for it. The whole scheme will be worked out in three distinct stages, and is estimated to involve, when complete, an annual expenditure of nearly Rs. 8½ lakhs.

The revised ceiling prices of different varieties of imported paper published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated July 13, 1946, and August 8, 1946, were to come into force on August 15, 1946, but their operation was postponed to September 15, 1946, on certain representations having been received in the meantime which required detailed examination.

As this examination has not yet been completed, the Government of India have decided to postpone further the operation of these revised ceiling prices by one month *i.e.*, from September 15, 1946 to October 15, 1946.

BOMBING OF BROMI KHEL VILLAGES IN WAZIRISTAN

Story of Kidnapping and Release of Political Agent

IN view of recent public statements about the bombing of the Shabi Khel Mahsuds in Waziristan the Government of India consider it desirable that the facts leading to these operations should be made known, said a Press Communique issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on September 18.

It added: For some time past the Shabi Khel have been demanding a one-sixth share of the monetary and other benefits (e.g. controlled commodities such as cloth, grain, sugar, etc.) accruing to the Mahsuds as a whole through Government. This demand is opposed by the rest of the Mahsuds as being in excess of the hereditary share to which the Shabi Khel are entitled.

Early in June the Political Agent, South Waziristan, informed the Chief Malik of the Shabi Khel that he would summon the Shabi Khel Jirga to Razmak to discuss this dispute. On June 19 the Shabi Khel assembled at a village on the Jandola-Razmak road to discuss among themselves matters relating to the forthcoming Jirga. It transpired later that after this gathering the Bromi Khel section decided, without the knowledge of the rest of the Shabi Khel, to kidnap a Government official in order to [illegible] their grievances.

Release of Captives

In furtherance of this resolve on June 21, a powerful gang laid an ambush for the Assistant Garrison Engineer, who was expected to travel from Razmak to Jandola. It so happened that the Political Agent was travelling on the same day and it was his lorry which ran into the ambush. The lorry was brought to a halt by a road-block and very heavy fire was opened on it. Three of the Political Agent's tribal escort were wounded but no real resistance was possible owing to the treachery of the Shabi Khel villagers and Khassadars in the vicinity. The gang closed in, looted the lorry and kidnapped Major Donald, Dr. Nazir Ahmed, the Agency Surgeon, and Mr. Abdul Aziz, Stenographer to the Political Agent, whom they carried off to their villages about seven miles from the road.

As soon as news of the outrage reached Razmak, the Resident in Waziristan despatched the chief Shabi Khel Malik to the Bromi Khel with instructions to effect the release of the captives. He also summoned the full Mahsud Jirga to Razmak. This assembled on June 24 and the Maliks were reminded that in accordance with their agreements with Government the whole Mahsud tribe would ultimately be held responsible for the offence if they failed to co-operate in securing the unconditional release of Major Donald and his companions.

The Mahsud Jirga strongly condemned the outrage which they regarded as a stain on their tribal honour and promised unanimously to proceed to the Bromi Khel and not to return until they had released the captives.

The Bromi Khel however proved truculent and demanded a sum of Rs. 60,000 and a promise of immunity from punishment as the price of releasing their prisoners. As a guarantee of immunity they also demanded that the Mahsud Maliks should deposit with them 50 magazine rifles, or in lieu, a further sum of Rs. 50,000. These terms were conveyed to the Resident who in accordance with established policy declined to pay any ransom or to make any promise of immunity.

Ultimatum to Shabi Khel

At the request of the Maliks he, however, advanced them the sum of Rs. 1,10,000 making it clear that this would be recovered from them as a matter of course and that if they made it over to the Bromi Khel they would do so on their own responsibility and not on behalf of Government as ransom. Later it transpired that the whole of this sum was, in fact, handed over to the Bromi Khel and ultimately, after some further negotiations between the Mahsud Maliks and the Bromi Khel, Major Donald and his companions were released and brought into Razmak on July 2.

It now became necessary to call the Shabi Khel to account for the offence. Although actually carried out by the Bromi Khel section it had been committed in territory for the protection of which the Shabi Khel as a whole are responsible and had been actively aided by the treachery of Shabi Khel villagers and Khassadars. The Shabi Khel Jirga was therefore summoned to Razmak to discuss reparation with the Resident. Despite several extensions of the date originally fixed the Shabi Khel refused to come in and it became gradually clear that their object was to evade responsibility for the offence in the hope that punishment would be spread over the whole Mahsud tribe.

Other sections of the Mahsuds however made it unmistakably clear that they were determined that the Shabi Khel alone and the Bromi Khel in particular should be punished. Leading Mahsud Maliks in fact advised the Resident that unless Government took action without further delay against the Bromi Khel serious trouble would probably break out among the remaining Mahsuds who were becoming apprehensive that punishment would be visited on them.

It was accordingly recommended by the Agent to the Governor-General that the following terms should be announced to the Shabi Khel and that failure on their part to comply within a stated time should be followed by destructive air proscription, after the usual warning, of certain areas in Shabi Khel country:

(1) The re-payment of the money (Rs. 1,10,000) received by the Bromi Khel from the Mahsud Maliks. Although this sum was recoverable from the Mahsuds as a whole failure to attempt to recover it from the Bromi Khel would not only have put a premium on kidnapping but would have invited hostility from other Mahsud sections who felt strongly that punishment should fall on the Bromi Khel or at most on the Shabi Khel.

(2) The payment of Rs. 20,000 as compensation (for property looted and damaged and persons wounded in the commission of the offence).

(3) A fine of 50 arsenal made and 200 other .303 magazine rifles.

(4) The surrender of 20 Shabi Khel hostages (as an earnest of compliance with the terms and of future good behaviour).

After full consideration these terms were sanctioned by Government on July 25 and announced on July 26 to the Shabi Khel by leaflet accompanied by the warning that failure to comply by July 30 would render them liable to punishment. The Shabi Khel having failed to comply with July 30 further leaflets were dropped on their villages by aircraft and also distributed by hand warning them that on the following day certain of their villages would be placed under destructive air proscription. They were advised to vacate these villages with their families and their animals and not to return until informed that it was safe to do so.

Air Operations

Air operations against the proscribed areas commenced on August 10. Destructive action was confined to villages inhabited exclusively by the Bromi Khel. Operations continued throughout August except when the weather made accurate recognition of the selected targets impossible. Six groups of Bromi Khel habitations were severely damaged but so far as is known the only tribal casualties were 5 persons killed and one wounded by a bomb which was released accidentally on a village outside the proscribed area.

Throughout these operations the rest of the Shabi Khel and other

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MISS KAPILA KHANDVALA AND MRS. MITHAN LAM, DELEGATES FROM THE INDIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S CHARTER CONFERENCE, WHICH MET AT SYDNEY RECENTLY, WERE ENTERTAINED AT A COCKTAIL PARTY BY SIR RAGHUNATH PARANJPYE, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN AUSTRALIA. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MISS KAPILA KHANDVALA, SIR RAGHUNATH PARANJPYE, MRS. MITHAN LAM AND MISS SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEES IN AUSTRALIA

A NUMBER of women's organisations in Australia are organising Indian famine relief committees as a result of the appeal made last month by Miss Kapila Khandvala, one of the two fraternal delegates who represented India at the Australian Women's Second Charter Conference, held in Sydney recently.

Following Miss Khandvala's public addresses on the subject it was also decided by these organisations to appeal to the British Prime Minister to improve shipping facilities to transport food to India. The other Indian delegate, Mrs. Mithan Lam, who is a Tibetan and a Bar-at-Law, spoke at a public meeting of the Conference on the work of the All-India Women's Conference and on the position of professional women in India.

Eager to know about India

The Indian High Commissioner in Canberra, Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, entertained the Indian delegates at a party, which was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, Commonwealth Government officials and members of the teaching, legal scientific and journalistic professors.

The Australian Women's Second Charter Conference was primarily a meeting of Australian women as it represented 72 organisations of women from all the States of Australia and was attended by delegates from all the States. But it had also an international character, because fraternal delegates attended the Conference from various parts of the world including India, New Zealand, Ceylon, France and Yugoslavia. Indian delegates, in particular, drew great attention both at the Conference and outside, where, it is reported, women crowded round the two Indian representatives and were eager to know all about India and Indian women.

The main object of the Conference being to propagate the demand for equality for women as a condition to securing social justice, the resolutions adopted at the Conference concerned the various phases of women's activities, their status, full employment for them and social security, trade unions and women's employment, condition of domestic workers, women's health and education, prison reforms and equal rights and opportunities to aborigines.

The Conference passed a resolution urging that all scientific knowledge concerning the manufacture of the atom bomb must be made available to all the nations and that atomic energy should be utilised for the benefit and not for the destruction of the race.

H. E. the Viceroy invested Sir Giles Squire, K.B.E., C.I.E., with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire at the Viceroy's house, New Delhi, on September 10.

South Africans in India to Obtain Permits

THE Government of India have framed a new rule by which they are empowered to direct all South African nationals who had entered India before December 1, 1944, to obtain permits for their stay in this country.

The Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944, which came into force on December 1 of that year had declared all South Africans resident in India from any time before that date as prohibited immigrants. There are nearly 1,500 such persons in India, and the new rule, published recently in a *Gazette of India*, introduces a permit system to regularise their presence in this country and place it on the same footing as that of non-domiciled persons of Indian origin in South Africa.

The rule is strictly in accordance with the principle of reciprocity envisaged in Section III of the Reciprocity Act of 1943, which authorises the Government of India to impose on the subjects of any British possession resident in India the same or similar disabilities and restrictions as those, which Indians are subjected to within that territory.

MRS. MARGARET BALLINGER

The Government of India have recently permitted Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, a member of the South African Parliament, and her husband, Mr. William Ballinger, who have championed the cause of non-Europeans in South Africa, to visit India for the purpose of lecturing on the South African Indian question and on aspects of trade unionism in Great Britain and South Africa, to Indian audiences, as well as of acquainting themselves with the general constitutional and political situation in India, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 4.

Premiers of Provinces, Chambers of Commerce and Overseas Associations in India have been requested to afford necessary facilities to Mr. and Mrs. Ballinger during their visit to various places in India. They are expected to arrive at Bombay during the first week of September and will probably stay in India till December, 1946.

By an amendment to the Drugs Control Order, 1945, published in the *Gazette of India* dated September 7, 1946, the retail price of Mepacrine Hydrochloride tablets has been reduced to one anna for 3 tablets. The price for the Avlon brand of this item has also been now specified. These prices will have effect from September 15, 1946.



MR. M.W.H. DE SILVA (SECOND FROM RIGHT) CEYLON GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA, AND PARTY ARRIVED IN NEW DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 7. MR. R. N. BANERJEE, (RIGHT) SECRETARY, COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, WAS AMONG THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE PARTY AT THE STATION.

CEYLON'S REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

THE representative of the Government of Ceylon in India, Mr. M.W.H. De Silva, K. C., arrived in New Delhi on September 7 by the Grand Trunk Express. He was received at the New Delhi Station by officials of the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India.

Mr. De Silva, whose appointment was announced by the Government of Ceylon early in July, has held several appointments under the Crown. He was Solicitor-General to the Ceylon Government in 1941 and Attorney-General in 1942, and became Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, Colombo, in January 1946. After retirement from the Supreme Court he accepted his present appointment.

The Ceylon Representative in India has general authority to discuss any question of mutual concern on which either Government may desire consultation. He is also the channel of correspondence for the Government of Ceylon with the Government of India in all important matters.

EVACUATION OF TROOPS FROM S.-E. ASIA

REVEALED recently for the first time were details of one of the greater military evacuation schemes of all time—Scheme "Epilogue." Put into operation at the beginning of February, Scheme "Epilogue" covers the phased withdrawal of all surplus troops in South-East Asia Command to India for disbandment or retention in India.

Troops have been pouring out of Hong-Kong, French Indo-China, the Celebes, Borneo, Java, Malaya, Siam, the Andamans, Sumatra, Burma and the Cocos Islands at the rate of nearly 40,000 a month. Over 200 shiploads have brought back to this country a total of 256,552 personnel.

One hundred and eighty special trains have been rushed to ports of disembarkation to move repatriated troops to various centres in India. Scores of thousands of Indian troops are due to reach Indian soil within the next few months and thus bring Scheme "Epilogue"—so aptly named—to an end.

Among the famous fighting formations which have been withdrawn from S.-E. A.C. are the 19th Indian Division from Burma, the 20th Indian Division from French Indo-China, the 5th Indian Division from Java, the 25th Indian Division from Malaya and the celebrated Lushai Brigade from Burma.

Scheme "Epilogue" also covers the movement of leave details and the repatriation of civilians. Movements Control in S.-E. Asia Command collate all demands and issues a monthly bid for Bay of Bengal shipping according to priorities. During June, July and August, approximately 2,000 civilians returned to India under this Scheme.

STEAMER FARES FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 4 stated:

The following steamer fares have been fixed for Haj pilgrims for the Calcutta-Jedda return to Bombay or Karachi voyage for the ensuing pilgrim season:

	Net fares.	Food charges.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Deck	275	73	348
First Class	900	225	1,125

The above fares do not include the Kamaran Quarantine fee, the Jedda Sanitation dues and boat hire which amounts to Rs. 69-10-8.

HAJ RESERVATION CARDS

Intending Haj pilgrims are warned that Reservation Cards issued by the Haj Booking Office are not transferable. If the holder of a Reservation Card does not avail himself of the passage, the next person on the waiting list of applicants will be entitled to the passage, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 7.

It has come to the notice of Government that some pilgrims have obtained passages by using the Reservation Cards issued to others, which is a criminal offence. It is, therefore, notified for public information that any person using the Reservation Cards in this manner renders himself liable to criminal proceedings.

BOMBING OF BROMI KHEL VILLAGES

(*Continued from Page* 199)

sections of the Mahsuds held aloof from the Bromi Khel and gave no indication of helping them. Early in September the full Mahsud Jirga approached the Resident and stated that the Shabi Khel were now willing themselves to repay the whole of the sum (Rs. 1,10,000) advanced to the Bromi Khel by the Mahsud Maliks and to guarantee compliance with the rest of the terms.

The Mahsud Jirga having confirmed the good faith of the Shabi Khel this offer was accepted by the Agent to the Governor-General and orders were at once issued (September 10) terminating air proscription. The Shabi Khel have since come into Razmak and are implementing their undertakings in a satisfactory manner.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX IN RANGOON

FOR the benefit of Indian refugee workers from Burma, the Government of India propose to publish periodically the working class cost of living index in Rangoon. At present index figures up to the month of June 1946 are available and figures for subsequent months will be published from time to time.

The table below contains index figures showing percentage variations in the estimated monthly cost of living of Indian workers, particularly, Tamils, Telugus and Orivas in Rangoon. The cost is calculated on a month's supply, on an austerity basis, of essential foodstuffs and commodities. The average cost of the same items in 1941 constitutes the base figure of 100.

The items of commodities selected and the quantities in which they are estimated to be used generally follow the lines laid down by the Bennison Cost of Living Enquiry (1929). However, certain variations have been introduced in view of the present circumstances. For example, when certain foodstuffs and other commodities are unobtainable or in short supply, substitutes have been introduced. Full allowance has been made for rationing controlled prices. The item of rent, which is a principal one, cannot be included because statistics for this are unobtainable and there is no norm upon which a reliable index can be built.

Groups	November 1945	December 1945	January 1946	February 1946	March 1946	April 1946	May 1946	June 1946
Food	545	654	542	474	388	382	409	430
Fuel and lighting	261	253	221	203	194	228	243	194
Clothing	2,782	2,764	1,702	805	327	327	327	327
Miscellaneous	410	421	455	455	440	440	429	425
All items combined	656	741	581	426	369	368	389	400

HOW TO GET PASSAGES TO BURMA

'No Objection Certificate' Required

IN partial modification of the previous Press Note on this subject issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, it has been decided that evacuees identity certificate holders should, before approaching the shipping company for passages to Burma, apply to the Protector of Emigrants at the port from which they wish to sail for an authority to obtain passages from the shipping company, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 14.

Residence Certificate

Persons who have returned from Burma after its re-occupation and who have in their possession neither a residence certificate issued by the Government of Burma nor a credential issued by the Representative of the Government of India in Burma, should apply with such documents in their possessions as would establish their having returned to India from Burma after the termination of war for a 'No objection certificate' to the Protector of Emigrants of the port from which they wish to proceed to Burma well in advance of the intended date of their departure. It is only on the production of this certificate that the shipping company will allot passages.

According to a Press Note issued by the Administrative Officer, University of Rangoon, students who have passed the Matriculation Examination of Indian Universities or High School Leaving Certificate Examination in India will be eligible for admission to Rangoon University provided they have passed in Mathematics in such examinations and an examination in English to be held in Rangoon on September 25, 1946.

Intending candidates should apply for permission to appear for examination to the Administrative Officer, University of Rangoon, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Commonwealth Relations, Government of India on September 7.

Radio Programmes for Indian Troops in Burma

For the benefit of Indian troops in Burma Command, the Burma Broadcasting Station recently started a daily Indian Forces Programme. These special broadcasts can be heard from 5.15-6.15 p.m. Burma Standard Time (4.15-5.15 p. m. I.S.T.) on the 49 metre band.

In this programme Indian home news, educational talks, recorded music and "live" entertainment re broadcast. Indian civilian listeners in Burma will also benefit by this programme.

In his inaugural broadcast, Lt.-Gen. H. R. Briggs, G.O.C.-in-C., Burma Command, thanked the Government of Burma for their courtesy, in giving facilities to make these broadcasts possible.

Addressing Indian troops, Gen. Briggs said: "Your sacrifices and toils do you credit and it is our duty to provide you with every comfort from the amenities that are available. Amongst those that we are able to provide is the radio, a most popular form of entertainment."

4/4TH GURKHA RIFLES RETURN TO INDIA

After two years' continuous service in Burma the 4/4th (Prince of Wales' Own) Gurkha Rifles returned to India recently.

The battalion went to Burma in the autumn of 1944 with the now disbanded 19th Indian ("Dagger") Division. During the battle for Mandalay men of the 4/4th Gurkhas stormed and captured Mandalay Hill where the Japanese were firmly entrenched. In appreciation of this gallant action the Holy Hermit of the Hill, the Rev. U. Khanti, gave a bronze pagoda bell to the battalion which has been brought back to India to be installed at the regimental centre.

After the Japanese surrender, the 4/4th played its part in the rehabilitation of war-ravaged Burma. The battalion also helped in "Operation Hunger" in the Payangazu Loikaw district, where hundreds of tons of food were hauled by road, to needy areas.

At an informal inspection at Rangoon shortly before the battalion's embarkation for India Maj.-Gen. W.A. Crowther, G.O.C.-in-C., Burma Command, bade farewell to all officers and men and congratulated them on their splendid war record.

The Government of India have decided that persons who arrived in India from Burma, Malaya and other territories under former enemy occupation, after the establishment of Civil Governments in such territories or who may arrive in India hereafter from such territories, are not to be treated as evacuees for the purpose of assistance under the scheme of evacuee relief, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 4.

RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES FOR DEMOBILISED SERVICES PERSONNEL

41,500 Placed in Service Up to July 1946

UP to July, 1946, 41,500 persons have been placed in employment by the Labour Department's Resettlement and Employment Organisation, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on September 14.

While nearly 8,50,000 persons have so far been demobilised from the Services, 2,74,660 indicated initially their need for employment by registering their names with 69 Employment Exchanges. Of the number registered about one-fifth, *i.e.*, 54,669, in addition to the number placed, have allowed their registration to lapse or have found work. As, unlike in the United Kingdom, there is no statutory obligation on employers and employment-seekers to inform the Exchanges of the results of their submissions, the figures of placings represent the minimum placings by the Employment Exchanges.

Experience shows that over and above these figures a fair proportion of those who have allowed their registrations to lapse can reasonably be assumed to have been placed in employment. Such men cannot, however, be shown as placed by the Exchanges. Owing to large-scale demobilisation from the Services and the discharge of war-workers the number of registrations at the present time is abnormally high. Under these conditions it is inevitable that the percentage of placings to registrations should be lower than can be expected in normal times. This percentage is, however, steadily increasing each month.

Of 1,00,276 outstanding vacancies on the registers, more than half relate to reserved vacancies on the Railways and another one-third to those in other Government departments, the filling of which will be spread over the entire phase of demobilisation and a period thereafter. In effect, therefore, the outstanding vacancies dwindle to 17,265.

The scope for placings will, it is hoped, expand when the post-war development plans of the country are put into execution. Already there is a noticeable rise in the proportion of placings to notified vacancies.

Cost of Employment Exchanges

The Provincial Governments have accepted the Resettlement and Employment scheme as a whole. The total cost of the Employment Exchanges to the Central Government is likely to be Rs. 36,42,500 during 1946-47. The Provincial Governments will make the contribution required of them for the establishment of the Employment Exchange organisations.

The latest statistics show that the *per capita* expenditure involved in placing works out at the rate which diminishes from Rs. 43 during 1945-46 to Rs. 20-12 during April-June, 1946 and Rs. 16 in July, 1946.

The Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment has initiated the following schemes for the training of demobilised personnel:—(1) Technical Training Scheme, (2) Vocational Training Scheme, (3) Scheme for the Vocational Training of ex-Servicewomen, (4) Scheme for the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Disabled Services Personnel.

The Technical Training Scheme has also been fully accepted by all the Provincial Governments, excepting one with whom negotiations regarding allocation of expenditure are proceeding. This Scheme envisages the training of technicians in order to make good the inadequacy of skilled manpower in the country.

Subjects and Syllabuses

It is now widely recognised that during the initial stages of post-war development men rather than money will be the limiting factor. The Technical Training Scheme is a co-ordinated scheme which, besides eliminating wasteful duplication, aims at ensuring uniformity in the standards of training and facilitates thereby the mobility of labour, geographical and occupational.

The subjects and syllabuses are in conformity with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Technical Training, on which the Employers' and Workers' Organisations, Engineering Associations and Civil Industry were represented. Whereas the *per capita* cost of training only, as worked out by the Committee, was Rs. 282, the cost *per capita* under the Technical Training Scheme is Rs. 264 a year (Rs. 22 a month). In addition, trainees are



DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE AT AMBALA, H. E. SIR EVAN JENKINS, PUNJAB GOVERNOR, MET EX-SERVICEMEN WHO, WITH THE HELP OF THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE, HAD FORMED A CO-OPERATIVE UNION TO RUN A TRANSPORT SERVICE.

given stipends of Rs. 15 per mensem free board and lodging and medical and recreational facilities, the total cost of which amounts to Rs. 528 per trainee per year.

Out of the 30,000 seats provided, only 16,000 seats have so far been sanctioned and training facilities will be created according to actual requirement. The budgeted provision of Rs. 2,37,60,000 will therefore be correspondingly reduced.

Seats under the Vocational Training Scheme will also be sanctioned according to requirements, though budget estimates have been prepared to cover the full cost of the Scheme. The *per capita* cost of vocational training, exclusive of allowances, works out at Rs. 17-4 per month.

Ex-Servicewomen

Nearly 4,000 ex-Servicewomen have applied for training facilities. A centre for them is being set up in New Delhi. More centres will be opened according to requirements. This scheme contemplates the training in the first instance of about 1,000 ex-Servicewomen in the Labour Department centres and in other Government and approved private institutions.

The total expenditure on the training of the Disabled Services personnel will be borne by the Central Government. Three Rehabilitation Centres have already been opened and two more are likely to be set up shortly.

Whereas the budgeted provision for the entire Organisation in 1946-47 was Rs. 6,55,30,000, the expenditure for the year is likely to amount to Rs. 3,25,87,500 only. The cost of the directional staff of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment both at the Headquarters and in the Regions which includes technical direction, supervision and administration, is likely to be Rs. 35,34,000 as against the budgeted provision of Rs. 43,78,000.

MOBILE SECTIONS

To accelerate the rate of placings of 2,74,660 persons, ex-Servicemen and discharged war-workers, already on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges as also to meet further needs, the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment has decided to establish Mobile Sections of Employment Exchanges, said a Press Note, issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on September 16.

These Mobile Sections will visit areas remote from the places in which Exchanges have been established where it is felt that there are sufficient applicants and/or vacancies to justify such visits.

Arrangements are being made to supply to each Exchange the transport facilities necessary for conveying staff and documents to the areas concerned.

These Mobile Sections will contact both employers and employment-seekers and will try to eliminate the time-lag between the occurrence of vacancies registration for employment and submission of names.

FIVE ORDINANCES PROMULGATED

FIVE Ordinances (Nos. XVIII to XXII of 1946) have been promulgated in Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on September 20. These 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 them 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 1946 up till 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 (given below) issued by the Legislative Department on September 12, 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 XXI entitled the Foreigners' Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946, has been issued extending the life of the present Act up to March 25, 1947.

Special Police Establishment

In 1942, the Government of India set up a police staff called the Special Police Establishment (War Department) for the purpose of investigating certain offences connected with the Departments of the Central Government. The organisation has done useful work in the investigation of cases involving corruption and in bringing offenders to book. The Government of India, with the advice of the Standing Committee of the Central Legislature for the Home Department, have now decided that it is necessary to retain some such organisation as a permanent measure.

The Ordinance under which the existing organisation was created will lapse on September 30, 1946, and fresh legislation will be necessary to continue it beyond that date. Pending the introduction of such legislation in the Central Legislature, Ordinance XXII, entitled the Delhi Special Police Establishment Ordinance, 1946, has been promulgated enabling the special police staff to continue to investigate offences as heretofore.

A Press Note issued on September 12 stated:

"Several emergency measures made during the war period are due to expire on October 1 next, either because they have only been made for the duration of the war and six months thereafter, or because they encroach upon the legislative or executive authority of Provinces and, therefore, will to the extent of that encroachment cease to have effect six months after the revocation of the Proclamation of Emergency under Section 102 of the Constitution Act. The most important of such measures are the Defence of India Act and the Rules and the large number of 'Control Orders' made under those Rules.

Economic Controls

"In particular, the economic controls evolved on an all-India basis to the production, supply and distribution of essential commodities in short supply, like foodstuffs, textiles, coal, paper, etc., will lapse on October 1 if no legislative action is taken before that date. Secondly, the expiry of the Defence of India Rules will result in the termination of all requisitions of immovable property and the cessation of the Central Government's powers to acquire property upon which it has created valuable assets during the requisition or which it is necessary to acquire for the maintenance of essential supplies and services. Although these two matters fall within the provincial field, the Indian Legislature has been empowered by an Act of Parliament passed in March last to make laws in respect of them.

"The Union within the normal powers of the Indian Legislature is also necessary to continue some of the emergency powers exercised during the war period in respect of the following matters:-

> "Trading with the enemy and custody of enemy property, control of foreign exchange and securities, control of capital issues, import and export of goods into or from India, Railway priorities, control of shipping and special provisions for safety at sea, avoidance of strikes and lock-outs and amicable settlement of trade disputes, regulating the supply of electrical energy by electric supply undertakings and house-rent control in Chief Commissioners' Provinces.

"If an Interim Government had assumed office earlier it might have been possible to convene a session of the Indian Legislature and submit all the above legislative proposals in the form of Bills with a view to their being passed before the end of this month. Since this is not practicable, but at the same time it is essential to make some legislative provision for the continuance, without a break, of the emergency measures referred to above, the Government of India have decided to make such provision in the form of

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INDIAN DELEGATION TO I.L.O. CONFERENCE



MR. S. LALL

A Press communique issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on September 5 stated:

India's delegates and their advisers to the 29th Session of the International Labour Conference, which will begin in Montreal on September 19, 1946, have been nominated by the Government of India as follows:

Government Delegates: The Hon'ble Mr. S. Lall, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India and Diwan Chaman Lall, M.L.A. (Central), who is at present in Argentina as the Leader of the Indian Food Delegation.

Advisers: Nawab M. A. Gurmani, Director-General, Resettlement and Employment, Government of India, Khan Bahadur Mohd. Aslam, Officer on Special Duty, Labour Department, Government of India, Mr. M. A. Mirza, Commissioner of Labour, Hyderabad and Mr. W. B. England, Office of the High Commissioner for India, London.

Employers' Delegate

Employers' Delegate: Mr. David S. Erulkar, Scindia Steamship Co., London.

Advisers: Mr. Y. S. Pandit, Head of the Department of Economics and Statistics, Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd., Bombay, Mr. N. W. Gurjar, Kirloskar Bros, Ltd., Kirloskarwadi, Mr. H. K. Srivastava, Messrs. J. P. Srivastava and Sons, Cawnpore and Mr. Vidya Bhusan Shukla, General Secretary, Bihar Industries Association, Patna.

Workers' Delegate: Mr. S. S. Mirajkar, Vice-President, All-India Trade Union Congress, Bombay.

Advisers: Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A. (Bengal), Member of the Council of A.I.T.U.C., Howrah, Mr. Abid Ali Jafferbhai, A.I.T.U.C., Bombay, Mr. Tukaram Andoo Gaikawad, Secretary, Dhond Branch G.I.P. Union, Dhond and Mr. N. V. Phadke, Bombay.

"The delegates and advisers representing workers and employers have been nominated after consultation and in agreement with the most representative organisations concerned."

WHO'S WHO IN DELEGATION

Mr. Shamaldhari Lall, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, has been intimately associated with India's labour problems for more than 20 years. Born in 1894 and educated at Calcutta and Oxford, he joined the I.C.S. in 1919 and served in Bihar and Orissa till 1925. He then became Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of *Industries and Labour* and Deputy Secretary later.

In 1927, he went as Secretary to the Indian Delegation and Adviser to the Government Delegates to the tenth I.L.O. Conference. Next year he was appointed Joint Secretary to the Royal Commission on Labour. After serving the Commission for nearly two years, Mr. Lall went back to Bihar and Orissa as Director of Industries and Labour and Secretary to Education and Development Department.

In 1938, Mr. Lall was appointed Deputy High Commissioner for India and in that capacity he represented the Government of India on the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

During the war he continued to represent the Government of India on the Emergency Committee of the I.L.O. till 1944, when he came back to India as Joint Secretary, Labour Department. In 1945 he became Additional Secretary and since April 1946, has been Secretary.

Diwan Chaman Lal

Diwan Chaman Lal, M.L.A. (Central), President of the Federation of P. and T. Unions, has long been associated with India's labour problems. He was one of the founders of the All India Trade Union Congress in 1920 and was a member of the Royal Commission on Labour in India in 1929-31. He represented India on several international conferences including the I.L.O.

Born in 1892 and educated in London and at Oxford, he became General Editor of *Coterie*, London, and later was Assistant Editor of the *Bombay Chronicle*. He was elected in 1923 to the Central Legislative Assembly from which he resigned in 1941. He was nominated as a delegate to the first Round Table Conference, but did not attend for political reasons. He was elected a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly in 1937 and was re-elected in 1946. He resigned the membership of the Punjab Legislative Assembly when he was elected to the Central Assembly in 1946.

Diwan Chaman Lal went as Adviser to the Workers' Delegate to the I.L.O. Conference at Geneva in 1925 and as Workers' Delegate to I.L.O. Conference at Geneva in 1928. He was nominated as Workers' Delegate to the International Labour Conference Bureau in 1932. He also represented India as Parliamentary Delegate in the Indian Delegation to Canada in 1928 and as a Delegate to the British Labour Commonwealth Conference, London, in 1925 and 1928. He is the President of various Trade Unions, including those of Railwaymen and Posts and Telegraph employees.

Nawab M. A. Gurmani

Nawab Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani, Director-General of Resettlement and Employment, Labour Department, Government of India, has been in public life for more than 20 years. Born in 1905 and educated at Aligarh, he was Member of the Punjab Legislative Council between 1930-37 and was an elected Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly till 1942. He was Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Health for 5 years from 1937 and was a member of several committees such as the Board of Economic Enquiry, Punjab, Public Library Committee, Syllabus Revision Committee, Indigenous Medicine Enquiry Committee, etc. He joined the Government of India in 1942 as Director of Publicity and Technical Recruitment and was appointed in 1945 as Director-General, Resettlement and Employment.



NAWAB MUSHTAQ AHMED GURMANI.

Mr. David S. Koullar was Adviser to the Employers' Delegate in the 21st and 22nd Sessions of the I.L.O. Conference in 1936 and a Delegate to the Preparatory I.L.O. Maritime Conference at Copenhagen in 1945. He represented India on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. as a substitute member in 1931 and later as an elected member in 1934-37. He was a substitute member of the I.L.O. Emergency Committee in 1940-41 and since 1941 has been an elected member on the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

Mr. S. S. Mirajkar

Mr. S. S. Mirajkar, Vice-President of the All India Trade Union Congress and Chairman of the Bombay Provincial Committee, was Adviser to the Workers' Delegate in the last I.L.O. Conference which met in Paris. He is a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation and a member of the Communist Party in India.

Mr. Sibnath Banerjee

Mr. Sibnath Banerjee is a member of the Legislative Assembly, Bengal, and a member of the Council of the All India Trade Union Congress. Politically he belongs to the Congress Socialist Party.

Mr. N. V. Phadke

Mr. N. V. Phadke is a practising Advocate of the Bombay High Court and is Assistant Secretary to the Trade Union Congress. He is connected with a number of Trade Unions. Formerly he was a member of the Servants of India Society.

Mr. Tukaram Andoo Gaikawad

Mr. T. A. Gaikawad is a worker in the G.I.P. Railway and belongs to the scheduled caste. He is also a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. Abid Ali Jaffarbhai

Mr. A. A. Jaffarbhai, a Muslim, is connected with the A.I.T.U.C. and is a Congress Socialist.

According to a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated September 14, the Government of India have withdrawn the price-page schedule of the Newspaper Control Order, 1946 and fixed the maximum price of a daily newspaper at two annas per copy.

The Government in taking this decision trust that the prices of newspapers will stay as they are, and that reading matter will not be reduced except, either on account of shortage of newsprint or on account of lack of matter of "reader interest".

This decision is intended to provide flexibility in the size of newspapers and to help conservation of supplies of newsprint; and is liable to be withdrawn if it results in prices being increased in relation to the quantity of reading matter provided.

REPRESENTATION OF ASIATIC COUNTRIES ON I.L.O.

Adequate Reservation of Seats Urged

THE reservation of at least 10 of the 32 seats on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. for Asiatic and African States and of an adequate percentage of the I.L.O. staff appointments for the nationals of these countries is likely to be urged by the Indian Delegation to the International Labour Conference, which opened in Montreal on September 19.

This would be in accordance with the views expressed by the Indian Legislature during its last session in the matter of securing higher representation for Asiatic and African peoples in the I.L.O. and of ensuring a greater interest in the labour problems of Asia, Africa and the less developed regions of the world.

The seats on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. were held in 1945 as follows: Europe 12, America 11, Oceania 2, Africa 2 and Asia 5. While Asiatic and African countries can get only six seats on the basis of membership—they now have seven it must be pointed out that the population of Asia and Africa is nearly twice that of the combined population of North and South America, Oceania and Europe, excluding the U.S.S.R., and entitles them to a much higher representation.

Proportional Representation

As the Governing Body is elected by majority votes, it is possible for virtually half the Member States, by means of mutual understanding, to secure permanent or intermittent representation, excluding others. This undesirable result can be prevented if elections are conducted on the basis of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

Indian opinion attaches great importance to the question of increasing the number of Asiatic Member States in the I.L.O. Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia and Indo-China, to which India is intimately bound by cultural and other ties, have between themselves a population of more than a hundred millions, but are not now entitled to become members of the I.L.O. on account of their dependent status. There is no reason why international status should be regarded as a *sine qua non* for membership of the I.L.O. So long as a country accepts the objectives of the I.L.O. and has the requisite legislative executive authority to implement the conventions, it should be eligible to become a member.

During the last 25 years the I.L.O. has mainly concerned itself with problems relating to the betterment of workers in the industrially advanced countries. Views have been expressed in the Indian Legislature and in the Indian Labour Conference complaining of the preoccupation of the I.L.O. with problems of the highly industrialised western countries.

Although the I.L.O. has been increasingly conscious of its responsibilities in regard to conditions in dependent territories, India feels justified in asking for a specific provision in the Constitution itself requiring the Governing Body to give its serious consideration to the problem of improving labour conditions in the Asiatic and African countries.

Regional Asiatic Conference

The Conference Delegation on constitutional questions has recognised in its Report the importance of promoting Regional Conferences, but has left it to the I.L.O. to convene such conferences. In view of the importance of this matter, it is desirable that the I.L.O. Constitution should have a distinct provision for the convening of a Regional Conference for Asia.

Likewise, Regional Conferences should be given the right to adopt conventions so as to take into account the special conditions of Asiatic and African countries and make it possible for the less developed regions to ratify Conventions which, though not reaching the high standards set up by the I.L.O., would still aim at improved standards.

Besides the amendments to the Constitution, the Montreal Conference would consider the protection of children and young workers and minimum standards of social policy in non-self-governing territories.

The Autumn session of the Central Assembly will commence at New Delhi on October 28, 1946, and as at present arranged will continue upto November 16, 1946. Four days have been allotted for disposal of non-official business, namely, November 7 and 15 for non-official Bills and November 8 and 16 for non-official resolutions, said a Press communique issued by the Legislative Assembly Department Government of India, on September 17.

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 20 stated:

In their Press Communique dated May 29, 1946, nationals of the United Nations in India were informed that they were authorised to demand from German banks certified statements of their accounts with them. They are now advised that in future all communications addressed by them to the German banks in this connection, should include a full statement as to their nationality.

WOMEN RISKED THEIR LIVES TO ATTEND TO DUTY

Working of Telephones in Calcutta Disturbances

"SPECIAL mention must be made of Miss Nora Mukhia, Operator, Burra Bazaar Exchange, who, while on her way to work on the morning of Friday, August 16, was chased by a mob and only saved from bodily injury or death by a poor rickshaw-puller, who was later killed. Miss Mukhia climbed over a high iron gate to get into the building, and, after being taken away from Burra Bazaar Exchange building on the morning of the 17th, returned to duty at the Calcutta Exchange on the 18th."

This is an extract from an official report submitted to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on the working of the Calcutta District Telephones during the civil disturbances from August 16 to August 23, in which one member of the staff was killed, 12 injured and 50 "missing —believed killed."

Mr. Hari Charan Mohanty, Instrument Inspector, Burra Bazaar Exchange, was killed about 9 a.m. on Saturday (August 17) after leaving home to report for duty.

Among the injured were four girls and four men who reported for duty immediately after receiving medical aid. Two of the girls Miss Jaganti Biswas of Burra Bazaar Exchange and Miss H. Khartoon of Park Exchange were injured when mobs attacked their houses. Of the remaining eight men injured, one was attacked in his house and sustained severe injuries in the head and severe acid burns on the body; another was stabbed at his house, while a third was stabbed and also suffered acid burns on the body.

Appeal to Public

Nine women (Superintendents and supervisors of Exchanges) figure among members of the staff who have been mentioned for "outstanding work and devotion to duty" during the emergency period and their sustained efforts afterwards to help restore conditions to normal working.

In a time of emergency, when there is abnormally heavy traffic and the position gets out of control, non-essential lines are disconnected at the various Exchanges to enable the Exchanges to provide full service for essential lines. During the disturbances an appeal was made to the public (through the Press and All India Radio) to restrict calls to those affecting life and immediate loss of property. On the whole, the response was good. Despite this, all Exchanges reported that it was extremely difficult to maintain service even for essential lines, as they were very short of staff and there was abnormally heavy traffic.

The Police, it may be mentioned, dealt with over 30,000 calls, Ambulances with over 500 calls and, the Fire Brigade with over 1,200 calls, in addition to which there were thousands of calls for evacuation, relief, etc.

The operation of an Exchange is dependent on staff reporting for duty and this is dependent on transport arrangements, protection and general welfare at the Exchanges. A total of 242 operators, i.e., over 50 per cent. of the normal staff, are required to operate essential lines positions only, but from August 17 to August 22, staff attendance ranged from 91 to 222.

The disturbances were widespread throughout the Calcutta district and the idea of closing down any Exchange to provide operators for another Exchange could not be entertained. Circumstances compelled the closure of the Burra Bazaar Exchange from the afternoon of Saturday, August 17, to the evening of Monday, August 19.

Girls Faint at Switchboard

The Burra Bazaar Exchange building, says a Report, was in the centre of one of the worst disturbed areas. Dead bodies littered the streets around the building and the stench was terrible. The girls had had to listen to heart-rending calls for Police protection, and grim accounts of all that had been happening, for the staff could not help but see the brutality and gruesome sights from the Exchange building.

A few girls who reported for duty on Saturday (August 17) morning brought further acounts of the terrible conditions prevailing in their localities.

The majority of the girls had worked throughout Friday and Friday night (August 16) and fainted at the switchboard under the physical and nervous strain.

The Telephone authorities made efforts to persuade the girls to remain at the switchboard and carry on until relief could be brought, but they stated that they were unable to do this. They then tried to persuade them to remain in the building, but only five Anglo-Indian girl operators were prepared to stay.

Arrangements were then made for the 43 operators on duty to be taken home under Police escort and the Exchange was closed.

After such brutal rioting, with complete confusion and disorganisation everywhere, it was not possible to collect a new batch of girls in sufficient numbers to replace the girls who left the Burra Bazaar Exchange building; and, even if it had been possible to collect sufficient girls at such short notice, it would have been dangerous to proceed to the building without adequate armed protection. It is on record that the Fire Brigade were unable to penetrate through some of the mobs in this area to fight fires.

A military guard was posted at the Burra Bazaar Exchange at 12-45 p.m. on August 19, and service was reopened for essential lines at 6 p.m. that day by 24 operators from Park and Central Calcutta Exchanges, who had volunteered to work at the Burra Bazaar Exchange.

The girls had to pass many decomposed bodies lying all along the road but they were persuaded to shut their eyes and cover their noses and not to talk of anything they might see on the way.

The Traffic and Engineering Departments, says the Report, worked under most trying and difficult conditions. In addition to maintaining Exchange apparatus and plant, clearing faults, dealing with cable breakdowns, etc. the engineering staff were kept busy throughout the emergency period transferring lines to the emergency positions, providing additional exchange facilities, giving new emergency connections and recovering instruments from looted premises.

The engineering staff were also called upon to provide rescue parties for the Posts and Telegraphs staff, arrange evacuation and protection, transport and walking escorts for members of the staff, searching for and collecting food for those who remained on duty, sending out search parties for staff who had not reported for duty, arranging for food and relief for staff who had lost their belongings and shelter and making enquiries about staff at hospitals, relief camps etc.

Transport Problems

Transport and the provision of escorts were serious problems. The Commissioner of Police was unable to detail motor vehicles or escorts for any regular service for collecting staff, but special requests were complied with when possible. The Army arranged for two trucks which were supplemented later on with other trucks and escorts, when it was found possible. But these arrangements were completely unsatisfactory when trying to maintain a regular telephone service.

The food situation throughout the city on Sunday, August 18, and for some days after, was acute, and the only meals many of the operating staff coming on duty had were obtained at Exchanges or District Ration Stores, where supplies were received from the Army authorities. One district lorry, driven by an Anglo-Indian, was used for the collection and distribution of food. Unfortunately, the refrigerators at the Exchanges, which are pre-war models for which no spare parts have been available for replacement, were either out of order or not working satisfactorily.

Operators who volunteered to live-in during the emergency period had to sleep on stone floors with no mattresses and little or no bedding, inadequate bathing facilities and no amenities to occupy them during the few hours they had for relaxation.

The Report *inter alia* recommends "reorganisation with greatly increased facilities."

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY STRIKE

Strikers' Demands Already Referred to Adjudication

THE South Indian Railway strike commenced on August 25 in connection with the discharge of seven men from the Golden Rock Workshop. In spite of the full knowledge of the food and fuel situation in the area likely to be affected by the strike against which they had been warned by the Premier of Madras and the Press of the Province, a section of the Union intervened and precipitated the strike which spread later on to whole of the S.I.R. system, said a Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on September 6.

It added: It has had no support from the public, who were to suffer by its continuance even for a day, and the manner in which it was precipitated clearly showed that it was resorted to in utter disregard of public interests.

Welfare of Employees

The Government of India are not merely prepared but most anxious to watch the welfare of their employees, and in particular of those who are on the lower scales of pay. This question, however, is one which requires comprehensive examination and the formulation and enforcement of a uniform policy, and therefore it also requires some time to effect it. Whatever steps Government have so far taken were intended to and have resulted in securing the reduction of the serious inconvenience caused by the strike to the public, which they as the ultimate paymasters of Government employees, have the right to expect.

Some of the strikers' demands related to subjects which have already been referred either to adjudication as a result of representation by the All India Railwaymen's Federation, or to the Pay Commission.

Final Decision

The final decision on these questions will, of course, cover the points raised by the strikers. But the question of discipline is of primary importance to any State organization and while all reasonable facilities for the presentation and disposal of grievances will always be available to any Government employee according to the Rules of discipline prescribed, the precipitation and continuance of a strike, while other avenues of legitimate redress of alleged grievances are fully open cannot be tolerated.

If the strikers return to work forthwith, they will prove their sense of responsibility to the public and their appreciation of their duty and they will thereby serve their own true interests also.

[The strike has since been called off.]

TRANSPORT MEMBER'S TELEGRAM TO MR. GURUSWAMI

A Press Communique issued by the Department of Transport, Government of India, on September 12 stated:

The Hon'ble Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport in the Interim Government, has telegraphed the following to Mr. Guruswami, Honorary General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, in reply to his telegram of September 11, 1946.

"None more anxious than myself to see strikers return to work. They should heed my assurance that all legitimate grievances received through proper channel shall receive due attention. I am fully aware of history of representation and efforts of Conciliation Officer and reasons of failure.

"I regret to say that General Managers's offer was turned down but it still stands and you have my further assurance that if strike is called off every grievance which is not unreasonable shall receive sympathetic consideration.

"My sources of information are many official and non-official and it is my considered view that workers will serve their own and public's best interests by relying on my advice. I wish you would persuade Strike Committee to call off strike at once to enable me to consider next step."

NO VICTIMIZATION

As it appears that the strike on the South Indian Railway is likely to be called off, the Government wish to remove any misapprehension which may exist in the mind of the railwaymen concerned regarding victimization of those who took part in it, said a Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on September 14.

The Railway Board have from time to time made it clear that they will in no circumstance countenance any victimization. They also wish to make it clear that legitimate grievances properly put forward will be redressed after the men have returned to duty and the normal working of the railway is resumed.

Industrial Disputes in British India

A total of 8,58,559 man-days were lost on account of industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ended September 30, 1945 as against 4,46,466 man-days in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

There were 179 stoppages of work involving 1,84,697 workers as against 120 involving 1,09,819 workers in the third quarter of 1944. Three stoppages involved more than 10,000 workers and five involved 5,000 to 10,000 workers. More than one lakh of man-days were lost in one stoppage alone. Textile mills accounted for 33 per cent of the number of stoppages, 45 per cent of the workers involved and 41 per cent of the man-days lost.

In 93 stoppages the demands related to wages or bonus. The workers were wholly or partially successful in 44 per cent of the total number of stoppages and wholly unsuccessful in 42 per cent of the number of stoppages.

MOTOR VEHICLE SPARE PARTS

The Government of India have fixed the maximum retail sale prices of certain motor vehicle spare parts manufactured by Messrs. New Process Gear Co. (A.S.E. Co.) U.S.A. These prices which have been published in the *Gazette of India* of September 12, 1946, will take effect from September 27, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Transport Department, Government of India, on September 23.

The privilege of selling these articles at the corresponding price of a General Motors or Ford or Chrysler product, interchangeable with them, is automatically cancelled and no one will after September 27, 1946, be permitted to sell these articles at prices exceeding the approved notified prices.

The price lists are obtainable, on payment, from the Manager, Central Publications Branch, Civil Lines, Delhi.

In order to conserve as much timber as possible for the building programme, no timber produced within the Province of Bengal will be allowed to be exported, except with the permission of the Provincial Government. As regards the timber of extra-Provincial origin the intending exporters are advised to obtain and submit a certificate of origin from the appropriate authorities, when applying for export licences.

CORRUPTION IN RAILWAY SERVICES

Government Determined to Root Out Malpractices

THE Interim Government have passed orders that the departmental "cleaning up" process, which was started some time ago by the Railway Board, should be intensified and that a stern warning to all railway employees should issue immediately, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on September 6.

It added: At the instance of Government the Railway Board will shortly set up special sections, both in the Railway Board and in railway administrations, which will be charged solely with the rapid disposal of complaints and enquiries.

Government have also under consideration new legislation to make bribery a cognizable offence. They recognise the immediate necessity of eradicating bribery and corruption and contemplate setting up machinery which will successfully bring to book both the offenders and their abettors.

Special Police Establishment

All over the world the war brought in its wake certain social evils, the foremost of which was corruption. The Indian railways have been no exception to the general rule. Steps were taken from time to time to check the evil and a Special Police Establishment under the War Department was created to deal with bribery and corruption, and allied offences, in Central Government services throughout India.

On the railways alone the total number of cases taken up since the institution of the Special Police Establishment was 420, of which 268 were sent up for trial in courts or before tribunals; 196 people were convicted and 44 cases were referred to administrations for departmental action which resulted in 76 railway servants being discharged.

The creation of this Special Police Establishment had a deterrent effect. The number of cases taken up, for instance, declined from 129 in 1945 to 86 in 1945 and cases referred to administrations for departmental action declined from 33 to 20. The first half of the year 1946 has unfortunately seen a recrudescence of this evil when the number of cases taken up was 57, cases sent up for trial in courts or before tribunals 45, and cases referred to administrations for action numbered 13.

Bribery, Cognizable Offence

Government are aware of the fact that this evil cannot be eradicated in a day, but they are also determined that there shall be no delay either in enacting legislation or setting up proper machinery for dealing with corrupt practices. Under the new legislation, which is expected to be brought up before the Central Assembly in its next session, bribery will become a cognizable offence.

There is no doubt that there is a misconception in the public mind that only the man who takes bribe commits an offence. Actually the acceptor and the tenderer of bribes both are liable to punishment, and under the new law both will be liable to arrest by the police.

The administrative machinery of the railways as it exists is inadequate to cope with the large number of legitimate, trivial, frivolous and malafide complaints, which has necessitated the setting up of special sections to deal with them.

CIVILIAN PASSAGES TO UNITED KINGDOM

THE Government of India will be glad if all Civilians who desire a passage to the United Kingdom in the first half of 1947 will register their names at a very early date with the Civil Passage Controller, indicating the month in which they would like to sail. Applicants are also requested to inform their Travel Agent at the same time as they apply to the Civil Passage Controller, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on September 6.

The object of this request is to enable Government to estimate the amount of shipping space required for civilian purposes in the first six months of 1947.

There is of course no guarantee that sufficient shipping will be available to meet all demands. 980 civilians embarked for the United Kingdom in August. All those registered for passages in September will receive offers and will sail in that month or early in October. All those registered for passages in October will receive offers.

Control of passenger space from the U.K. to India, except for the small number of persons entitled to passage at Government expense, has now been transferred to the Shipping Lines, with effect from August 31, 1946. Persons who require a passage from the United Kingdom to India and are not entitled to travel at Government expense should hereafter apply direct to a Shipping Company in the United Kingdom and not as heretofore to the Government of India. Full details have been communicated to Travel Agents.

H. E. the Viceroy invested Sir Frederick Bourne, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on September 7.

Indian Historical Records Commission

The Indian Historical Records Commission will meet at the invitation of the Holkar Government at Indore for the first time in December 1946.

All the Provincial Governments, Universities and nearly 27 major Indian States are to be represented and about 70 scholars are expected to attend the session.

The business transacted usually relates to problem of archives administration and historical research with special reference to India.

The Session is expected to last three days and on the first day a number of research papers based on original and unpublished documents will be discussed. On the second day the business meetings of the Research and Publication Committee and the Indian Historical Records Commission will be held for which the agenda is printed and circulated in advance to the members to facilitate discussion. On the third day of the Session the members inspect local collections of documents and learned institutions. An historical exhibition of original and rare documents, paintings, coins, etc., is also likely to be organised on the occasion.

NEW ORDINANCES

(Continued from Page 204)

three Ordinances, which will be promulgated by H. E. the Governor-General on or about September 25. The first, to be called the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Ordinance, will derive from Section 2 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, and provide for the continued operation of Central control over trade and commerce in and the production, supply and distribution of the commodities mentioned in sub-Section (1) (a) of that section. These commodities are foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils, cotton and woollen textiles, paper, including newsprint, petroleum and petroleum products, spare parts of mechanically propelled-vehicles, coal, iron and steel and mica.

"The second Ordinance, to be called the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Ordinance, will derive from Section 3 of the above-mentioned statute and provide for the continuance of all requisitions of "land" in force immediately before the expiry of the Defence of India Act and of the power to acquire any such land in certain specified circumstances and subject to payment of compensation in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of that Act.

"The third Ordinance, to be called the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, will provide for the continued operation of a few of the Defence of India Rules for the purposes indicated in the precedineg paragraph."

NATIONAL WAR ACADEMY

W[illegible] support for the National War Academy has been promised by [illegible] the five provinces visited so far by Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chairman of the Working Committee of the N.W.A. who is at present touring India to gain support for the project.

The Provinces visited were the U.P., Bihar, Assam, Bengal and Orissa, writes an Army Observer. The Ministers of these Provinces were without exception in favour of military training on modern lines for the young men of India and showed a keen interest in the Academy project, which they described as a "first-rate plan".

The Education Minister of the U.P., and the Chief Minister of Bengal, Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, advocated compulsory military training for all young men. The institution of the Academy, they maintained, was not only necessary, but might have to be expedited. Expansion beyond the present scope was also considered necessary to suit changing conditions. To assist the Academy to admit suitable candidates from Bengal, Mr. Suhrawardy promised to approach the military authorities for advice to start basic physical and military training in secondary schools of the province.

Khwaja Nazimuddin, former Chief Minister of Bengal, was equally insistent on Bengal's taking her full share in the expansion of India's Armed Forces. He expected Bengali youths would join the Services in large numbers and before long the Academy would have to be expanded much beyond its present scope.

While the Premier of the United Provinces expressed satisfaction that an Academy like the N.W.A. was being instituted, the Education Minister of the U.P. said that the proposal of his Government to introduce compulsory physical training and military instruction would fit in with the scheme for the National War Academy.

The Home Minister of Assam, Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, was of the opinion that "the project of the National War Academy, shaped and developed by the new National Government at the Centre, is bound to be popular with all Provincial Governments."

In Bihar the Revenue Minister, Mr. Krishna Ballabh Sahai, told Dr. Jha that he felt his Government would be only too willing to support the Academy project, financially as well as otherwise.

"Orissa will take her full share in providing suitable young men for training at the proposed National War Academy," said the Hon'ble Mr. Hare Krishan Mehtab, Premier of Orissa, in the course of a talk with the N.W.A. planning staff on September 21.

"We will not tolerate the position of back-benchers," he added and challenged the validity of treating Orissa as a non-martial province. He maintained that there was no dearth of sturdy fighting men in his province who could creditably fill the ranks as well as the officer grades of the three armed Services. Mr. Mehtab welcomed the proposal to do away with the distinction between martial and non-martial classes at the National War Academy. "Young men of Orissa will, after all, have a chance to compete with men of other provinces on basis of equality," he said. "They will soon prove that they are equal to the best."

Excellent Plan

Asked if he found any flaws in the N.W.A. project, the Premier said: "I think it is an excellent plan all round. We have had full details of it from Sir Chandulal Trivedi, the Orissa Governor, who was formerly War Secretary to the Government of India, and have found nothing objectionable. An all-Services institution serving as the main channel for entry to the officer cadres of the country's armed forces is what is needed to-day. If the plan is executed well, I have no doubt it will have the support of the entire country."

Mr. Mehtab promised wholehearted support in seeing the project through as early as possible and said: "We will not give mere verbal support; we are prepared to take our share in financing it."

Referring to the question of reservation of seats at the Academy, Mr. Mehtab said: "We will not demand provincial representation if the rest of the country is opposed to it. We only want the end of the invidious distinction between martial and non-martial classes.

"We are quite capable of training and equipping our young men to the required standard and competing on equal terms with other provinces. We will, however, need technical advice from the Central Government to start basic military and physical training for our boys."

In a letter to the Commander-in-Chief in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore urges that the National War Academy should start functioning as soon as possible.

"India needs a national institution of this kind for the training of future officers for the Indian Navy, Army and Air Force," says His Highness, "and I am glad that your Excellency is taking such keen interest in the project."

ORISSA PREMIER PROMISES FINANCIAL SUPPORT

H.M. the King Emperor has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala as Honorary Colonel of the 11th Sikh Regiment, said a Press Note issued by the Political Department, Government of India, on September 20.

Amenities at Auchinleck Aramgah

ESTABLISHED in February, 1944, to provide rest and recreation for *jawans* passing through Delhi junction, the Auchinleck Aramgah is a welcome rest house to travel-weary men. About 370,000 troops availed themselves of the facilities at the Aramgah during 1945 and this year's record, up to the end of August, totals nearly 150,000.

At the Aramgah is a messing detachment which daily provides hot wholesome meals, free of charge, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., provided sufficient notice is given facilities exist to feed any number of *Jawans* up to a 1,000 a day.

Medical Inspection Room

A vast room, fitted with fans and with modern sanitary bath-rooms attached, provides each *jawan* with a comfortable bed. Nearly 300 troops can be accommodated at a time.

A *mochi, dharzi, dhobi* and barber are always at the *jawans'* service. Functioning at the Aramgah is a medical inspection room.

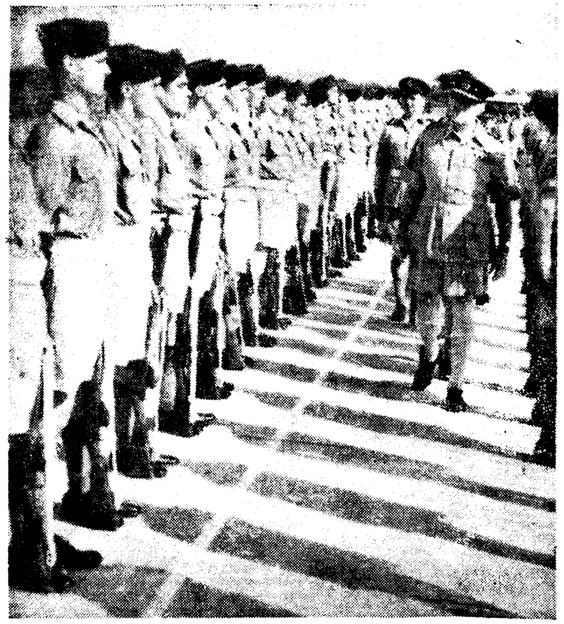
Among the amenities provided are an information room, well stocked with newspapers and interesting publications, and a canteen.

OVER 132,000 DEMOBILISED FROM R.I.E.

Since V.-J. Day more than 132,000 men have been released from the Royal Indian Engineers. A total of 6,000 Engineer units have now been disbanded.

Of the various Engineer depots in India, No. 2 Transport Training Centre at Jullundur has released the most men—a total of 33,530. Through No. 1 Transport Training Centre at Dehra Dun 29,291 [illegible] have been returned to civil life; 10,766 Sappers have been released through the Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners' Centre at Bangalore, 9,874 through the Bengal Sappers and Miners' Centre at Roorkee, 9,211 from the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners' Depot, 13,788 from No. 3 Construction Group at Lahore and 15,207 from the Engineers Battalion Group at Sialkot.

In 1939, the R.I.E. consisted of 30 units with a total of 10,000 officers and men. During the late war, the Corps expanded to over 700 units with a strength of nearly a quarter million men.



HUNDREDS OF MEN OF THE R.A.F. AND R.I.A.F. TOOK PART IN A PARADE AT THE WILLINGDON AIRPORT, NEW DELHI, ON SEPTEMBER 14 IN A COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR THE 375 PILOTS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN. PICTURE SHOWS AIR MARSHAL SIR RODERICK CARR, AIR OFFICER C.-IN-C., INDIA, INSPECTING A GUARD OF HONOUR.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Commemoration Service

HUNDREDS of men of the R.A.F. and R.I.A.F. paraded at the Willingdon Airport, New Delhi on September 14, in a commemoration service for the 375 pilots who lost their lives during the battle of Britain.

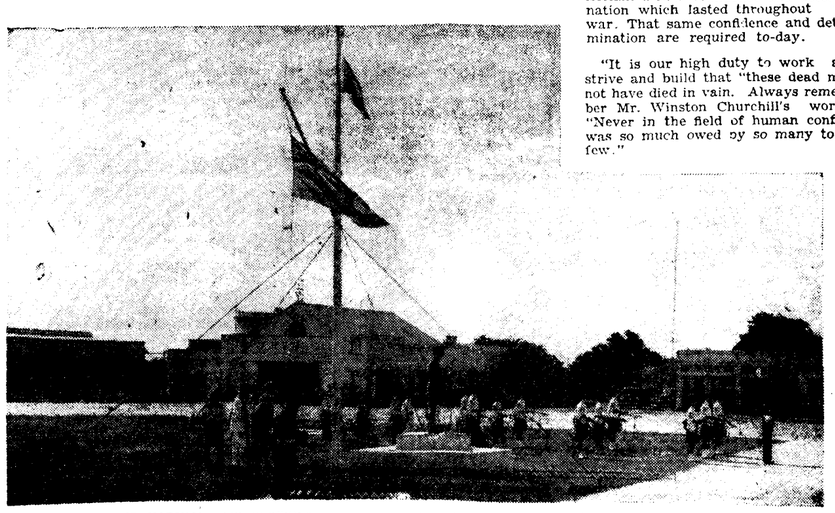
Present at the parade was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr. After taking the General Salute, sounded by trumpeters of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr inspected a Guard of Honour of men of the Royal Air Force. Then followed a short Service of Thanksgiving taken by the R.A.F. Chaplain in Delhi.

A National Re-birth

Addressing the parade, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr declared that the Battle of Britain was one of the decisive battles of history. "Between July and October, 1940, 800 British fighters engaged 4,000 German fighters and bombers—odds of five to one against the Royal Air Force. During that period 2,785 German aircraft were destroyed at a cost of 375 of our pilots killed and 378 wounded. Against our total casualties of 755 the enemy lost about 7,000—a ratio of ten to one in flying personnel.

"But the Battle of Britain was something more than an historic victory," he continued. "It marked a national re-birth. It brought to the people of Britain a new confidence and determination which lasted throughout the war. That same confidence and determination are required to-day.

"It is our high duty to work and strive and build that "these dead may not have died in vain. Always remember Mr. Winston Churchill's words: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."



AIR MARSHAL SIR RODERICK CARR ADDRESSING THE MEN WHO TOOK PART IN THE PARADE.

BURNT ALIVE WHILE RESCUING WOUNDED COMRADES

George Cross for Hav. Abdul Rehman

BURNT alive while rescuing his wounded comrades when their jeep blew up on a mine in Java, Havildar Abdul Rehman, 3rd Jat Regiment, of Taloo village in the Rohtak district of the Punjab, has posthumously won the George Cross. Eight George Crosses have been awarded to the Indian Army.

Hav. Abdul Rehman and five *jawans* were travelling to their battalion headquarters at Waroe when, near Ketegan, the jeep struck a mine and was thrown into a ditch where it burst into flames.

Hav. Rehman, despite severe burns, immediately attempted to rescue three men who were trapped underneath the vehicle. His task was rendered more hazardous by exploding ammunition but he succeeded in dragging two of his men out of danger.

As he was trying to save the third the *jeep's petrol tank exploded, spout*ing its blazing contents over him. "Despite his condition," says the citation, "he continued his efforts until an ambulance party approached when, calling out to them to complete his work quickly, he fell dead over the jeep.

"This N.C.O.'s complete disregard for his personal safety and his determination to rescue his helpless comrades, in which he persisted even while being burnt to death himself, constitute an example of absolute courage of the highest order."

C.-IN-C.'S CONGRATULATIONS

In a message to the Commandant of the Jat Regimental Centre, at Bareilly, the C.-in-C. in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, says, "My warmest congratulations on the posthumous award of the George Cross to the late Hav. Abdul Rehman, 3 Bn. Jat Regiment and my sincere sympathy that this gallant N.C.O's valour and devotion to duty should have cost him his life.

"He will ever be an example to all his compatriots. Please convey my personal congratulations and sympathy to Abdul Rehman's relations."

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF GEORGE CROSS TO MAJOR H. P. SEAGRIM

FIELD Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, has sent his congratulations to the Kumaon Regiment on the posthumous award of the George Cross to Major H. P. Seagrim, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C.

"His magnificent heroism and self-sacrifice will be an inspiration to all," says the C.-in-C. "I know my pride and pleasure will be shared by the whole Indian Army. I deeply regret that his outstanding act of self-sacrifice should have cost him his life."

Example of Self-Sacrifice

Major Seagrim was the leader of a party operating in the Karen Hills, Burma, from February, 1943 to February, 1944. After a widespread campaign of torture in order to discover the whereabouts of this party, the Japanese succeeded in ambushing and killing two British officers who were with Major Seagrim but the latter and a Karen officer escaped. The Japanese redoubled their efforts to catch Major Seagrim and captured documents show that they arrested at least 270 people, many of whom were tortured and killed in the most brutal fashion.

Despite this, the Karens continued to assist Major Seagrim until the enemy managed to convey a message to him that if he surrendered they would cease reprisals. Major Seagrim accordingly gave himself up in March, 1944, and in September, along with eight other men, he was sentenced to death.

Major Seagrim pleaded for the release of the others and declared that they had to obey his orders and he alone deserved the death sentence. The degree to which he inspired his men may be realised from the fact that all his companions expressed their willingness to die with him.

The death sentence was carried out shortly afterwards. "There can hardly be a finer example of self-sacrifice and bravery than that exhibited by this officer, who in cold blood deliberately gave himself up to save others, knowing well what his fate was likely to be at the hands of the enemy," says the citation.

Two river class frigates of the Royal Navy H.M.S. *Tret* and H.M.S. *Test* have been taken on loan by the Royal Indian Navy and renamed H.M.I.S. *Kukri* and H.M.I.S. *Neza* (Spear) respectively.

The vessels are of 2,100 tons displacement each. H.M.I.S. *Kukri* is now at Bombay manned by an Indian crew and H.M.I.S. *Neza* at Cochin, in reserve.

Col. Rajendrasinhji Promoted Brigadier

FIRST Indian officer to win the D.S.O. in World War II, Colonel Rajkumar Sri Rajendrasinhji, has been appointed Commander of Piska Sub-Area, in Eastern Command. He has been granted the acting rank of Brigadier.

Commissioned in 1921, Col. Rajendrasinhji joined the 2nd Royal Lancers in the following year. In 1941, he went to North Africa as a squadron commander in his regiment.

Early in April 1941, the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade was surrounded at Mechili by vastly superior German and Italian forces. As a last desperate measure, the encircled regiments decided to force their way through the enemy and into the desert.

Awarded D.S.O.

Col. (then Major) Rajendrasinhji was acting as rearguard and had to wait for his divisional headquarters to move out. Most of his regiment was overwhelmed by a German tank attack although his own squadron was not seriously involved. It was then that he charged with his men straight into the enemy lines, crashing through their battery of guns. After shaking off pursuit, they hid in the hills for the rest of the day and, moving off once more at nightfall, eventually reached safety.

For his courageous leadership and determined action Col. Rajendrasinhji was awarded the D.S.O.

He returned to India in October, 1942, and in the following year was appointed Commandant of the 2nd Lancers. In May, 1945, he went to Washington as Deputy Director of Public Relations and in June, 1945, was appointed Military Attache there.

FORCES' PRESENT TO LADY TYMMS

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, accompanied by Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India, visited the Allied Forces Canteen, New Delhi, on September 11, and on behalf of the Army and the Royal Air Force presented a silver cigarette box to Lady Tymms.

In a short speech the C.-in-C. stressed the good work done by Lady Tymms and her willing helpers during the strenuous years the canteen had been open.

Answering for Lady Tymms, Sir Frederick Tymms expressed appreciation of this gesture by the Forces and declared that Lady Tymms was accepting the presentation as a representative of the many workers at the canteen.

ONWARD

India's Premier Magazine for Women

This is a general magazine covering a very wide variety of topics of interest to the educated woman in the home and in the professions. It is profusely illustrated, giving vivid pictures of women's activities throughout India and in the world outside.

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Grinding—Poem from the Marathi of Janabai

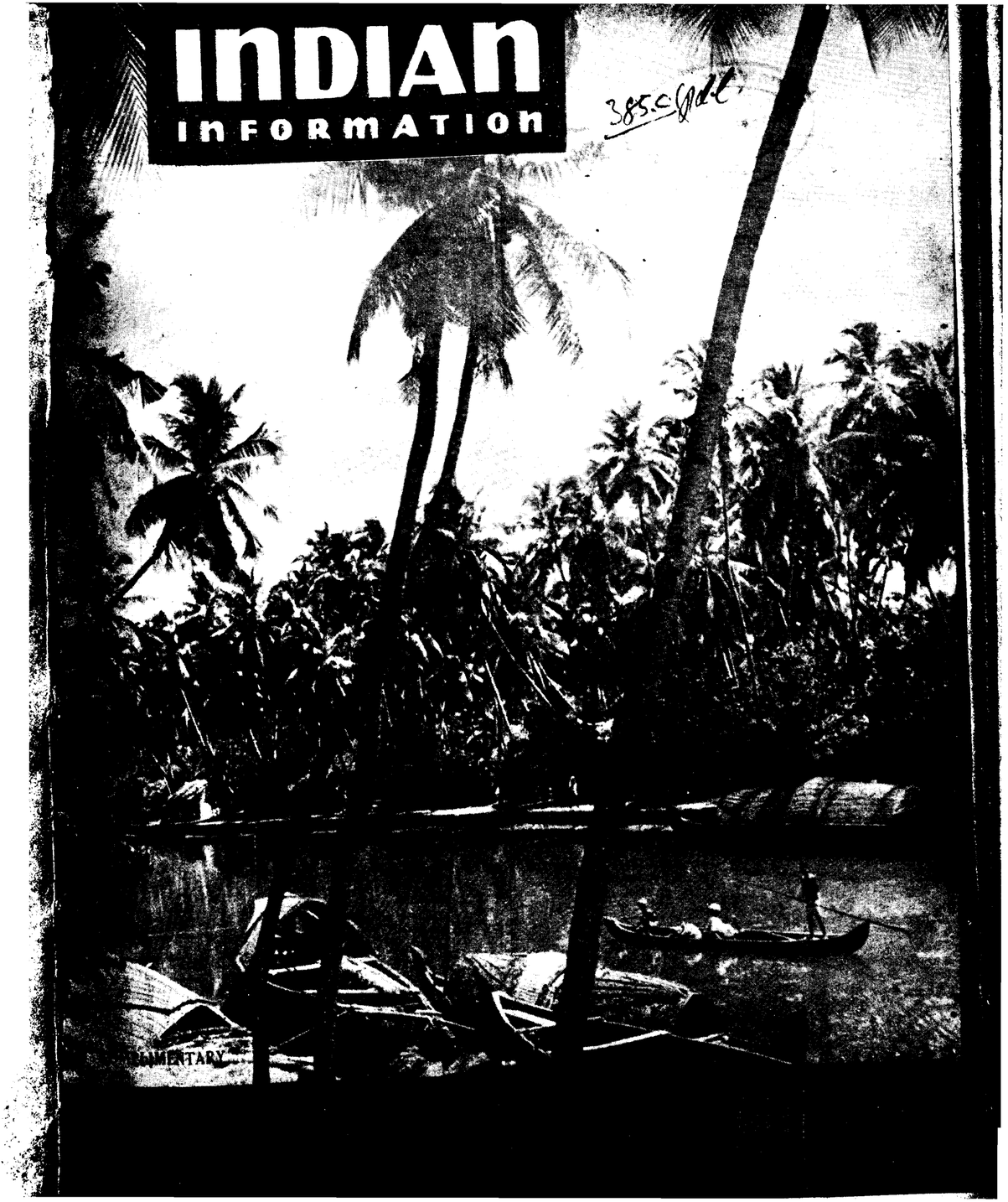
The Past and the Future—a Story of Iran
By "Piruz"

"She Drew the Curtains"—
A Short Story by Muriel Wasi



The Eden Gardens, Calcutta.

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SARDAR BALDEV SINGH, DEFENCE MEMBER IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, WHO ASSUMED CHARGE OF HIS OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 19, PHOTOGRAPHED WITH FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, C.-IN-C. IN INDIA, IN THE LATTER'S OFFICE IN G. H. Q.

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

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Cover Picture: Travancore Waterways.

INDIA WILL FOLLOW AN INDEPENDENT POLICY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS



PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND MEMBER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS, ADDRESSING HIS FIRST DEPARTMENTAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 26, WHEN HE OUTLINED GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY.

Pandit Nehru's Statement at New Delhi Press Conference

"IN the sphere of foreign affairs India will follow an independent policy, keeping away from the power politics of groups aligned one against another," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on September 26. "She will uphold the principle of freedom for dependent peoples and will oppose racial discrimination wherever it may occur. She will work with other peace-loving nations for international co-operation and goodwill without exploitation of one nation by another."

Pandit Nehru continued: It is necessary that, with the attainment of her full international status, India should establish contact with all the great nations of the world and that her relations with neighbouring countries in Asia should become still closer. Towards this end it is proposed to despatch a goodwill mission to the Middle East and to establish contacts, which will in the first instance be informal, with countries of both Western and Eastern Europe. It is also proposed to station an Indian Consul at Bangkok and a Vice-Consul at Saigon in the near future.

Internal Peace

So far as her near neighbours are concerned, India will watch with close interest the development of events in Palestine, Iran, Indonesia, China, Siam and Indo-China, as well as in the foreign possessions in India itself, with every sympathy with the aspirations of the peoples of these lands for the attainment of internal peace, freedom (where they lack it) and of their due place in the comity of nations.

With the U. S. A. and China, India already has a form of diplomatic contact. The relations thus already existing will, it is hoped, shortly be strengthened by the exchange of representations on an independent diplomatic footing.

The first step necessary for India's separate representation abroad is the creation of an Indian Foreign Service to man diplomatic, consular and commercial posts in foreign countries as well as countries in the British Empire.

Plans have already been drawn up for the creation of this Service and for the recruitment and training of its members, and it is hoped that these will shortly be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

The implementation of these plans must, however, take a little time because of the number and complexity of the practical issues involved. It is a relatively simple matter to recruit young men to a Service, train them and appoint them to junior posts from which they may gradually work their way up.

But it is estimated that we shall require over 300 persons to man posts from the topmost grade down to the lowest, while the number of Indian officials possessing the requisite experience is barely a sixth of that number. Recruitment will, therefore, have to be spread over persons in several different age groups, and the experience and qualifications of each candidate will have to be taken into account not only in judging his suitability for the Service, but, after selection, in deciding what further training, if any, he should undergo.

Separate Representation Abroad

The period of India's separate representation abroad must begin with the best material available and care will be taken to ensure that persons in all walks of life who possess the requisite qualifications are able to offer themselves for selection.

The training of the older recruits will necessarily be brief, because they will be required to take up appointments as soon as possible; but it is intended that new recruits should receive instruction in such subjects as economics, world history, international affairs and foreign languages, and to spend a part of their training period at a foreign University. Other matters of detail, such as salaries and allowances, the syllabus of the entrance examination, etc., are still under consideration.

North-West Frontier Policy

At present there are Indian diplomatic officials in the U.S.A. and China, High Commissioners in Australia and South Africa (the latter being at present in India). Representatives in Burma, Ceylon and Malaya and Trade Commissioners in several countries. With the creation of the new Service the existing posts will be strengthened and new ones opened. It will be necessary to work out a system of priorities, but obviously first consideration must be given to countries with which we already have contacts and to our neighbours in the East as well as in the West.

Dealing with the North-West Frontier Policy Pandit Nehru said:

The Government propose as soon as practicable to examine in consultation with all the interests concerned, the problem of the Tribal Areas of the North-West Frontier. The question is one of All-India importance, for the tribes are the guardians of the Northern doorway to India and the security and well-being of these Areas is therefore a definite factor in the defence of this country.

I should like to make it quite clear that in reviewing the problem there is no intention whatever of depriving the tribes of their existing freedom which they have defended so jealously and valiantly for many years; still less to impose any scheme on them against their will. It follows that the Government's approach to the problem will be essentially a friendly one seeking in co-operation and consultation with the tribes ways and means of solving their economic difficulties, promoting their welfare generally and bringing them into a happy and mutually beneficial association with their neighbours in the Settled Districts.

I have said that the question is one of All-India importance. So it is. But there is a wider aspect to it than that. The tribal areas of the North-West Frontier lie along an international frontier the frontier which divides India from its friendly neighbour, Afghanistan. From this situation arises an international obligation, for our friends, the Afghans, look to us to preserve peace and order in the tribal Areas in the interests of the tranquillity of their own country. They may rest assured that in seeking a new approach to the problem the fullest regard will be paid to our obligations.

Baluchistan Advisory Council

Pandit Nehru then referred to the application of Reforms to Baluchistan. He said:

It will fall to the Constituent Assembly, in consultation with the interests concerned, to decide in what way Baluchistan will enter the new Indian body politic and how the Baluchistan of the future will be administered. But in view of the comparative backwardness of political development in Baluchistan, Government are already considering the question of, forming as soon as practicable, an Advisory Council drawn from representative institutions and organisations in Baluchistan to assist the Agent to the Governor-General. This would be a preliminary to the introduction of a fuller democratic system of administration.

It is the intention of the Government to consult at every stage the wishes of the inhabitants of Baluchistan and not to ignore such indigenous institutions as the tribal jirgas. It may be necessary in view of local conditions and the wishes of the people there to modify the pattern of democratic institutions which may come into being in the rest of India, will be a strong and representative body of advisers.

The most important item on the agenda from India's point of view is the case against South Africa. It is understood that South Africa will contend that the matter is not within the jurisdiction of the General Assembly as it is essentially one of domestic jurisdiction. With this contention the Government of India do not agree. In their view the treatment of Indians in South Africa is fundamentally a moral and human issue which, in view of the "Purposes" and "Principles" so clearly stated in the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly cannot disregard.

A further important matter will be that of the new International Trusteeship system. The Indian delegation will stress the point that sovereignty everywhere vests in the people of a country. If for any reason immediate independence is not feasible then India would not object to the territory being placed under United Nations Trusteeship for a limited period.

The attitude of the delegation will be that all Asians and the people of dependent countries stand together for freedom and for emancipation from foreign control, as this is the only way for bringing about world peace and progress.

Another Important Item

Another item of importance concerns the Union of South Africa's wish to absorb the mandated territory of South-West Africa. This proposition India's delegation will oppose on a point of principle: the Government of India consider that annexation of mandated territory would be fundamentally opposed to the conception of Mandates and Trusteeship and that sovereignty resides ultimately in the people of a territory, whose wishes and interests are paramount; the correct course, in their view, would be for S. W. Africa to be placed first under Trusteeship and for the Trusteeship Council and General Assembly of the United Nations then to consider its future.

Two items on the agenda have to do with the privilege of veto enjoyed by the five Great Powers in the Security Council or, as those countries prefer to term it, the "rule of Great Power unanimity." The attitude of the delegation towards this controversial issue will be that, although on principle India cannot like such an essentially undemocratic provision in the Charter, she attaches the greatest importance to the continuance of Great Power unanimity and co-operation within the framework of the United Nations and would do nothing to prejudice that position.

Speaking on the Paris Peace Conference Pandit Nehru said:

Progress in the Conference now in session in Paris to decide terms of peace with Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland has been re[illegible] but perhaps understandably slow. India's delegation has

INDIA AND U.N.O.

Referring to India's part in the forthcoming session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Pandit Nehru said:

Towards the United Nations Organization India's attitude is that of wholehearted co-operation and unreserved adherence, in both spirit and letter, to the Charter governing it. To that end, India will participate fully in its varied activities and endeavour to play that role in its Councils to which her geographical position, population and contribution towards peaceful progress entitle her. In particular, the Indian delegation will make it clear that India stands for the independence of all colonial and dependent peoples and their full right to self determination.

India's delegation to the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations is not yet complete, but invitations to join it have already been accepted by Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit, Nawab Ali Yawar Jung, Mr. Justice Chagla, Mr Anthony, Mr. K. P. S. Menon and Mr Deshmukh; attached to the delegation

wherever possible followed an independent line of fair compromise, and has supported those proposals which seemed to offer the solution most generally equitable. The delegation has throughout borne clearly in mind the humanitarian aspect of each problem confronting the Conference.

For two reasons India has refrained from presenting a formal claim for reparations from Italy: first, because she has no wish to reduce the amount of reparations available for distribution to countries whose claims may be entitled to priority of consideration, and second, because she preferred not to add to that heavy burden which Italy must carry up the steep hill towards economic recovery.

The delegation has however reserved the right to utilise Italian assets in India towards liquidating Indian nationals' claims to compensation for damage arising out of the war, and for meeting in part certain other claims.

India's concern in the future of the ex-Italian colonies in Africa has been made fully apparent. This issue is still under discussion, but a position in which India will be consulted before any final decision is taken seem to be assured.

Indian Delegation to U.N.O.

The composition of the Indian Delegation to the forthcoming session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation has been announced.

The Delegates are the Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit, Minister for Local Self Government and Public Health, U.P.; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.C. Chagla, Puisne Judge, High Court, Bombay; Sir Maharaj Singh, leader of the Indian Delegation to East Africa; Mr. Frank Anthony, President, Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association and Nawab Ali Yawar Jung, Member, Executive Council of H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad; while the Hon'ble Mr. K.P.S. Menon, Agent-General to the Government of India in China; Mr. R.M. Deshmukh, High Commissioner in South Africa, now in New Delhi; Mr. V.K. Krishna Menon, President, the India League, London and Mr. R.N. Sapru, Member, Council of State, will be Alternate Delegates.

Mr. R.N. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department; Mr. Gopal Swarup Pathak, Bar-at-Law; the Hon'ble Mr. Shavax A. Lal, Secretary, Legislative Department; Mr. R. L. Gupta, Financial Adviser, Food Department; Dr. Lanka Sundaram, Editor, *Commerce and Industry*, New Delhi; and Mr. C.S. Jha, Deputy Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, will be Advisers to the Delegation.

Captain B.K. Kapoor, Deputy Secretary, External Affairs Department and Mr. Azim Hussain, Deputy Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Department, will be the Secretaries. Khan Sahib A.A. Shah and Mr. Bal Kishan are accompanying the Delegation as Assistant Secretary and Superintendent respectively.

AFRICAN LEADERS' GREETINGS TO PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

RAJA Sir Maharaj Singh, Leader of the Indian delegation which recently toured the countries of East Africa, brought a special message to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, in the form of a letter signed by six leading representative Africans in Kenya.

Here is the text of the letter dated Nairobi, September 16, 1946:

Hon'ble Sir,

We, the undersigned, your comrades and admirers of Kenya, East Africa, have entrusted this message of congratulation in the kind hands of the Indian Delegation headed by Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, which, we are confident, will reach you and through you to the people of India.

The New Interim Government: May it convey our salutations and sincere congratulations to you at the historic moment of the establishment of the Government of the people of India. We are all the more glad and happy that you are at the head of this New Government, knowing that you have always taken a very keen interest in the emancipation of the oppressed and down-trodden coloured people of the whole world.

We were assured of your sincere intention to come to the rescue and offer every possible assistance to us, the oppressed Africans, when we heard your inspiring address to India and the world given by you immediately after the assumption of office through the All-India Radio.

We hope and pray for your Government's success in achieving India's complete independence. The world and, particularly, we, the Africans, watch with keenest interest the march forward of the Indian people towards the achievement of your goal through non-violent measures and who have all confidence in the sagacity of the people of India that they might equally succeed in achieving internal solidarity also through the same non-violent means. India's unity and solidarity in dealing with foreign and internal matters will be a great source of inspiration to us, the Africans.

Sincere Desire

It is our sincere desire that most cordial and permanent relations should be established between the people of Africa and India as they are more closely related historically, geographically and economically. We are quite sure that you, Sir, as well as the local Indians share our desire, and in order to give practical form to this desire we venture to quote the following resolution adopted at the 18th session of the E.A. Indian National Congress held at Mombasa, Kenya, on September 6, 7 and 8, 1946:—

"This Congress is of the opinion that it is vitally necessary to promote full understanding between the Africans, Arab and Indian communities and that practical steps should be taken as early as possible to create an organistion to work for their general advancement. Proposed by A.B. Patel, Seconded by D.S. Trivedi and Supported by P. Koinange (African)."

Indo-African Relations

Emanating from this resolution, suggestions were made by some of our African leaders, who were very kindly invited to attend the above session for better relationship between the Indian and the African:—

(1) that scholarships be created for African students in the Universities of India as soon as it is practically possible.

(2) that special facilities be made available for African students for technical, commercial and agricultural studies in India at the earliest convenient time.

As we have been kept pityfully backward educationally and as the dominance of illiteracy in our midst has retarded our progress in all spheres of life, immediate efforts to raise our standard of education will be most sincerely appreciated by our people. We have, sir, made the above suggestion to the East African Indian National Congress here and appealed to you most earnestly to do your best to render us every kind of assistance in this direction.

Educational Needs

We are fully aware of the pressure of your present responsibility. These requests might be somewhat overtaxing you. But our educational needs are so urgent that we cannot refrain from making a personal appeal to yourself, Sir, to give this matter your personal attention and we feel sure that our appeal will not go unheeded.

Knowing how keenly you are interested in establishing better relationship between not only the people of Asia but also between the people of Africa and India, we venture to make the following suggestions:—

(1) The representatives of the African peoples may be invited to attend the Indians Overseas Conference proposed to be held in India next November and through it to create a machinery for better understanding between the Indian and the African peoples.

(2) A special Conference between the African and the Asian leaders may be convened under your patronage to foster better relations between the continents of Asia and Africa. This Conference can take

VICEROY'S MESSAGE TO BURMA GOVERNOR

H. E. the Viceroy has sent the following message to H. E. the Governor of Burma:

"My warm congratulations and best wishes for success to your new All-Party Government."

A telegram sent by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, to Major-General Aung San reads:

"On behalf of my colleagues in the Government of India and myself I send you greetings and good wishes on the formation of your Government which, we hope, will lead soon to the full independence of Burma. We look forward to close and friendly co-operation between Burma and India."

place if possible, at the same time and place when the Pan-Asian Conference, originated by you, will be held.

Offering you once again our heartiest congratulations and assuring you, Sir, of our fullest support in the cause of humanity.

Jai Hind, Jai Africa.

Yours faithfully.
(Sd/-)

Henry Muorria, Assistant Secretary, Kenya, African Union, Nairobi.

George K.N. Degwa, Secretary, Kikuyu Central Association, Nairobi.

Zabron Oti, Editor of Ramogi Newspaper (Luo Tribe).

Jessie Karioki, Vice-President, Kikuyu Central Association.

J. Karioki Kahugu, Vice-Chairman, Kikuyu Land Board (Official).

Mbiyu Koinange, President, Kenya Teachers' College, Kambu, P. O. Box 25.

Pandit Nehru's Reply

In reply to the foregoing message Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru sent the following letter from New Delhi on September 27, 1946, to the African leaders:—

Dear Friends,

It has given me great pleasure to receive your letter of September 16 through the good offices of Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, who has recently returned from Kenya.

I am deeply grateful to you for your good wishes on the establishment of the Interim National Government of India. We have long struggled for the freedom and independence of India, but always we have thought of this freedom as a common heritage for all, and more especially for those who have been deprived of it.

India, I hope, will always stand and work for this wider freedom. We are particularly interested in the people of Africa, who have suffered so much in the past and who are suffering still from exploitation by foreign elements. You can rest assured that the voice of India will always be raised in the cause of African freedom.

I agree with you that cordial relations should be established between the people of Africa and the people of India, and I reciprocate fully the sentiments of the resolution passed by the East African Indian National Congress which you have conveyed to me. I trust that it will be possible for the African, Arab and Indian communities in Kenya as well as elsewhere to co-operate together for their common advantage.

I like the idea that African students should come to the Universities and technical institutes of India and we shall try to encourage this in so far as we can.

You have referred to the Inter-Asian Relations Conference which we propose to hold in March next in New Delhi. As its names implies, this Conference is more or less limited to Asia, but I am sure that friendly observers from Africa will be welcome at this Conference and we can then confer together as to what we should do for developing closer relations between Asia and Africa.

With all good wishes to you,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-Jawaharlal Nehru.

TRIBAL MALIKS' GREETINGS

"I am deeply interested in the welfare of the Tribal Territory and I hope that I shall be of service to the people of this territory," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter acknowledging a telegram, dated September 21, from Shabkadar Fort, addressed by Malik Samarkhan, Malik Atta Khan, Maulana Gulam Mohammad, Malik Mir Akbar and Malik Mozullah Khan.

The telegram stated: "We residents of tribal territory Mohmands pay our heartiest greetings on deserved success of getting reins of Government. As brothers we expect better treatment than Britishers and are prepared to support the cause of freedom with heart and soul whenever desired for our motherland."

The following is the text of Pandit Nehru's reply:

"New Delhi,

23rd September 1946.

Dear Malik Sahib,

I have received the telegram which you and Malik Atta Khan, Maulana Gulam Mohd., Malik Mir Akbar Khan and Malik Mozullah Khan had sent me. I am grateful for your message and I trust that you will convey my thanks to the other signatories of the telegram also.

I am deeply interested in the welfare of the Tribal Territory and I hope that I shall be of service to the people of this territory. We want to approach them as friends and to try to understand their difficulties and to remove them. It is not our desire to interfere with the freedom they possess but rather to help them in every way to better their condition. We should like them to come into closer contact with their neighbours in the Frontier Province and in India as a whole, so that we may get to know each other better.

I hope to visit the Tribal Areas myself, if possible, next month and to meet you and other friends then. We can discuss together what we should do to improve the condition of these areas and the people who live there.

With all good wishes to you and to your friends.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Jawaharlal Nehru."

Malik Samar Khan Sahib,

Shabkadar Fort, N.-W.F.P.

A literal translation in Pushtu accompanied the letter.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru hopes to visit the North-West Frontier for a week or so from about October 15 and that arrangements for his tour are being made through the usual official agencies.

COLONIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

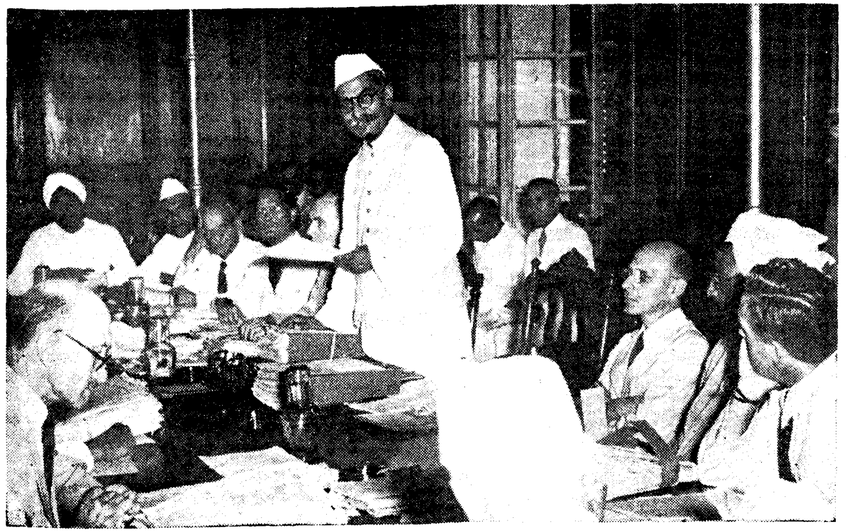
A number of Colonial Research Fellowships have been instituted by the Secretary of State for Colonies with a view to encouraging scientists to give special attention to problems of colonial interests. It is hoped that they will be the means of creating a cadre of scientists with special knowledge of environmental and social issues of the Colonies, and that research on fundamental problems in tropical regions will be encouraged, said a Press Note, issued by the Department of Education, Government of India, on September 28.

Open to University Graduates

These Fellowships will normally be for two years, but may be extended for a third year and will be tenable in any part of the British Colonial Empire. They are open to University graduates in the natural or social sciences under 35 years of age from any part of the British Commonwealth and Empire and will carry an allowance of £400 to £750 per annum. Provision has been made for 25 such Fellowships within the period, 1944-1949.

The award of these Fellowships will be made by the Secretary of State for Colonies on the advice of the Colonial Research Committee, and will be conditional on the candidate being certified medically fit for the type of work to be undertaken. Application forms can be obtained from and should be addressed in the first instance to the Secretary, Colonial Research Committee, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, London, S.W.1.

FOOD PRODUCTION TO BE STEPPED UP



DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD, MEMBER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, ADDRESSING THE 16TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN NEW DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 25.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Presidential Address to I.C.A.R.

"AGRICULTURE and food should have the highest consideration; and agricultural research, which places in our hands means of increasing the food supply of the country, should have the highest priority and no amount of attention given to its advancement can be too great," said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food and Agriculture in the Interim Government, presiding over the 16th meeting of the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on September 25.

The meeting which was attended by Agriculture Ministers of Bombay, U.P., the Punjab, Bihar, Orissa and C.P., concluded its deliberations on September 26 after sanctioning ten schemes on agriculture and 12 on animal husbandry.

It was also decided that the name of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research should be changed into "Indian Council of Agricultural Research."

Here is the full text of Dr. Rajendra Prasad's speech:

It is after a lapse of four years that popular representatives have come again for a meeting of this nature and under entirely changed political conditions when representatives of the people have taken charge of the Central Government as well. The task before us is of vast magnitude and we require the co-operation of every individual in the country for the vast task of construction which awaits us.

Our main problem is to link our manpower with the vast material resources of the country and to develop them according to a plan. In planned scientific development lies the salvation of the country and in this great task scientific research workers, particularly those who have chosen agriculture and animal husbandry as fields for their activities, have a great task to perform.

The Immediate Task

There was a time when India was said to be flowing with milk and honey. Recently we have had to pass in Bengal through a period of famine which took a heavy toll. The immediate task, therefore, before us is to step up food production so that all persons in this country have two square meals a day. The war and famine in Bengal have brought home to us the marginal nature of our food production in a rather tragic manner. Now our task is to rectify this ill-balance between population and food production by producing better and more food.

Research workers in India must concentrate on the task of evolving better and high yielding varieties of crops, in discovering better cultural practices and in placing more efficient tools in the hands of the cultivator. In our search for better tools and means of irrigation we should not forget that these will not be utilised unless they are such as our ordinary cultivator can afford. While concentrating on multi-purpose dam irrigation schemes not only to provide irrigation for our thirsty lands but also cheap power for agriculture and industry, we should not neglect to improve the well, the rivulet and the tank and must find ways and means such as cheap and efficient pumps which can be worked with the help of power—human and other animal—which are available and within the competence of the *kisans* of India.

Agriculture is the most important industry in the country which gives employment to mass of people and provides food for the entire population. Agriculture and food should have the highest consideration and agricultural research, which places in our hands means of increasing the food supply of the country, should have the highest priority and no amount of attention given to its advancement can be too great.



AGRICULTURAL TRAINING: SIX HOURS' FIELD WORK HAS TO BE PUT IN DAILY BY STUDENTS OF AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE DECCAN.

We may remember that agriculture in India is entirely dependent on bullock power and is bound to remain so in the foreseeable future. The cow and her progeny therefore claim and should get our attention so that there may be not only a plentiful supply of milk which is such an essential item of balanced diet but also of strong and healthy bullocks necessary for efficient cultivation and other draught purposes.

I.C.A.R's Great Service

Since its birth in 1929, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has performed great service to the people. Agricultural research in this country has provided high yielding sugar-canes, wheats, cottons and paddies to the cultivator but we must recognise that even in respect of these our production is very much less than what it is in other countries as is shown by the comparative statement given below.

We have, therefore, no reason to rest on our oars and further and more intensive work which will help the ordinary *Kisan* to increase the yield is necessary. I recognise, however, that but for the efforts of research workers the shortages in respect of some of these products that we are experiencing now would have been greater still.



A STUDENT DEMONSTRATES A BOTANICAL SUBJECT TO HIS CLASSMATES.

Average Yield per Acre (in lbs.)

	India	Argentine	U.S.A.	Canada	Italy	Egypt	Japan	Java	Peru
Wheat	636	780	846	972	..	..	..	..	..
Rice	851	..	1,333	..	2,797	1,845	2,124	..	..
Cotton	89	251	264	..	..	531	..	..	..
Sugar-cane	388 (in maunds)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,446 (in maunds)	1,160

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research provides a meeting ground where Ministers of Agriculture of Provinces and constituent Indian States, representatives of Central Legislature, Indian and European Commerce and of the Government of India can discuss problems of agricultural research and guide, co-ordinate, and promote research.

One of the main functions of the Council is to place at the disposal of research workers throughout India experience of their fellow workers in this country as well as scientific and technical information derived from foreign countries.

The Council also acts as a clearing house of scientific knowledge on the problems of agriculture and animal husbandry. It has provided an organisation for pooling ideas and techniques so that the whole of India may benefit from the experiences of every part.

Science cannot flourish in isolation. The best brains of the country must be brought together so that they may be able to exchange views and experience and to pool knowledge.

On the Advisory Board of the Council and its Committee the scientific and technical side of agriculture and animal husbandry research in the country is represented, while the Governing Body controls policy and finance. By promoting, guiding and co-ordinating agricultural and veterinary research in India, by training research workers and collecting and disseminating information on research through its publications, the Council has been performing a useful function.

Scientific Research

Ultimately, all research must be judged from the contribution it makes to the welfare of the masses. A poor country like India can ill-afford ivory-tower research divorced from the realities of life and the needs of its cultivators. It is the needs of the cultivator which research workers must always keep in view. "Science in the service of the country" must be our ideal.

It is generally admitted that investment in scientific research is the best investment which a nation can make as the returns which it provides are out of all proportion to the money invested. As an example we may cite the case of sugar-cane development in this country which has saved the drain of millions of rupees to foreign countries. I can give you the assurance that this Council will have all my support and sympathy.

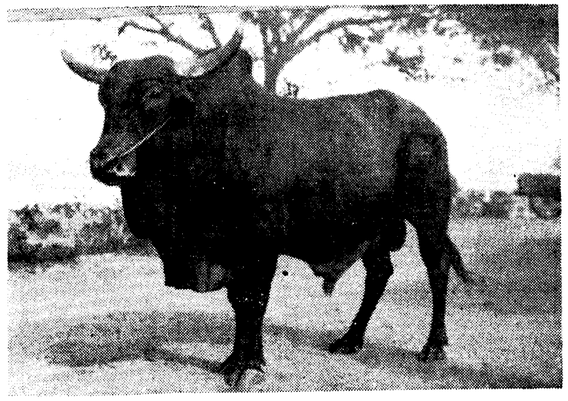
GRAIN IMPORTS IN SEPTEMBER

Thirty-nine ships from seven different countries brought 2,54,000 tons of foodgrains to India during the month of September.

U. S. A. was the largest single exporter with 80,200 tons and Abyssinia the smallest with 1,400 tons.

Exports from Australia, Burma, Argentine, Egypt and Indonesia amounted to 70,700, 57,000, 21,200, 19,300, and 4,000 tons respectively.

In terms of the different grains i.e. wheat (including flour), rice, maize, millets and barley the figures are 1,38,100, 58,640, 28,600, 23,900, and 4,700 tons respectively.



A SINDHI BREEDING BULL IN THE RAYANAKERE DAIRY FARM (MYSORE).

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD STRESSES NEED FOR BETTER CATTLE

"I feel that one of the greatest needs of the country at the present moment is improvement in the quality of cattle, both for the purpose of getting more milk and for draught", said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, addressing the 7th Meeting of the All-India Cattle Show Society at Delhi on September 26.

"There has been a great deterioration in both respects", continued the Hon'ble Member, "and one of the functions which the Husbandry Department has to undertake is to see how we can succeed in improving our cattle in both these respects.

"Those of us who live in cities naturally think that there is only one thing which has to be taken into con-



MYSORE CATTLE.

sideration when we talk of cattle improvement, and that is the yield of milk.

"Those of us who live in villages feel that the other point of view needs equal emphasis and in this country no scheme can be of the greatest use to the largest people which does not take into account both aspects of the problem. While improving our breeds for milk yield, which will naturally be confined to the large cities, we should attach a great deal of importance to the improvement of cattle for draught purposes and milk yield and produce a double purpose animal.

Importance of Cattle Shows

"A society like ours is serving a useful purpose because it places before the people samples which they can copy, and although during the last few years it has not been possible to hold the Central show, I hope it will be possible now that normal times have returned to revive the Central show.

At the same time I would not like the provincial shows to be discontinued. I would go further and suggest that these provincial shows should be helped more vigorously. We cannot expect people from great distances to come to New Delhi only for the cattle show, and in Delhi, particularly in New Delhi, I do not know how many people are really interested in cattle except for milk; they are not interested in the cattle themselves. So the real purpose will be served when we bring these best quality cattle before our villagers, and encourage and help them to breed better quality of cattle.

Scientific Breeding

Dr. Rajendra Prasad stressed the importance of scientific study and scientific breeding which could be available in special farms which might be started. "I believe" he said, "that there are special farms which are being run by Government. It has not been possible for me to acquaint myself either with the farms and their work, but I hope in course of time to do that.

"The results of experiments must be made available, and that can be done by the use of these cattle. I, therefore, think that it is necessary to continue the work of this Society and to extend it not only in Delhi, but also on a larger scale in the mofussil areas in the country".

A cable from Washington states that India has been elected to six Commissions set up by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Excluding the Big Five (Britain, U. S. A., France, China and Russia) India is the only country to have representatives in all the six Commissions; the next most successful country has been elected to four.

The six Commissions are: Economic and Employment; Transport and Communications; Social; Human rights Status of Women; and Statistical.

CONTROL OF OILS, OILSEEDS AND CATTLE FEED

All-India Oilseeds Conference in Delhi

"WE cannot forget the fact that the price of oilseeds and oil is 4 to 5 times of what it was before the war and that this is higher than in the case of cereals and other essential articles. It has resulted and is bound to result even more in the diversion of land from cereal to oilseeds cultivation. While it is true that the shortage in oils is great, it is difficult to see how we can afford any reduction in the production of cereals. The removal of control altogether will there is a general shortage in the country as a whole is sure to lead to a further rise. We have to face two alternatives, either all control should be removed or control should be enforced strictly."

Thus said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Parsad, Food Member in the Interim Government, opening the All-India Oilseeds Conference which commenced a three-day session in New Delhi on September 26. The Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha and the Hon'ble Mr. Asaf Ali were also present.

Here is the full text of the Food Member's speech: -

"I welcome you to this Conference. You are not new to the Conference nor to the task which the conference is expected to perform. I am new to both, but I trust with your help and co-operation we shall be able to arrive at conclusions which will be of help to the country at large.

Disparity in Prices

"You will recollect that it was early in 1945 that the Fifth All-India Food Conference recommended control of oilseeds and oils and an all-India basic plan for it. The Government which was then in power after consideration of all factors decided that the Centrally co-ordinated control by Provinces and States over production, prices and movement of edible oils, oilseeds and oil cakes was necessary. This view was endorsed by two Conferences which have been held since then in the current year.

"Due to various causes, however, action on these resolutions has not been taken simultaneously or uniformly by all administrations and the unfortunate result has been that there is a very wide disparity in prices and some parts of the country are suffering from acute shortage of edible oils and oilcakes. This has happened even when there is practically a complete stoppage of all exports, except in case of small quantities of linseed, sesamum and groundnut.

"The shortage in oils has been aggravated undoubtedly by the diversion of a considerable quantity of oil to Vanaspati which passes in the market not as oil but as ghee both for the purposes of use and in regard to its price.

"Various questions which will require your careful consideration have arisen and I can in this opening address only indicate some of them. Oil, as you know is an essential ingredient in our diet. In fact next to cereals and *dals* which supply the protein necessary for health, fats are required and these fats can be either animal in the form of ghee etc. or vegetable in the form of oil.

Problem of Cattle Feed

"We know that the supply of ghee is very short and supply of oil also is not much better. It has been calculated that in spite of a large increase in production of oilseeds during recent years the consumption per head of oil does not come to more than 4 seers a year, which is infinitely less than what is required for health. We have, on the one hand, therefore, to consider how we can increase the supply of oil and, on the other, we have also to consider how this can be done without causing a deficit in cereals and *dals* which are equally, if not, more urgently required for subsistence. This, however, is a problem with which this Conference is not concerned. Here we are concerned with the question how best we can distribute the oilseeds and oil that are available.

"Another problem which is not of less importance is the question of cattle feed. It goes without saying that our cattle, particularly milch cattle, require concentrates like oilcakes as an indispensable element in their food. There is a heavy deficit in regard to this also and if I remember aright, the calculation is that our cattle do not get more than 7 seers of oilcake per head per year. This is evidently nothing compared to what they should get. Even taking 8 ounces as their ration per day 7 seers can cover at the most less than a month.

"The problem of cattle feed is intimately associated with the problem of agriculture. Situated as we are, our agriculture depends entirely on our cattle and anything that causes deterioration of cattle is bound to react unfavourably on our agricultural production.

"We have also to consider whether it is possible or desirable to export oilseeds and oils. Before the war India used to export considerable quantities of oilseeds and groundnuts.

"Now as I have stated above, export of all oilseeds, except a small quantity of linseed and some groundnut, is prohibited. With expanding trade it may become necessary, though not desirable, to allow some of our oil, if not all oilseeds, to be exported to enable us to get goods from foreign countries which may be considered necessary.

"The problems, therefore, that you have to consider are of a complicated nature. The first thing that has to be decided is assuming that the decision in favour of controls is maintained, how best we can make it more effective. Various causes have combined to make it less effective than it was desired and this has created many complications. There is great disparity in prices in different parts of the country. Deficit areas are not able to get what they need.

"The oil pressing industry in some provinces is suffering because there is not a fair and equitable distribution of the oilseeds all over. The same causes operate to create the same disparity in regard to oilcakes. We have, therefore, to decide how we can improve the control so as to make it more effective and to ensure a fair and equitable distribution at fair prices of oilseeds and oilcakes.

Prices of Oilseeds

"It has been suggested that if control is removed the operation of the law of supply and demand will set things right if not immediately in course of time. It is also said that control has so far not been successful. We cannot forget the fact that the prices of oilseeds and oil is 4 to 5 times of what it was before the war and that this rise is higher than in the case of cereals and other essential articles. It has resulted and is bound to result even more in the diversion of land from cereal cultivation to oilseeds cultivation. While it is true the shortage in oils is great it is difficult to see how we can afford any reduction in the production of cereals.

"The removal of control altogether when there is a general shortage in the country as a whole is sure to lead to further rise. Partial or ineffective control having failed to secure the desired objectives, we have to face two alternatives, either all control should be removed or control should be enforced strictly. Removal it would seem at the present moment is more or less out of question. A stricter enforcement of control seems to be the only alternative available, but in this matter we would like to have your considered views.

"Another question which arises naturally is how best to ensure parity of prices. Now the price of oil can be determined only after the price of oilseeds and oilcakes has been determined and controlled. We have, therefore, to take a comprehensive view with regard to all this and then make suggestions.

"As I have said, some provinces are aggrieved that their milling industry which used to get plentiful supply of seeds from other provinces is suffering. The surpluses which the provinces declare are said to be much less than what they ought to be and even after allocation of these surpluses, the provinces to which they are allocated not always get what is allocated or do not get the better quality of seed which is reserved by the surplus provinces for themselves.

"We have therefore to consider and make suggestions how a fair and equitable distribution of seeds can be secured in case control is maintained. In the absence of control no one can complain against the Government. It becomes the duty of the trade to keep all the provinces well supplied and because the trade in times of emergency like this fails to attain this objective, control becomes necessary.

"I will now take a little time over cattle feed. There is a heavy deficit in this regard. An attempt has been made to meet it by prohibiting export of seeds and if any export has to be made to confine it to oils so that the oilcake may remain in the country. But all oilcake is not used for cattle feed.

"Leaving aside the inedible oilcake like neem or castor, which can be used mainly as manure, a great portion of edible oilcake is also consumed as manure and some provinces are very zealous in providing their own agriculturists the oilcake they need for manure depriving deficit provinces of their share of cattle feed. You have to consider how this ill-balance can be remedied.

"While I recognise that anything that can be done to increase the production of foodgrains should not be hampered in the least I cannot forget that the maintenance of cattle is an essential contribution towards supply of foodstuffs. Not only do we need the milk which cattle give that are fed on the concentrates, but we must also remember that bullocks are bound to deteriorate without them and agriculture, which is so dependent on them, is bound to suffer. We are therefore on the horns of dilemma, but I believe it is possible to solve it.

Valuable Manure

"Let us not forget that oilcake that is used as cattle feed adds to our food supply. In the first place we directly get an increase in milk; indirectly nature has provided a perfect and most complicated machinery in the shape of the cattle which convert the oilcake into a manure and which restore it not only in the form of milk and more energy for work, but also in the form of a valuable manure. The loss, therefore, of manure from oilcake being diverted to cattle feed is after all not as great as it would appear to be. You have therefore to strike a balance and make suggestions for reserving a portion and I trust it will not be a large proportion, of oilcakes for manure and divert the rest of it to cattle feed

"Another article that is used for cattle feed, apart from oilcake which may be any of the edible oilseeds, is the cotton seed itself, that has decreased very largely by reason of the diversion of nearly 9 million acres of land from cotton to cereal cultivation. There is no doubt that cotton seed is a very important item in cattle feed and until the lost quantity is replaced by something else or by increase in cotton production heavy deficit will continue.

"Bran and chuni and rice husk are other items which to a smaller extent serve as cattle feed, but these are also getting reduced in quantity—bran, on account of finer grinding, rice husk on account of the movement in favour of the use of unpolished rice.

"One suggestion has been to import oilcakes and bran from abroad. Argentine could give us considerable quantities of these, but the price is so high that it is almost beyond the capacity of our people to pay. The difference in the case of cotton seed cake being Rs. 100 per ton and in the case of other oilcake Rs. 300 per ton, we may therefore regard that source almost as impracticable from our point of view. The only alternative therefore is to divert more and more oilcake to cattle feed.

"A suggestion has been made that if control on oilseeds is maintained then at least in the case of cotton seeds, particularly in Sind, it should be removed. You have to consider whether we can do this having regard to the conditions prevailing in the country and in particular provinces."

Industries Member Favours Abolition of Control

The case for abolishing the system of licensed dealers and for putting distribution on the old competitive basis in respect of all commodities, except foodstuffs was put forward by the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies in the Interim Government, when he addressed the Oilseeds Conference on September 26.

Mr. Rajagopalachari, however, warned his listeners that what he said should not be taken as the decisions of the Government but only as loud-thinking.

"I find from the picture of the Conference," he said, "that we are mostly administrators who are assembled here. Our main task will be to exchange views principally on methods of administration more than anything else. I would caution friends assembled here not to carry the impression from statements made on behalf of the Government that they have arrived at any decision. We have met here to discuss, take advice, think over and come to a decision later on."

Licensing: A Form of Patronage

Continuing Mr Rajagopalachari said: "I feel that black-marketing and corruption are largely due to the system of restricting licensed distributors, which we are maintaining." "Control of prices I can understand," he added, "but the control by which we distribute favours to people, by giving to certain dealers the exclusive right of dealing in certain articles, is not really control, but merely another form of patronage. This patronage is not good

either for us or the people. There is an instinctive desire in the human mind to exercise power, and once we have got habituated to its exercise, we feel starved if we lose that power."

Referring to controls the Industries Member said: "In the matter of food we can take no risks. In all other matters, I would like you to consider whether we may retain a certain amount of price control, but bring in competition in distribution. I think that unless we introduce competition among the distributors, we shall be encouraging corruption. I would, therefore, beg of you to consider very seriously whether we should not now face freedom in the matter of distribution.

Ineffective Control

"We want regulation, but ineffective control is not regulation. It is only encouragement to profiteers. We cannot imagine that we are progressing towards nationalisation by maintaining this licensing system, whether Central or Provincial.

"I would like you to consider the practicability of reintroducing free competition among distributors. The answer is likely to be, from Departments as well as from the vested interests, that there is short supply and, therefore, unless there is a certain amount of restricted distribution, confusion will be the result. I think this argument is being carried too far. Restriction in the number of dealers is not going to remedy short supply. We need not be concerned over the fate of unlicenced dealers. They will take care of their own interests. Let us control prices and not relax. I would suggest consideration of abolishing this monopoly system brought into being during wartime."

Four Sub-Committees

Over 40 representatives of Provincial Governments and Indian States attended the Conference. After the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad had opened the Conference, there was a general discussion on the policy and need for an All-India basic plan and the desirability of permitting exports of oilseeds.

It was unanimously decided, before making a final recommendation, to examine the practicability of exercising full control over the prices, procurement and distribution of all edible oils, oilseeds, oilcake and other cattle feeds.

Four Sub-Committees were constituted: one to examine quotas and prices of groundnuts and sesamum; the second to consider problems relating to prices and movement of rapeseed, linseed and mustard; the third to consider the possibility of a plan of distribution for cottonseed, oilcakes and cattle feeds; and the fourth to consider various administrative measures and difficulties inherent in implementing a policy of full control over edible oils, oilseeds and cattle feeds.

The plenary session of the Conference considered on September 28 reports of the various Sub-Committees appointed on September 26, and passed by a majority the following resolution as a recommendation to the Government of India:

Subject to a satisfactory solution to the question of exports *ex*-India and the prices to be charged for such exports, this Conference considers (a) that control over oilseeds, oils and oilcakes is still necessary and (b) that regulation of inter-provincial movement and allocation of quotas by the Centre and regulation of prices in exporting as well as importing areas are essential features of such control. (In its view, control over prices implies co-ordinated price levels in surplus producing areas and parity prices in deficit importing areas).

Accordingly it recommends that, in respect of movements within the country (a) the Governments of the exporting provinces and States should do everything possible, by resort to requisitioning where necessary and feasible, to see that accepted quotas are moved at controlled prices and (b) the Governments of the importing provinces and States should accept responsibility for receiving the quotas and distributing them at parity prices.

EXPORT OF BLACK PEPPER

A Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on September 25 stated:

The Government of India have decided to allow the export of black pepper by trade from India during October, November and December, 1946, to the following countries to the extent shown below:

United States of America 2,000 tons; Argentina 280 tons; Brazil, 65 tons; Bolivia, 8 tons; Chile, 56 tons; Columbia, 29 tons; Costa Rica, 2 tons; Cuba, 25 tons; Dominican Republic, 8 tons; Ecuador, 15 tons; Guatemala, 6 tons; Haiti, 10 tons; Honduras, 4 tons; Mexico, 54 tons; Nicaragua, 2 tons; Panama, 4 tons; Peru, 58 tons; El Salvador, 4 tons; and Uruguay, 20 tons.

Export Licences

All parties in receipt of firm orders from traders in the countries concerned, supported by import permits from such of the countries as issue them, should apply to the Chief Director of Purchase, Department of Food, Division III, New Delhi, for export licences. The export licences will be issued on the production of evidence of firm orders and/or import licences in the strict order of priority of applications as from October 20, 1946.

Information about the parties who hold import licences granted by the U. S. Authorities can be had from the Office of the Commissioner for the United States of America, New Delhi, and the United States Consulates at Bombay and Madras.

The Central Government have discontinued with effect from October 1 the control over the distribution, sale and disposal of road tar and bitumen produced in or imported into India.

MANGO-SEED KERNEL AS CATTLE FEED

RESEARCH work on mango-seed kernel has shown that it can be profitably used as cattle feed and thus relieve to some extent the great shortage of live-stock foodstuff in the country.

India has an enormous cattle population and animal nutrition workers are faced with the problem of both quantitative and qualitative shortage of foodstuffs for live-stock. According to a recent estimate, the concentrates and the fodder available in the country are sufficient only for 29.1 per cent and 55 per cent respectively of the adult bovine population. This does not take into account the requirements of the equines, of 47.9 millions sheep and of 37.7 million goats.

New Sources of Foodstuffs

This quantitative shortage of foodstuffs in normal times is felt even more keenly during periods of famine. The Nutrition Laboratories of the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute have intensively explored the possibilities of new sources of foodstuffs, including mango-seed kernel, which is at present mostly wasted. Chemical analysis has shown the kernel to be fairly rich in protein and carbohydrates.

The feed can be prepared by extracting, and slightly crushing the kernel of the mango-seed and incorporating up to three seers of it in the ration of cattle. It has been observed that animals take about three weeks to acquire the taste for the kernel and after that they relish it. Animals are found to have gained in weight and to have developed a healthy appearance as a result of the kernel feeding.

NEW BOILER REGULATIONS

The Draft of new Indian Boiler Regulations is published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated October 3, 1946.

They have been formulated by a Sub-Committee appointed by the Central Boilers Board. In framing these Regulations, the Committee has adopted the existing Indian Boiler Regulations, 1924, and incorporated extracts from British Standard Specifications. A new Chapter relating to fusion welded drums for water-tube boilers has been added.

The Draft will be taken into consideration on or after February 1, 1947. Objections or suggestions in respect of these Regulations may be addressed to the Secretary, Central Boilers Board, Department of Works, Mines and Power, New Delhi.

INDONESIAN RICE ARRIVES IN INDIA

THE first ship from Indonesia carrying rice for India reached Cochin port on September 20 and started discharging her cargo. She is the *Empire Favour* and has brought 6,000 tons of unhusked rice which the Government of India have allotted to the Madras province. It is intended to send the entire quantity to the Malabar district.

The grain will be distributed to consumers unhusked and this should benefit the poorer classes who will be enabled to make use of the husk as fuel, and also try to sell the bran as cattle feed.

Good Quality Rice

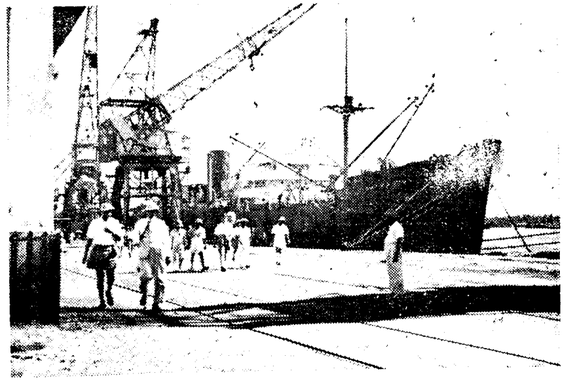
The *Empire Favour* was inspected on September 21 by the Regional Food Commissioner (Southern Region) of the Government of India. The rice is of good quality with little dust and no smell, somewhat like table rice.

The grain is estimated to be three years old—a stage at which this particular variety is stated to be in the best condition for consumption—and if the succeeding supplies from Indonesia are of the same high quality, as it is hoped that they will be, it will be very satisfactory.

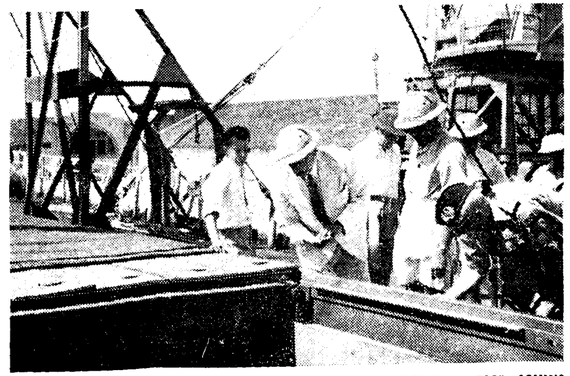
Special underground godowns with good ventilation have enabled the grain to keep for a period during which it would ordinarily deteriorate.

The consignment brought by the *Empire favour* (the first instalment of the 700,000 tons of paddy reported to be available in Indonesia for export to this country) consists of 90,000 bags strong and well stitched and made of sisal hemp with the result that loss in handling is reduced to a minimum.

It is understood that the second food ship from Indonesia, expected very shortly, is being allotted to the States of Cochin and Travancore.



THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF FOODGRAINS WHICH INDONESIA SOME TIME AGO PROMISED TO SEND INDIA, WAS BROUGHT BY THE "EMPIRE FAVOUR" WHICH RECENTLY UNLOADED 6,000 TONS OF PADDY A COCHIN PORT. PICTURE SHOWS THE "EMPIRE FAVOUR" WITH FOOD DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN THE FOREGROUND.

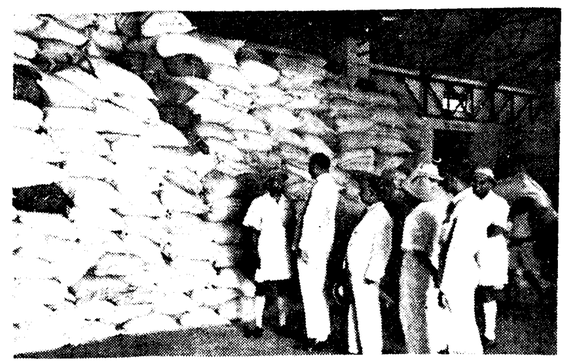


DEWAN BAHADUR C. P. K. MENON (SECOND FROM LEFT) REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN REGION, EXAMINING THE QUALITY OF PADDY.

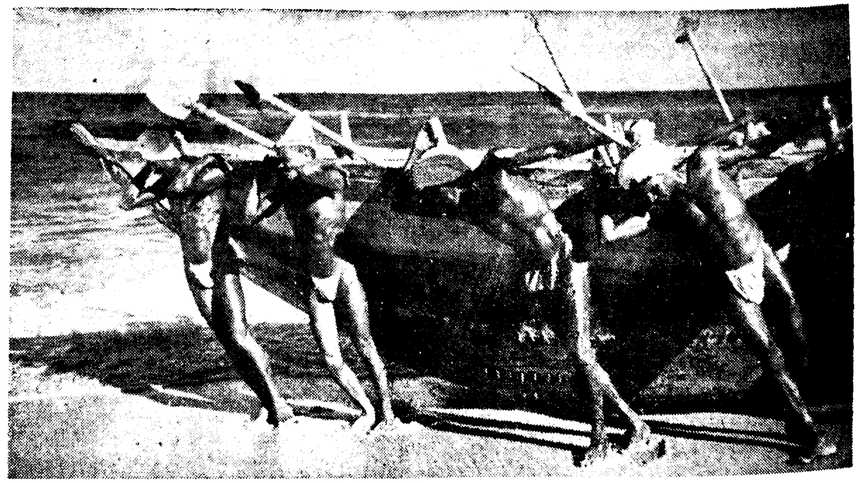
In a Press Note dated September 7, 1946, the Government of India stated that students who had passed the Matriculation or High School Leaving Certificate examination in India would be eligible for admission to Rangoon University provided they had passed in Mathematics in such examinations and an examination in English that was being held in Rangoon on September 25, 1946.

In view of the fact that many evacuee students in India would not find it possible to return to Burma in time, the Administrative Officer, University of Rangoon, has now decided to hold a Special second test in Rangoon on October 29, 1946.

Applications from intending candidates for permission to appear at the test should reach the Administrative Officer on or before October 25, 1946. Conditions for eligibility at the test are the same as stated above.



FOOD DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN THE SHED WHERE THE GRAIN IS STACKED.



FISHERMEN ON THE COROMANDEL COAST LAUNCH A MASULA BOAT. MASULA BOATS ARE SEAWORTHY AND THEIR STITCHED SIDES ARE ELASTIC ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO THE GREAT COMBERS WHICH POUND INDIA'S EASTERN SHORES.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ON WEST COAST

THE smoked fish industry received considerable impetus during the war. The Madras Government Fisheries set up smoke-houses along the west coast of India, where smoked fish was being regularly produced, the species smoked being Mackerel, Pomfrets and Silver Bellies.

During a single fishing season, the approximate total output at the smoke-houses in Calicut, Tellicherry and Tenur alone has been about 25 tons. Now that the army demand has disappeared, the need for an alternative market, it is felt, has arisen, especially as Malabar people do not relish smoked fish. Unless a market could be found for smoked fish, this useful and cheap way of utilising surplus fresh fish, it is emphasised, would not develop and the existing smoke-houses might have to be closed down.

It is believed that Chanos or Milk fish and Mullet fishes capable o tolerating considerable variation i salinity offer great possibilities o marine and estuarine fish-farming o the coasts of India. Chanos grow much faster in fresh water than i sea water, even though it breeds only in the latter. Further experiments concerning Chanos and Mullet in this direction are being conducted by the Madras Government Fisheries.



A 60-FOOT NET IS DRAWN ASHORE.



A SUGAR-CANE FIELD.

SUGAR PROSPECTS FOR 1947

ON a conservative estimate, it should be possible to restore five per cent. out of the 13 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 done before February or March, 1947, observed Mr. N.T. Mone, Sugar Controller for India, addressing a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Committee in New Delhi on September 24.

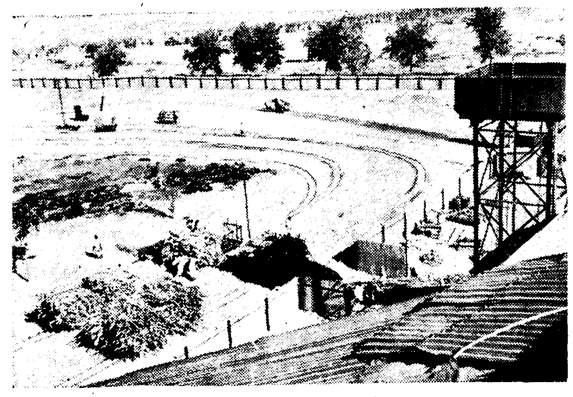
Outlining the sugar prospects in the coming year, the Sugar Controller estimated the next season's production at about 10½ lakh tons. "On the liability side, we may have to increase the allotments for confectionery, the fruit preservation industry and exports on which a cut of 10 to 25 per cent. had to be applied last year. The Defence requirements are, however, further expected to go down. We will have to keep a reserve of 75,000 tons for consumption in December 1947."

Sugar and Gur

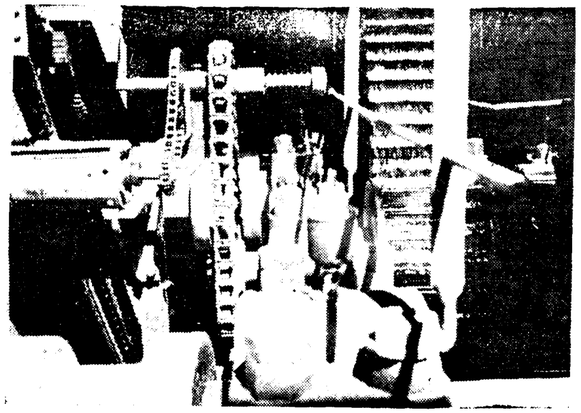
The country was faced with increasing deficits in foodgrains, said the Sugar Controller and the first consideration of the Central, Provincial, and States' Governments would be to secure an adequate supply of these. Sugar and *gur*, though valuable food must come afterwards. In his view, there was no scope for an indiscriminate increase in cane area. He emphasised that for increased sugar production what was needed was not merely an increase in cane acreage, but an improvement in the quality and quantity of cane produced.

Then followed a consideration of the various items on the agenda. On the question of sugar and sugar-cane prices for 1946-47, there was divergence of opinion among the members present, but it was generally agreed that the standard price of sugar-cane should be fixed at Rs. 1|4 per maund and of sugar at Rs. 20|14 per maund ex-factory, but that departures from these prices should be allowed by the Government of India, if after an examination of the position in individual provinces and states, any change was considered necessary.

The Committee then discussed the supply of sugar for the fruit preservation industry, losses of sugar on railways during transit and the supply



A VIEW OF A SUGAR FACTORY.



A CANE CRUSHER IN A SUGAR FACTORY.

of various stores to sugar factories for the next season.

Among those who attended the meeting were representatives of various Provincial and State Governments, of the sugar industry and trade and the Chairman of the Sugar Commission, U.P. and Bihar. The Committee concluded its discussions on September 25.

DEVELOPMENT OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

Two major recommendations of the [illegible] appointed by the Government of India relating to an increase in the target of sugar production and the establishment of additional units and their location to meet the increased target, have been accepted by the Central Government. As against the present normal production capacity of existing units of 10,84,000 tons the target for increased production is likely to be 18,50,000 tons. This includes exports, but the exportable quota will have to be determined later with due regard to the external markets to be reached.

New Factories

The gap between the present production and the new target is likely to be bridged by an expansion of the existing factories, installation of new ones, the development of sugar-cane and the provision of better facilities for factories to secure cane.

It is likely that existing factories with a crushing capacity of below 250 tons per day will not be allowed to expand nor will existing factories be permitted to crush more than 800 tons a day, but factories having a crushing capacity between 200 and 800 tons will be allowed to expand to their maximum capacity.

As regards the installation of new factories, 20 units have been allocated as follows: Bengal, Bombay, Madras and the Punjab 3 units each; and Assam, Bihar, N.-W.F.P., Orissa, Sind, and the States of Baroda, Hyderabad and Travancore 1 unit each.

Each unit will have a crushing capacity of 800 to 1,000 tons a day, but smaller units to suit special conditions may be allowed under the recommendation of provincial or state governments. The allocation of 25 additional factories to cover a capacity of 250,000 tons will be made later.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN 1945-46

According to information available the supply position of white sugar in 1945-46 was more difficult than in the two years immediately preceding. The production during the 1945-46 season amounted to 9,48,000 tons as compared to 9,71,000 tons in 1944-45 and 12,70,000 tons in 1943-41. Causes for the low production are reported to be a decrease in the all-India area under sugar-cane from 42.5 lakh acres to 38.4, the main fall being registered in the most important producing area of U.P. lack of winter rains in U.P., Bihar and the Punjab, and the high prices of *gur* in most areas.

At the beginning of the crushing season it was estimated that the production in 1945-46 would be 11,20,000 tons and quotas were allotted to consuming areas on this basis. Owing to a short fall in production however, a uniform reduction of 13 per cent. had to be made in the quotas of all areas in March last which resulted in considerable distress, as incidence of the cut on the remaining months of the year worked out in some cases to as much as 20 per cent. Even after the enforcement of this cut, it may be necessary to draw on the carry-over from 1944-45 leaving about 50,000 tons for the whole country in December.

There has been a progressive decline in the sugar requirements of the Defence Services from 99,000 tons in 1943-44, 76,000 tons in 1944-45 to 35,000 tons in 1945-46. A similar fall is registered in the exports to neighbouring countries, the present figure being 14,500 tons as against 18,600 tons last year.

No reliable estimate is available regarding the sugar prospects for the ensuing season. Indications however are that sugar production will increase to a small extent in 1946-47.

POLLEN FOR SUGAR-CANE CROSSING

Pollen can be stored by artificial culture and utilized for crossing purposes. In sugar-cane this process is particularly useful because of the disparity in the time of flowering of several varieties used as parents in breeding.

Work on pollen at the Imperial Sugar-cane Station, Coimbatore, showed that artificial cultural medium of 26 per cent. commercial sugar and 0.7 per cent. agar with slight modification is quite successful. It is now the basis for such work at other research stations also in the various cane-growing countries of the world.

Much crossing work in sugar has been done at the Coimbatore Station during the current season. Three strains of sweat Sorghums recently obtained from Uganda have been successfully used. Crosses were also experimented to produce fodder canes and three new types have been evolved.

EXPORT PRICE CONTROL OF JUTE TO CONTINUE

A Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 30 stated:

With the expiry of the Defence of India Act and the Rules framed thereunder, on September 30, 1946, the control of internal prices of jute and goods will revert to the Provinces.

In view, however, of the responsibility that devolves on the Government of India for the supply of packing material at a reasonable price to all countries of the world so that the free flow of foodgrains from surplus to deficit areas may not be impeded and the urgent need that exists for countering inflation and also having regard to the larger interests of the country as a whole, the Government of India have decided to continue the Export Price Control provisions of the Jute (Price Control) Order, 1945.



AN ENLARGED MODEL OF THE YELLOW FEVER MOSQUITO BEING SHOWN TO SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN, HEALTH MEMBER, WHEN HE VISITED THE MALARIA INSTITUTE OF INDIA IN DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 21. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) LT.-COL. JASWANT SINGH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE, SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN AND SIR GORDON COVELL, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE.

SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN VISITS MALARIA INSTITUTE

THE need for first class malaria institutes in all the provinces of India, like the one in Delhi, was emphasised by the Hon'ble Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Member for Health in the Interim Government, when he visited the Malaria Institute of India, on September 21.

The Health Member was received by Major-General Sir Gordon Covell, Director of the Institute, who introduced Lt.-Col. Jaswant Singh, Deputy Director, and other officers of the Institute.

Sir Shafaat was shown the Museum containing enlarged models of the different species of mosquitoes, the Students' Laboratory, the equipment for anti-mosquito measures, D.D.T. spraying apparatus, etc. A demonstration of D.D.T. spraying was also given.

The Health Member made detailed enquiries about the results of the work done on D.D.T., its efficacy, and the possibilities of its manufacture in India on a commercial basis. About Paludrine, an anti-malarial drug, he was informed that trials on a fairly large scale had been made and great care was being taken to collect accurate data in order to arrive at definite conclusions regarding its effect and efficacy.

The anti-malarial campaign in the urban areas of Delhi is carried on under the direct control and supervision of the Institute. A new block is under construction to house the Institute's Laboratory. The Institute holds refresher *courses* of six weeks' duration for 26 students at a time, once or twice a year.

The Health Member greatly stressed the necessity of anti-malarial drugs and insecticides being available at cheap prices so as to be within easy reach of the poor.

DEMOCRATIZATION OF HEALTH SERVICES

"DEMOCRATIZATION of the public health services in India and co-ordination of both preventive and curative aspects of it is the policy of the Interim Government", said the Hon'ble Sir, Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Health Member, Government of India, addressing the staff of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, and Public Health Commissioner on September 26.

The Health Member deplored the "terrible mortality" every year due to malaria and emphasised that every effort should be made to mitigate if not to eradicate this disease.

He also drew attention to the problem of extending the health services to the rural areas which had hitherto been comparatively neglected. He paid a tribute to the devotion to duty of the health services in India which, he said, had no parallel in Asia.

Sir Shafaat hoped that the staff would take to their new duties, functions and responsibilities in the same spirit of service and anxiety to relieve suffering as before.

Major-General R. Hay, Director-General, Indian Medical Service, assured the Hon'ble Member of the loyal co-operation and support of his staff in the tasks ahead.

Health Member Visits Nursing College

THE Hon'ble Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Health Member, paid a visit to the College of Nursing in New Delhi on October 4, where he was received by the Principal of the College who introduced the members of the staff and the students.

The College, the first of its kind in India, is at present housed in temporary quarters and has 43 students on its rolls. It prepares students for the B.Sc. (Hons.) degree of the Delhi University and provides special courses for hospital matrons and nursing teachers. A class has also been opened for preliminary training for nursing students in Delhi. The College has been started with the co-operation of the Delhi University which provides facilities for lectures in certain subjects. Practical training is given in the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Irwin Hospital. Arrangements have made for imparting instruction in maternity and child-welfare work in the Lady Reading Health School.

The Health Member expressed satisfaction at the work done and hoped that the construction of a new building would be taken up soon.

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DISCOVERED IN BIHAR

The discovery of a number of documents giving valuable historical information has been reported by Dr. K. K. Dutta of the *ad hoc* Regional Survey Committee of Bihar.

The work of the Regional Survey Committees, recently appointed by the Historical Records Commission, is to ensure the preservation of all important historical documents available within their respective regions. The Committees arrange to collect them from private owners and then take steps to ensure their safe keeping. They also catalogue the documents for purposes of reference and study.

Valuable Document

Historical documents were discovered by Khan Saheb S. H. Askari, a member of the Bihar Committee, at two places in Bihar, at Jaruha near Hajipur and at Maner (20 miles from Patna) a place of considerable interest to historians and archaeologists.

The discovery at the latter place consisted of 19 Mughal *Firmans*, while at the former a number of old *Sanads* going back to the days of Emperor Akbar were collected.

These *Sanads* relate to grants of lands made from time to time to the mausoleums of certain Muslim saints. The earliest of them, which relates to a grant made by Shri Maharaj Adhiraj Raja Man Singh, has a Hindi version. This, says Dr. Dutta, is a valuable document, because it contains specimens of the Hindustani or Kharibolı as it was spoken in Bihar in Akbar's time.

COMMUNICATIONS MEMBER OUTLINES INDIA'S CIVIL AVIATION POLICY

THE Hon'ble Syed Ali Zaheer, Member for Communications in the Interim Government, has issued the following statement to the Press commenting on Civil Aviation Policy. The different topics touched in the statement are "the constitution and work of the Air Transport Licensing Board, the question of nationalisation of air transport, and the co-ordination of national aviation policy with that of the Provinces and Indian States.

Here is the full text of the statement:

In a country of the size and magnitude of India, civil aviation can play a very important part in the communication system. Unfortunately, the progress in civil aviation, due to various reasons, has not been as fast as it should have been. The popularity which even the limited growth of civil aviation has gained so far proves clearly that its value is fully appreciated by the people of this country.

So far as Government is aware no less than about 19 private companies have been floated in order to take part in the civil aviation of the country. The authorised capital, though not the issued capital, of these companies comes to about Rs. 40 crores. Applications for various routes by some of these companies are pending for disposal.

Air Transport Licensing Board

There was a general feeling in the country that the Air Transport Licensing Board, which had been constituted, was not broad-based, as it had a majority of officials on it. The first step, therefore, which the Government took was to change the constitution of this Board. The Cabinet has agreed and the Licensing Rules are being amended. Now this Board will consist of three members including the Chairman who is a judge of a high court.

It must, however, be emphasised that the Government attaches very considerable importance to the maintenance of high technical standards in civil aviation. A close co-operation between the Civil Aviation Directorate and the Air Transport Licensing Board will have to be maintained in order to ensure technical efficiency. It is not Government's intention to put unnecessary obstacles in the way of the working of the various operators who may be desirous of operating on various routes, nor does it intend to create a monopoly in favour of one or a few of the operating companies.

It is Government's intention to put no restriction on various companies obtaining their machines from any source which may be available to them or in the purchase of serviceable schemes in India.

The allocation of various routes to particular companies will be the function of the Board, whom the companies will have to satisfy in respect of their financial resources and technical organisation. On these considerations and on the basis of sound economic operations it might not be possible for all the companies now floated to secure a licence. Permission to float a company does not with it carry a guarantee of grant of a licence and this has been made clear to the promoters.

A stage has been reached when it may be expected that various companies will be able to work without any subsidy from Government. The Government will continue to provide and keep properly equipped landing grounds, wireless stations, meteorological facilities, etc., for the use of the aeroplanes operating on various routes.

Nationalisation

The question of nationalisation of air services has been agitated in papers and has engaged the attention of Government. The present policy of Government on this question is to allow private companies, licensed by the Air Transport Licensing Board, to operate the internal routes. In coming to this conclusion the Government has been greatly influenced by the consideration that its machinery is not as yet so highly developed as to enable it to undertake actual operations in aviation.

The progress of civil aviation in the beginning can be achieved more by permitting private companies to operate on internal routes under strict Government licensing and supervision.

The Government hopes that on account of private enterprise greater facilities, efficiency and courtesy will be available to the passengers than if the services were to be nationalised at this stage. So far as external services are concerned, however, Government proposes to take a substantial share in corporations which are likely to be formed in the near future.

Indian States

A reference must be made to the Indian States in this connection. It is necessary for States, if they want to participate in civil aviation, to come in line with the rest of India. The territories of these States form an integral part of the sub-continent of India and it is in the interest of both that they be guided by one uniform policy in the development of civil aviation.

The Air Transport Licensing Board has with this view been formed with a State representative who is selected in consultation with the Crown Representative. He will be one of the three members for the present who will sit on the Board which will decide the question of the grant of licences to various companies formed in India for operating air routes. Such a Board ought to inspire confidence in the States.



SYED ALI ZAHEER.

Government also desire that in framing its Civil Aviation policy it must have fullest co-operation of the various Provinces and their Governments. Although two conferences have been held in the past in order to frame the Civil Aviation Policy of the Government of India but the Provincial Governments under Section 93 regimes did not take much interest in these conferences. Apart from this the whole political situation in India has now altered and the Government is contemplating to call a Civil Aviation Conference at New Delhi in November, 1946.

It is the intention of the Government to invite to this Conference representatives of Indian States as well as all the Indian Provinces, the industrial, commercial and such other elements who are vitally interested in the development of civil aviation. Proposals made at this Conference will be duly considered by Government.

The Government may ultimately establish an All India Civil Aviation Board which will be able to constantly review the progress made in aviation and advise the Government in framing its future policy on civil aviation. Government hopes that in this way it will be able to associate public opinion with itself, and that it will give an impetus to the future development of civil aviation in this country.

External Services

The Government is at present carrying on negotiations with a number of foreign countries who want their services to operate to and across India. Government's policy in this respect will be a liberal one. At the same time it will have to safeguard the vital interests of the country and interests of Indian operators. Government hopes to obtain from these countries reciprocal operational right.

The external services will naturally begin by operating to the neighbouring countries lying towards the East and the West of India, but there is no reason why India should not, within a very short interval, be able to establish air services going round the globe and operating to and across most of the countries of the world. The world is shrinking rapidly and unless India keeps pace with the developments which are going on in the other countries in the field of aviation, it will be left very far behind.

Training Institutions

In order to provide expert technical personnel for the requirements of the country, and future development of civil aviation the Government proposes to establish several institutions in various parts of India for training pilots, mechanics, wireless operators and other necessary personnel for air services and a beginning is being made by establishing a Training Centre at Saharanpur.

India also requires to develop industries for making aeroplanes, their engines, wireless and other instruments which are required for this purpose. The task is great and difficult but Government is sure that given the will and zeal necessary for its accomplishment and the co-operation of the public, it will not be impossible of achievement within an appreciably short time.

TRIAL OF BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION CASES

New Ordinance

An Ordinance called the Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Ordinance is promulgated to-day, said a Press Note issued by the Legislative Department, Government of India, on September 29.

The Special Tribunals at Lucknow and Amraoti which were constituted during the war to try important bribery and corruption cases will cease to function from to-morrow, (September 30) having disposed of all the cases allotted to them for trial. Since the Ordinance under which these Special Tribunals were established contains no provision for determining which Courts will be deemed to be the successors of the Tribunals, *e.g.*, for directing execution of sentences and for receiving orders passed by the High Courts in appeal or revision, the necessary statutory provision has been made in this Ordinance.

Broadly, it provides that in regard to any case decided by a Special Tribunal before it has ceased to function the successor will be the Court of Session or in a Presidency town the Chief Presidency Magistrate within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the offence charged in the case is alleged to have taken place.

AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD REORGANISED

THE Government of India have re-examined the constitution of the Air Transport Licensing Board. They consider that it is not desirable that the Board should include as its Members departmental officials of the Government. While the technical advice of such officials should be available to the Board, the Members of the Board should be persons unconnected with the Departments of the Government of India but having high judicial, legal or administrative experience, said a Press Communique, issued by the Communications Department, Government of India, on September 27.

Advisers of the Board

They have accordingly amended the Indian Aircraft Rule, 1937, providing that besides the Chairman, who shall be a person who is, or has been, a High Court Judge, the Board shall have not less than two and not more than four other Members, one of whom shall be appointed in consultation with the Crown Representative.

Provision has, however, been made for the appointment of the Director-General of Civil Aviation, a person with special knowledge of aviation or air transport and a person with special experience of financial matters as advisers, of the Board. The Board may call upon any Adviser to express his views on any matter before it and when so called upon, the Adviser will take part in the proceedings of the Board, but not be entitled to vote. The Government of India consider that the Board so reconstituted will be able to discharge its responsibilities with fairness and impartiality.

Mr. Justice Din Mohammad will continue as Chairman of the Board and Dewan Bahadur K. S. Menon as the Member appointed in consultation with the Crown Representative. It is proposed to appoint immediately one other Member and an announcement in this regard will be made shortly.

The appointments of the D.G., C.A. in India as the Deputy Chairman of the Board and of Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward Rice and Mr. M. K. Sen Gupta as Members are being terminated. They are being appointed as Advisers to the Board.

A.I.R. HINDI-URDU ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE All India Radio Hindi-Urdu Standing Advisory Committee held its third meeting in New Delhi from September 19 to 25, said a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General, All India Radio, on September 27.

The members of the Committee have forwarded to Government their lists of Hindustani equivalents of about 1,500 words. The Committee have also finally forwarded to Government their views regarding the proportion of Hindi and Urdu spoken-word items, other than news.

Spoken-word Items

There was complete agreement on the following points:—

(1) Spoken-word items other than news of a literary nature must be either from standard Urdu or Hindi literature or they should be contributed by recognised scholars of Hindi and Urdu.

(2) There should be Standing Advisory Committees for Hindi and Urdu to advise A.I.R. on Hindi and Urdu items other than news.

(3) The opening and closing announcements of Hindi and Urdu items should be in Hindi and Urdu respectively.

(4) To avoid unnecessary controversy all greetings and salutations on behalf of A.I.R. should be discontinued.

(5) There should be adequate Hindi and Urdu knowing personnel in all categories of staff concerned with such programmes.

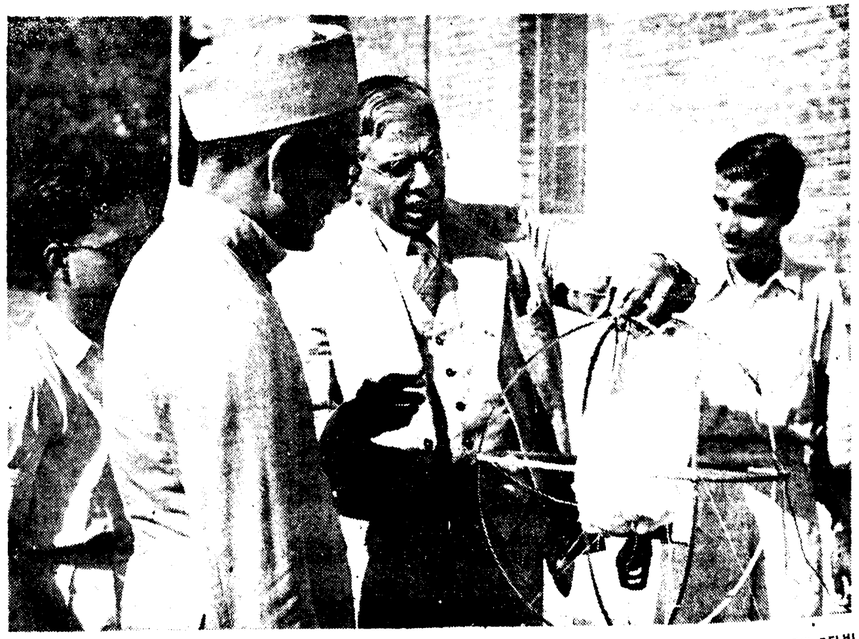
(6) There should be Advisory Committees to advise stations on all matters connected with rural programmes.

(7) The Kavitas of standard Hindi poets should be set to music and song.

The Hon'ble Pandit H.N. Kunzru, Member of the Council of State, has been offered, and has accepted, the presidentship of the National Cadet Corps Committee.

To increase the number of potential officers for the three Armed Services, the Government of India decided, this year, to form a National Cadet Corps. The aims of the corps are to develop leadership, character and comradeship among Indian youths and to stimulate an interest in the defence of the country.

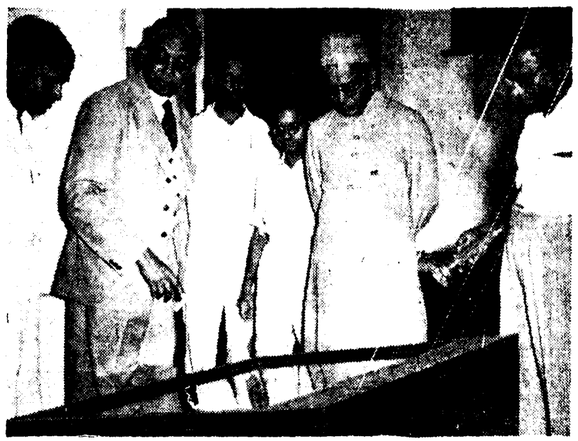
A National Cadet Corps Committee was set up to make recommendations for the establishment of such a corps, which may comprise both schools and colleges. The Committee will decide whether the training of cadets shall be confined to basic training common to all three Services or whether cadets shall be encouraged to specialise in one of the Services only.



SYED ALI ZAHEER (THIRD FROM RIGHT) MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, VISITED THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE IN NEW DELHI RECENTLY. PICTURE SHOWS DR. S.K. BANERJI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF OBSERVATORIES, SHOWING THE RADIO-SONDE TO SYED ALI ZAHEER.

SYED ALI ZAHEER VISITS METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Working of Radio-Sonde Explained



DR. BANERJI EXPLAINS THE PRINCIPLE ... TO SYED ALI ZAHEER.

"THE Radio-Sonde is proving of great assistance in the forecasting of weather phenomena by enabling us to observe temperature variations at very high altitudes. Every part of this delicate and sensitive instrument has been manufactured in the workshops attached to this observatory", said Dr. S. K. Banerji, Director-General of Observatories in India explaining the working of the Radio-Sonde to the Hon'ble Syed Ali Zaheer, Member for Communications in the Interim Government when he recently visited the Meteorological Office in New Delhi. The Hon'ble Member was accompanied by Sir Harold Shoobert and Mr. M. H. Zuberi of the Communications Department and the party was shown round by Dr. S.K. Banerji.

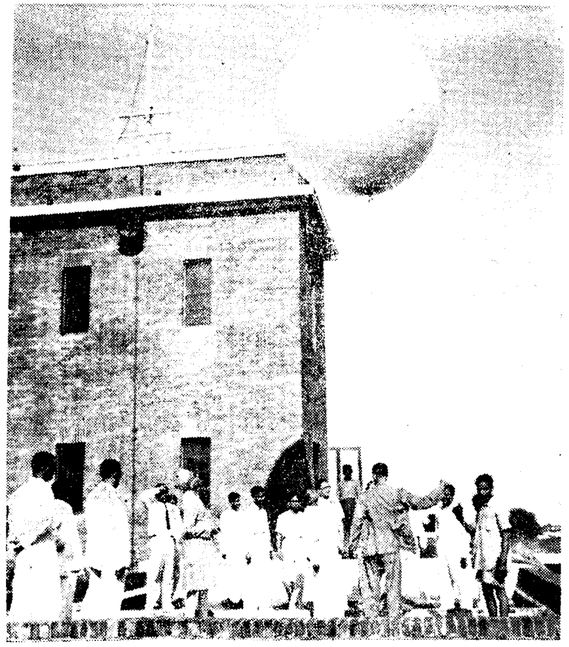
The Meteorological Department of the Government of India plays a very important though unobtrusive part in India's economy in a variety of ways. Weather forecasting, which has been turned into a fine art by the aid of various precision instruments like the Radio-Sonde, is proving of great assistance to the cultivators who consist over 80 per cent of India's population and to fliers and sailors and such other people to whom weather forecasts are very important in their daily work.

The preparation of weather charts which is really the *piece de resistance* of the Meteorological Department's activities requires the assistance of hundreds of workers all over the country. Over 500 observers make observations throughout the country at the same time and these are flashed to the forecasting office by telegrams, teleprinters or by wireless. These involve not only observations at ground level but also of the upper air by pilot-balloons and by Radio-Sonde. These observations are plotted on charts so as to give a three-dimensional picture of the processes occurring at various levels of the atmosphere.

Long-Range Forecasts

How predictions are made from the charts was illustrated by Dr. Banerji by explaining the heavy rain in Calcutta on September 16, 1946. The downpour was the result of a deep depression over Bengal which was caused by the moist air from the Bay of Bengal rising over the dry air current from the North-West, and condensing its moisture in the process.

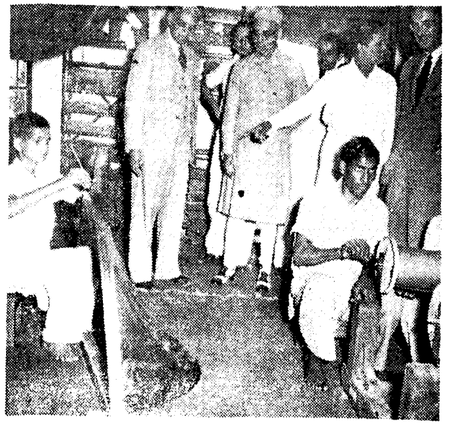
India, incidentally, is the first country to undertake long-range forecasts, *i.e.*, the fore-shadowing of the whole monsoon rainfall and the winter rains. A search has to be made of weather elements throughout the world which might affect India's weather, and to utilise these by statistical methods for the prediction of their effect on Indian conditions. As a case in point, it has been known that atmospheric pressure over South America affects India's monsoon rains; similarly excess snowfall over the Himalayas in the winter months prejudicially affects the monsoon rains in the North-West of India.



A BALLOON BEING SENT UP WITH THE RADIO-SONDE.

The relationship of weather to crops has been studied in the Department and calendars have been prepared for every principal crop and for every district in India showing how the growth





DR. BANERJI EXPLAINS THE ASSEMBLY OF THE RADIO-SONDE ... TO SYED ALI ZAHEER. EVERY ONE OF THE 150 PARTS OF THIS DELICATE PRECISION INSTRUMENT IS MADE IN THE WORKSHOPS ATTACHED TO THE UPPER AIR OBSERVATORY IN NEW DELHI. (RIGHT) THE COMMUNICATIONS MEMBER WATCHES BALLOONS BEING MADE OUT OF GUTTA-PERCHA TISSUES.

the crops is affected by local weather conditions. This knowledge is utilised by the issue of a district-wise warning in Indian languages both through the Press and over the radio, advising farmers of abnormal weather features which might affect their crops.

That India can produce precision instruments has been amply proved in the workshops attached to Meteorological Department, which produces the famous Radio-Sonde conceived, designed and manufactured within the four walls of the upper air observatory in New Delhi. Every one of the 150 different parts which go to make the Radio-Sonde were made in these workshops with the exception of the wireless valve which also forms part of this apparatus.

Precision Work

The Radio-Sonde consists of a timing clock which is used to rotate the spindle and manufacture of these parts of the clock requires high precision workmanship which, it is necessary to add, local talent has provided. Even the dry batteries used in the high tension and low tension were made from raw-material in the workshops itself.

The workshop also manufactures every type of instruments from meteorographs to clown balloons instruments which are used for sounding the atmosphere. The balloons which fly these instruments are made in a factory at Nagpur and these are as good if not better than foreign manufactured balloons.

The Delhi observatory is also using special apparatus for conducting research work into the distribution of temperature in the upper air up to a height of 40 miles. There is an underground seismograph room for recording earthquakes from all over the world.

CIVILIAN PASSAGES FOR U.S.A.

The Government of India have been informed by the High Commissioner for India in London that a number of persons from India *en route* to the United States of America have been held up in the United Kingdom because of passage difficulties, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on September 28.

The air lines are extremely congested and only persons proceeding to important international conferences have any prospect of securing an air priority at the present time. Sea passages from the United Kingdom to the United States are also difficult to obtain.

Persons who desire to proceed to the United States of America *via* the United Kingdom must therefore be prepared for considerable delay in the latter country. Some steamers sail direct from India to the United States of America and particulars are advertised in the Press. Passages in such steamers are arranged either direct with the shipping company's agent or through a travel agent.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON HIGH DAMS

Rai Bahadur A.N. Khosla Represents India



RAI BAHADUR A. N. KHOSLA.

FOR the first time the Government of India have deputed an Indian Engineer to take part in the International Commission on High Dams, the Executive Committee of which met in Paris on October 3, 1946. He is Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India and Chairman of both the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and the Central Irrigation Board.

The International Commission on High Dams was formed in 1928 in France and India has been a member since 1930. The Central Board of Irrigation is the national committee for India in respect of this body.

Visit to U.S.A. and Canada

Three Indian Engineers, Mr. Mohsin Ali, Member, Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, Rai Bahadur N. K. Mitra, Retired Chief Engineer, E. I. Railway, and Rai Bahadur M. S. Mathur, Additional Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D., took part in another international organisation, the International Technical Congress, which met recently in Paris.

Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla will take this opportunity to visit hydro-electric works in Sweden, Canada and the U.S.A. and establish contacts with experts of international repute such as Dr. J. L. Savage of the Tennessee Valley Authority and Dr. F. A. Nickell, the Geologist, in connection with the proposed works on Mahanadi and Kosi projects.

India's three great projects on the Damodar, the Mahanadi and the Kosi are estimated to cost nearly Rs. 150 crores in all, and would irrigate about 6 million acres and generate 1½ million k. w. s. of power when completed. They would not only help the vast industrial plans of the country, but would ultimately increase India's food production by about 2 million tons per annum. India has the biggest irrigation system in the world, her present irrigated area being 70 million acres, which is more than three times that of the United States.

Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, I.S.E., has been actively connected with the Kosi and Mahanadi projects and has had considerable experience in the building of dams and barrages in the Punjab. An authority on the design of weirs on sandy foundations and the author of a standard book on the subject, he visited the irrigation works and hydro-electric installations of many foreign countries, such as the U. S. A., Canada, Egypt, Mesopotamia, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Ireland and the U.K. in 1931 and 1939.

1,009 CIVILIANS SAILED FOR U. K. IN SEPTEMBER

A Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on September 28 stated:

Against an allotment of 1,232 berths, 1,009 civilians embarked for the U.K. during September. The deficiency was due to cancellations received too late for berths to be re-offered to others. Priority holders are again requested to give ample notice to their travel agents of any change of plan, otherwise there is a danger of ships sailing with empty berths.

Partly owing to refusals in August and partly to unexpectedly large registrations in September, approximately 1,300 persons will remain on the waiting list at the end of September. It is hoped to work off this waiting list by the end of November.

Normally, passage applications should reach the Civil Passage Controller not less than one month, and preferably two months previous to the desired date of sailing. Bids for shipping space have to be made to His Majesty's Government approximately six weeks in advance and are based on applications already received.

Approximately 1,500 civilian passengers will receive offers of accommodation during October.

CO-ORDINATION OF SEA-RAIL TRANSPORT

Ports Technical Committee's Recommendations

THE need for a major port between Karachi and Bombay in the Gulf of Cutch, the further development of the Vizagapatam harbour and the railway system leading thereto, and an investigation by the Government of the relative economics of transport by sea and by rail, are some of the recommendations made by the Ports Technical Committee in their report which has been released.

The recommendations of the Committee have been referred to the maritime Provincial Governments, the maritime Indian States and major port authorities for comments, on receipt of which the Government of India will consider the policy to be followed and arrive at a decision on the recommendations made by the Committee.

Committee's Terms of Reference

The Ports Technical Committee was appointed early in January this year with Sir Godfrey Armstrong as Chairman, and Messrs. L. W. Balcombe, M. A Master, D. P. Khaitan, M.G. Gazadar, J. R. Galloway, and A. Webster, as Members. The terms of reference were:—

(a) whether a sheltered deep-sea port on the East coast of India for the accommodation of ships of large size and tonnage at all seasons of the year is required, whether their construction is feasible and if so where; also what measures are necessary for establishing it;

(b) whether there is justification for the conversion of any minor ports on the coast of India to major ports, if so, whether such conversion is practicable; also whether there are any other projects for construction of major ports which ought to be considered;

(c) what steps are necessary to develop minor ports in order to meet probable demands of coastal shipping traffic.

Recommendations

The recommendations of the Committee which form para 82 of the report are:—

"The Committee is strongly of the opinion that the following broad considerations, namely:—

(a) the economic indivisibility of British India and Indian States;

(b) the increasing requirements of India's rapidly expanding agriculture and industries, as also the desirability of the dispersal of industries;

(c) the integration and implementation of a comprehensive, well-balanced and efficient policy of transport and its effective development in all its forms;

(d) the routing of trade through ports not to be influenced by Customs Policy;

(e) the need for a long view in the siting of new ports and the development of existing ones;

(f) the evolution of a sound policy of Defence for the whole country;

(g) the geographical position and importance of India in the Indian Ocean; and

(h) the strategic importance of India in the development of a World Order in the Far East, should govern the formulation of an all-embracing and progressive port policy for India.

As regards the first term of reference, the Committee is of the opinion that Vizagapatam on the East Coast should be developed as a sheltered deep-sea port which can accommodate ships at least up to 650 feet in length with drafts up to 30 feet.

For this purpose the Committee strongly recommends that the improvement at the entrance, the expansion of the quays, the building of a dry dock and the provision of other facilities mentioned in the Report should be immediately taken in hand and the finance required for the execution of the whole project should be found by the Government of India.

Vizagapatam Harbour

The Committee suggests that, with the further development of the Vizagapatam harbour and the railway system leading thereto, a proper future lay-out of the city of Vizagapatam with Waltair is called for.

The recommendation of the Committee for development of Vizagapatam has not made it necessary for it to examine the possibility of the establishment of another sheltered deep-sea port between Vizagapatam and Calcutta, but the Committee feels that the Government may need to investigate such a possibility in due course.

As regards the proposals for a ship canal scheme and river training works, as suggested by the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Commissioners, the Committee feels that it cannot, on the data available before it, say that those proposals are financially sound or will effectively attain the object which they have in view.

The Committee would, however, welcome the fullest and the earliest investigation of the improvements to the navigable approaches to the Port of Calcutta and the drawing up of a scheme for that purpose which would, without permanently affecting deep-sea navigation in the upper and lower reaches of the Hooghly, provide facilities for steamers with deeper drafts to navigate to and from Calcutta at all times.

The Committee, therefore, suggests that the technical, financial and other relevant aspects of this or any other scheme, with particular reference to its permanent repercussions on the upper and lower reaches of the Hooghly, should be fully examined by experts. And in connection with the proposed extensions of King George's Dock the effect of the policy of dispersal of industries on the volume of traffic that will flow through the port in future should be fully gone into.

As regards Madras, the Committee recommends that the vesting in the Madras Port Trust of the prescriptive rights over the land south of the harbour should be arranged, so that the harbour water-front can be enlarged in the only possible direction as and when the trade of the port may demand it.

The Committee further recommends that the Board may actively pursue the experiments which it has been carrying on at present for the reduction of the range. Whether these experiments are successful or not, the Committee recommends that the first stage of the Wet Dock Scheme for four berths should be completed within a period of 10 years.

As regards the second term of reference, the Committee is of the opinion that here is a need for a major port between Karachi and Bombay in the Gulf of Cutch and feels that, on the information at its disposal with particular reference to surveys made and schemes in prospect, Sika is the most promising site for the purpose; and recommends that the necessary steps for the execution of such a scheme at Sika be taken.

The Committee further suggests that with a view to providing effective and quick rail transport without transhipment to areas in Central and Upper India, on which traffic the port would need to depend largely for its economic prosperity, the laying of a broad-gauge rail line from Sika to Viramgam or any other suitable station should form a part of the scheme.

Development of Bhatkal

For the successful working of the Kathiawar ports and for the effective execution of the Sika scheme, the Committee considers the evolution of a common and unified policy for the working of the Kathiawar ports and Kathiawar railways is essential and recommends that negotiations for that purpose may be carried on by the Government of India with the Indian States in Kathiawar.

The Committee is of opinion that the development of Bhatkal as a major port is essential for providing a good economic outlet for the trade of the large and rich hinterland of the Mysore State lying behind it. From the data of the existing and potential traffic and Engineer's report relating to the scheme placed before it, the Committee considers it both a practical and good financial proposition. In view, however, of the fact that the engineering report and part of the traffic estimate were made a generation ago, the Committee is of

e opinion that a fresh report regarding engineering possibility of the scheme and fresh data of traffic should be called for.

As regards the Vizhinjam proposals of the Travancore State, the Committee is of opinion that the scheme should be carefully examined after the State has submitted a satisfactory engineering report in connection therewith.

As regards the Rameswaram Canal Project, the Committee considers it as unlikely to prove a practical success from the commercial point of view.

As regards the proposal for developing the Cocanada Harbour into a major port, the Committee does not consider it likely to be essential in the interest of future trade or necessary for the purpose of defence and strategy. It is, however, of the opinion that the Madras Government's request for an engineering survey of the Cocanada proposal may be complied with and the report in connection with the scheme may be invited.

Improvement of Ports

As regards the third term of reference, the Committee recommends that the relative economics of transport by sea and transport by rail should be fully investigated by the Government of India and that the policy which the Government propose to adopt for the maintenance and expansion of the comparatively cheaper form of transport should be enunciated in clear and precise terms.

In the meantime, the Committee recommends that the schemes for improvement of the minor ports framed by the Provincial Governments, subject to the Committee's criticisms in certain cases, should be carried out.

The Committee further recommends that the conservation of the coastline of India should be the direct concern of the Central Government.

CAPITAL GOODS REGISTRATION SCHEME

The Capital Goods Registration Scheme has so far been applicable to Machine Tools covered by the Machine Tool Control Order, 1941, only if the f.o.b. value of the tools is expected to exceed Rs. 10,000, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 25.

The Government of India have been considering the possibility of raising this minimum limit with a view to facilitate the expeditious disposal of a larger number of applications for imports which are generally required only for maintenance and replacement purposes and they have now decided to raise the limit to Rs. 25,000.

As a result of this decision only machine tools whose f.o.b values exceed Rs. 25,000 will henceforth require to be registered under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme and applications for licences for the importation of machine tools of lesser value should be addressed direct to the Machine Tool Controller, New Delhi.



THE MAHARAJ SINGH MISSION WHICH WENT TO EAST AFRICA RECENTLY PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE WILLINGDON AERODROME, NEW DELHI, ON THEIR RETURN ON SEPTEMBER 24. MR. R. N. BANERJI (RIGHT) SECRETARY, COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, RECEIVED THE DELEGATION.

MAHARAJ SINGH MISSION RETURNS FROM EAST AFRICA

THE Maharaj Singh Mission, which had been sent by the Government of India to East Africa, returned to Delhi by air on September 24. Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, the leader of the Mission and the other members, Mr. C. S. Jha, I.C.S., and Mr. Sarwar Hasan, were received at the Willingdon Airport by Mr. R. N. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, and others.

The Mission left New Delhi on August 21, and in the course of a month's tour in East Africa visited a number of places including Nairobi, Kisumu, Nakuru, and Mombasa in Kenya, Jinja, Kampala and Entebbe in Uganda and Dar-es-Salam in Tanganyika. The Mission could not proceed to Zanzibar owing to a temporary dislocation in East African Airways.

The Mission, whose main object was to study the facts and circumstances relating to the introduction of the Immigration Bill in East African Legislatures, had opportunities of contacting the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and interviewing the Governors of these three countries. They attended the session of the East African National Congress at Mombasa, and met representatives of a number of Indian associations.

They had the advantage of conferring with several representatives and leaders of African opinion, and they also met members of the European Electors' Union in Kenya an influential political body of European settlers.

The Mission has submitted a report to the Government of India.

Telegrams to Burma are restricted to "State" telegrams and telegrams from Scheduled Banks and Shipping Companies. Other categories of telegrams are not accepted by any route.

Telegrams are now admitted for Bayambang, Calauag, Gumaca, Hondagua, Lopex-Luzon, Malasiqui, Nagadagua, Padre-Burgos, Bago-Negros, Tagkawayan and Unisan, in the Philippine Islands beyond Malina.

SOME RESETTLEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

By Mr. R. H. Saloway, Director-General, Resettlement and Employment, Government of India.

A Broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi.

THE Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment is a younger Organisation. It has rightly caught the public eye and during the short period of its existence it has probably received more attention from the Press and public than any other Department.

Thanks to the atomic bomb which put a sudden end to the war against Japan it has been engaged from the start in a race against time in order to be ready to deal with the rush of demobilisation and large-scale discharges from war factories. It is inevitable that in circumstances such as these there should have been growing pains and teething troubles. It would also have been surprising if an organisation from which so much is expected had escaped criticism. But the main point is that there has been a fair measure of achievement in the face of very considerable difficulty.

We have launched an experiment which is entirely new to India and have established a net-work of Employment Exchanges and Information Bureaux throughout the country. There are not, it is true, enough of these, and we are supplementing the number with mobile exchanges which will contact employment seekers and employers in outlying areas and thereby exploit more employment opportunities and accelerate our work. But the foundations have been laid of a permanent Employment Service for all which is an essential adjunct to any planned economy.

National Service

The Exchanges are not a commercial venture. Their usefulness is not to be measured solely in rupees, annas and pies. They render a national service. And unless one is patently prejudiced one would not measure their cost by the return of the first few months. This is not done even in commercial undertakings. What would you say of a man who told you that Civil Aviation was doomed to failure as a commercial proposition, because the first batch of travellers in the first aeroplane flying from Delhi to Bombay, cost the company one crore per person, in that the capital of the company was twenty crores and only twenty people travelled on the first day.

At the same time I am not trying to find excuses for high cost. The *per capita* cost of placing a man in employment is diminishing steadily and was Rs. 16 in July 1946, as against Rs. 20|12|- for the April to June quarter of the same year. Just after the first World War when Employment Exchanges had been in existence in the United Kingdom for over 10 years the cost of placing a man there was £3 or approximately Rs. 40.

Similarly the cost *per capita* of our Training Scheme is not, as has been represented, excessive. The Advisory Committee on Technical Training appointed by the Government of India in 1944 estimated the *per capita* cost of training at Rs. 282 per annum as against Rs. 264 per annum or Rs. 22 per month under our scheme. The cost *per capita* of Vocational Training works out at Rs. 207 per annum or Rs. 17|4|- per month which compares favourably with the *per capita* cost under Provincial Post-War Plans.

Abnormal Conditions

What of course may make our scheme appear expensive is that we give ex-Servicemen stipends and other amenities. But this is only reasonable because unlike the young civilian trainee the ex-Serviceman has a family or other dependents to maintain.

I have heard it said that only a fraction of those seeking work through Employment Exchanges have actually found jobs and that the Exchanges are consequently a failure. Well, I do not think that this is a fair statement. The Exchanges are working under abnormal conditions at the present time. Hundreds of thousands of men are being demobilised rapidly from the Forces and discharged from war factories. It would be unreasonable to expect the placings in employment to keep pace with the rate of these discharges particularly as the effect on employment of the Central and Provincial Governments' Post-war Plans has not yet had time to make itself felt. During this transition period Exchanges are being inundated with registrations which at present take up an abnormal proportion of their time.

Of the 3,25,591 odd ex-Servicemen, discharged war-workers and others who had asked the Exchanges for assistance by the end of August, 49,098 had been found employed and 64,020 had either found work or allowed their registrations to lapse.

I should like to say something about the latter figure. An Exchange cannot record a man as placed unless the Manager receives definite information in writing to the effect from the employer to whom his name has been submitted. Unlike the United Kingdom and most other countries there is no statutory obligation on either the employer or the employment-seeker to give this information.

My own personal experience has shown that in many instances neither bothers to do so and that a considerable proportion of those who have allowed their registrations to lapse or who have found work have actually secured employment through the Exchanges. They cannot, however, for the reasons which I have explained be recorded as placed. But it is obvious that the figure of placings represents the absolute minimum. This figure is steadily improving but I do not pretend to be satisfied with it and have recently issued a Personal Directive to all Managers of Exchanges emphasising that our Organisation will be judged by the number of men whom it succeeds in placing in employment.

Number of Difficulties

I began by saying that ours was a young organisation. Actually the Employment Exchanges only took over full responsibility from the Recruiting and Employment offices in May last. During the short period which has intervened, we have had to face a number of difficulties, not the least of which has been the reluctance on the part of many ex-Servicemen to take full advantage of employment and training opportunities.

There are several reasons for this. An ex-Serviceman with money in his pocket who has not seen his family for some time naturally wants to stay at home for a bit and shows no keenness to take the first job offered to him specially if he does not find it particularly attractive. Ex-Servicemen will take time to adjust themselves to the conditions of civil life.

Then again the private employer is still shy of making full use of this new Service largely because he apprehends that it will inevitably be tied up with official red-tape. The only way of getting over this is for Exchanges to prove that they are efficient. Vested interests are jealous of the Exchanges which cut across a number of well established malpractices. Many employment seekers expect Exchanges to create jobs and do not realise that we are only an employment-finding body.

A Great and Worthy Task

Yet despite these difficulties the Employment Services are gaining strength day by day. The immediate target is the resettlement of ex-Servicemen and discharged war-workers. To ensure the utilisation to the best advantage of the country of the special asset which these men constitute and to remobilise them for peacetime activities is a great and worthy task. And later it is intended that the Organisation shall develop into a permanent Employment Service for all which is, as I have stated, a *sine qua non* of any planned economy.

All this cannot be achieved without the full co-operation of all those who have the interests of the country at heart and I would appeal to everybody to extend this co-operation in full measure to our organisation which carries a heavy responsibility on its young shoulders, and is, I sincerely believe, deserving of a fair trial.

Labour Member Visits Delhi Employment Exchange

"YOU are assisting the resettlement of men who fought for the country and for democracy and thus helping in nation-building," observed the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member in the Interim Government, addressing the staff of the Regional Employment Exchange, Delhi, which he visited on September 24.

Accompanied by Mr. V. K. R. Menon, Secretary, Labour Department, and Mr. R. H. Saloway, Director-General, Resettlement, and Employment, the Labour Member went through the several sections of the Exchange where a number of ex-Servicemen, discharged war-workers and others were being registered and helped to find employment.

An ex-Serviceman, who had expressed his preference for a job in the Police Department or as a watchman, was advised by the Labour Member to take what was offered, although the salary was not as high as he was getting in the Services.

The system of registration, placings, etc., maintained by the Exchange with the help of cards was explained to the Labour Member by the Manager of the Exchange.

4,484 Placed in Employment

The Regional Employment Exchange in Delhi was one of the earliest to be established and has been serving the Province of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. Between July 1945 and August 1946 it has registered 12,068 persons of whom 4,484 have been placed in employment. 312 persons found work on their own and 4,843 allowed their registrations to lapse.

The Exchange has also an Appointments Branch which registers demobilised [illegible] of the Armed Forces and submits their names in respect of vacancies declared by Government Departments and private employers.

I.A.C.C. TO BE DISBANDED

Formed 23 years ago, the Indian Army Corps of Clerks is being disbanded on March 31, 1947. From April 1, next year, the Royal Indian Army Service Corps will assume responsibility for the provision of clerical appointments now being met by the I.A.C.C.

Personnel belonging to the Indian cadre of the I.A.C.C. will be transferred, if they are willing, to the R.I.A.S.C. Supply and Clerical branches. Orders relating to I.A.C.C. Indian personnel of the G.H.Q. cadre will be issued later.

During the war, when very heavy demands were made on its services, the I.A.C.C. expanded rapidly, until in 1945, its strength rose to more than 6,500 all ranks.

I.L.O. CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL

India Represented on Five Committees

THE Government of India have secured representation on the following Committees of the I.L.O. Conference:

(1) Selection Committee, (2) Committee on Constitutional Questions, (3) Committee on Dependent Territories, (4) Standing Orders Committee and (5) Committee on the Application of Conventions.

The International Labour Conference opened in Montreal on September 19. Mr. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, Canada, was appointed President of the Conference. All the members of the Indian Delegation were present on the opening day, with the exception of Diwan Chaman Lall, who was still in Buenos Aires.

Allocations Committee

India has also been elected a substitute member on the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young Workers. Mr. David S. Erulkar, Employers' Delegate from India, has been appointed Employers' Member of the Credentials Committee. Mr. S. Lall, Government Delegate from India, has been elected Chairman of the Government Group of the Conference.

The Allocations Committee, of which Mr. Lall is Chairman, has decided to meet during the course of the Conference the delegates of States whose normal unit of contribution to the I.L.O. has been reduced as a result of enemy occupation during the war or for other economic reasons. These States will be asked to state the possibility of increasing their contribution at an early date and thereby lessen the burden on all other Member States.

ASIATIC CONFERENCE POSTPONED

The Governing Body of the International Labour Conference decided at its session on September 27 in Montreal to postpone the holding of the Regional Asiatic Conference until the end of October, 1947, and to send a Mission in January 1947 to visit India, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and other Asiatic countries. The Mission is expected to hold consultations and discussions with the Government of India and the Provincial Governments when it visits India.

Problems of Social Security

This has been done to prepare fuller material on the agenda of the Regional Conference and for affording adequate time to the Governments and interests concerned to consider the material so that the work of the Conference may be successful.

It was originally intended that the first preparatory Asiatic Regional Conference of the I.L.O. would be held in India in January 1947. The provisional agenda of the Conference related 'inter alia' to the problems of social security, labour policy in general, enforcement of social standards embodied in I.L.O. Conventions and Recommendations not yet ratified or accepted by the countries represented at the Conference and the general economic background of social policy including problems of industrialisation. The countries to take part in the Conference included India, China, Thailand, Burma, Ceylon, Indo-China, Indonesia and Malaya.

MARITIME CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

The second session of the United Maritime Consultative Council will commence in Washington on October 21, 1946. India, being a member of the Council, will be represented by Mr. M. A. Master, Managing Director, Scindia Navigation Co., Ltd., and Mr. V. K. Kirpalani, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in New York. Mr. P. R. Subramanian of the Commerce Department, Government of India, will be Secretary to the Delegation.

The Council will consider the draft plan prepared by the Working Committee of the Council, with respect to the establishment of a possible inter-Governmental maritime organisation. The Council will also prepare a reply to the United Nations enquiry with respect to the Council's views towards the establishment of such an organisation to deal with technical matters.

CENTRAL POWER CONTROL BOARD ABOLISHED

The Central Electricity Power Control Board which was set up by the Government of India in February, 1942, with the consent of the Provincial Governments will cease to function from October 1, 1946, said a Press Note, issued by the Department of Works, Mines and Power, Government of India, on September 30.

This Board was established during the war to administer some of the Electricity Control Orders issued by the Government of India, Provincial Governments and the Chief Commissioners.

From now on, the functions of this Board will be performed by the Provincial Governments or the Central Government in respect of Centrally-Administered Areas under the Emergency (Provisions) Continuance Ordinance, 1946, which provides for the continuance of the various Electricity Control Orders, issued under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules.





(ABOVE) A SAPPER LEARNING UNDERWATER PLOUGHING.

(BELOW) SAPPERS ARE TAUGHT THE USE OF THE 'CHARKHA' TO PRODUCE YARN.

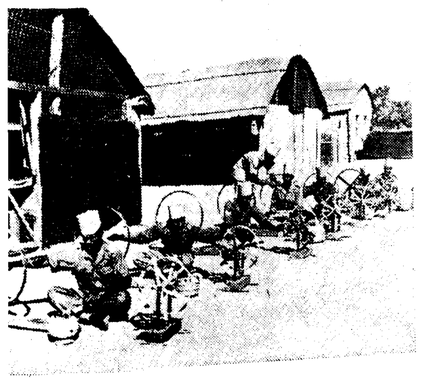
Sappers Prepare For Return to Civil Life

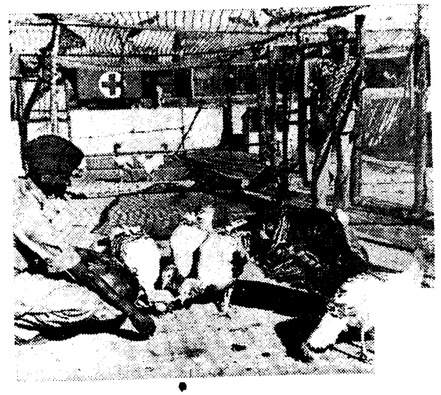
Thousands of Sappers of the Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners are passing through the Pre-Release Training Centre at Bangalore, where before demobilisation they are prepared for return to civil life.

Among the trades taught are jaggery manufacture, pottery making, improved methods of agriculture, poultry farming and cottage industries.

(ABOVE) SAPPERS CRUSHING SUGAR-CANE TO PRODUCE JUICE FOR JAGGERY MANUFACTURE.

(BELOW) FEEDING OF TURKEYS.





MEASURES TO STEP UP CLOTH PRODUCTION

Textile Machinery Mission to U.K. and U.S.A.

THE Government of India have decided that the existing prices of cloth will not be increased, pending their further consideration.

This was communicated to the Industry Committee of the Textile Control Board when it met the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member in charge of Industries and Supplies, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Member in charge of Finance and the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Member for Commerce, on September 27 and 28.

The members of the Industry Committee are:

Mr. Krishnaraj M. D. Thackersay (Chairman), Mr. D. M. Khatau, Mr. B. M. Bagri, Mr. D. M. Passmore, Sir Vithal Chandavarker, Mr. Chaturbhajdas Chimanlal, Sir James Doak, Mr. R. C. Jall, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. Bhagwandas C. Mehta, Sir Padampat Singhania, Dewan Bahadur Ratnasabhapati Mudaliar, Mr. Sakarlal Balabhai, Sir Shri Ram and Mr. K.J.D. Price.

Three Shifts

To step up production the Government have urged millowners to try to work three shifts wherever possible so that the overall production of cloth in the country may be increased. The Government have, with this in view, promised a special allocation of coal equivalent to 20,000 tons per month to Ahmedabad. It was pointed out by the Industry Committee that shortages of power, cotton and of skilled labour with the attendant difficulties in providing food, housing and transport to the workers might stand in the way of adopting three shifts at all the mills.

To investigate the prospects of obtaining more new machinery for both old and projected mills and more mill stores and spares for existing mills, and thus to step up cloth production and to explore into the possibility of setting up a Textile Machinery Manufacturing Industry in India, a Textile Machinery Mission sponsored by the Central Industries and Supplies Department will be sent to tour the U. K. and U. S. A. for six weeks from about the middle of October. Messrs. Krishnaraj Thackersay, Chairman of the Textile Control Board, Dharamsey Khatau, Chairman of the Post-war Planning Committee (Textiles), Sir Frederick Stones, Honorary Technical Adviser to the Government and Mr. T.P. Barat, Joint Textile Commissioner, will be the members of this Mission.

The reasons for the unsatisfactory position of cloth supplies are as follows. While the total production of mill-made cloth in India in 1945 amounted to nearly 4,500 million yards the estimated production for 1946 on the basis of production during the first six months of the year is only 4,100 yards. Various factors have contributed to this fall in production.

During the period January to July 1946, the Cotton Textile Industry lost 2,102 working days due to strikes and other such causes. The average monthly production of the Industry during the period January to May 1946 was only 350 million yards as against an average of 370 million yards per month for the same period in 1945 and 390 million yards per month during the whole year 1945.

In Bombay City alone there was a loss of production of cloth approximating to 72 million yards during the first half of 1946.

The position at the end of April 1946 was so bad that the cloth supplies to the distributing areas were two months behind the schedule. An over-all cut of 10 per cent was imposed on the cloth supplies to all Provinces and States, and a temporary ban, from May 15, 1946, to July 31, 1946, on exports out of India was imposed, but supplies to countries supplying foodgrains to India were maintained.

It was expected that by adopting the above two expedients the cloth supply position throughout the country would be balanced by about September 1, 1946, though the 10 per cent cut might have to be continued. These expectations, however, were not fulfilled on account of the riots in Ahmedabad as a result of which about a month's production of that important producing centre was lost, and closure due to strikes in other important producing centres such as Madras and Delhi. The introduction of reduced hours of work from 9 hours to 8 hours per shift from August 1, 1946, resulted in a further drop in production and thereby accentuated the already acute cloth supply position.

ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD

The Government of India are to appoint an Advisory Planning Board, consisting of both official and non-official members to review the planning that has so far been done by Government and also other plans and proposals for planning.

The Board will make recommendations in the light of this review for the co-ordination and improvement of planning and also to advise on objectives and priorities and to make suggestions regarding the future machinery of planning.

The work of this Board will be of a temporary character and it should be completed within two or three months. It is possible that the Board will then give place to or become absorbed in some wider and more permanent organisation. The first meeting of the Board will probably be held early in November.

Cotton Exports to U. K.

It is understood that certain rumours are current in the market regarding the export of cotton to U.K., and it has been suggested that export licences would be granted for any qualities and quantities of cotton offered to and sold to the U. K. Cotton Control. The Government of India would, therefore, wish to notify for general information that there is no basis for these rumours and that there is no intention on their part of departing from the general policy in regard to the export of cotton as determined from time to time, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 30.

Present Policy

As has already been announced on August 14, 1946, the present policy is that for the period September 1, to December 31, 1946, cotton exports will be allowed through trade channels only to the extent of 2 lakh bales and will be confined to certain specified types of cotton of staples 11/16" and under.

A quota of 40,000 bales short staple cotton was, however, fixed for U.K. during July 1946 against export quotas for the cotton year 1945-46. Shipments against the remaining balance of this quota are being allowed to U.K. through normal trade channels.

An announcement regarding destinational sub-quotas for the period September-December 1946 within the overall quota of 2 lakh bales and their distribution amongst exporters will be made very shortly.

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on October 4 stated:

The Government of India, as previously announced, have decided to send a delegation to attend the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in London on October 15, 1946. The Committee will prepare a draft agenda including a convention for consideration by an international trade conference which is expected to meet in the summer of 1947.

The following will be the members of the Delegation:

Mr. R. K. Nehru, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Commerce Department (Leader); Mr. B. N. Adarkar, M.B.E., Deputy Economic Adviser to the Government of India; Mr. H. S. Malik, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., Prime Minister, Patiala State; Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Editor, *Eastern Economist*, New Delhi; Mr. D. G. Mulherkar, Secretary of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi; Dr. A. I. Qureshi, Economic Adviser to H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, Hyderabad (Deccan); Dr. B. N. Ganguli, Economics Department, Delhi University; and Mr. M. A. Mulky, Under-Secretary, Commerce Department (Secretary).

INDO-U.S. TRADE DEVELOPMENT

Indian Trade Commissioner's Report

THE grant of the U. S. loan to Britain has produced a feeling of optimism in United States manufacturing and exporting circles interested in developing trade with India, states Mr. S. K. Kripalani, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in New York, in his quarterly report for the months of May, June, and July 1946.

He adds that there is an air of expectancy that the Indian market will open out soon for export of American products, particularly, heavy plant and machinery. "There seems to be little misgiving on the score that this machinery may not be exactly suited for India's conditions where labour by and large is still comparatively cheap and plentiful and equally little doubt on the score that the high price of the American product may act as a brake on prospective Indian buyers who may be afraid of over-capitalising their enterprises," he remarks.

America's Foreign Trade

Reviewing foreign trade of U.S.A., the Trade Commissioner states that manufacturers and exporters in that country are facing an unusual situation. Their order books are filled with all kinds of demands and they are confronted with the difficult task of trying to supply in many instances even a portion of the goods needed to fill the demands. The trouble is not lack of capacity.

In many lines like railroad equipment, machine tools, power and transmission machinery, heavy chemicals and synthetic rubber, expanding productive capacity is considerably in excess of domestic needs. The trouble is to establish production up to full capacity. The general philosophy of manufacturers seems to be that the people of the United States are the best customers of the country and that there are many hidden or undeveloped sales frontiers within the country which could be exploited to better advantage than would accrue from cultivating foreign markets. Another difficulty is that many foreign markets require goods of specifications differing from the mass production for which Industry of the U.S. is geared.

There is as yet no urge or desire to revamp a part of the production to meet the specialised requirements of foreign markets. Certainly, there is no conscious effort to keep down costs of production to enable American goods to compete with exports of other countries in foreign markets. This does not mean that for meeting the requirements of domestic market there is no incentive to cut down unit costs in order to increase profits through expanding volume of sales.

Dealing with the demand in U.S.A. for certain important Indian commodities, the Report estimates that the demand for raw jute in U.S. was well over 100,000 tons and for jute goods well over 300,000 tons. The reaction of U.S. Industry and Trade to the new quota announced by the Government of India for the first six months of the current jute year starting June 26, 1946, has been generally favourable, but there is some nervousness in regard to the maintenance of quota at the same level for the second half of the year.

As regards cotton, there has been no further development in that country in regard to restrictions on import of rough and harsh cotton of less than 3/4" staple. At present this type of cotton is admitted free of duty and without any quantitative restriction for the purpose of manufacturing blankets and blanketing. Both on account of scarcity of other raw material and price advantage of the Indian product this type of cotton had entered into many uses.

In recent years, U.S.A. carries the highest stocks of wool, but, unfortunately, plans regarding large production of woollen floor coverings have not materialised because the housing programme has not developed according to expectations.

Since the lifting of export price control on shellac by the Government of India, trade in this commodity is moving smoothly. In this field, synthetic substitutes have secured a firm foothold to an appreciable extent in the manufacture of gramophone records. It is unlikely that this ground will be regained by shellac. Manufacturers of synthetic substitutes are spending large sums of money to raise the efficiency ratio of substitutes and to effect price economies. Importers of the natural product have generally adopted a policy of "wait and see" but this is not restricting current operations in the product and the volume of the demand will take care of all the supplies that India can make during the next two or three years.

Numerous enquiries have been made from the Trade Commissioner's office in regard to the possibility of developing imports from India. Over 50 per cent of these enquiries pertain to industrial raw materials like jute and jute goods, raw cotton, shellac and bones.

Despite the fact that India is progressively pursuing a policy of decontrol, supplies have not become available in such volume as to hold out prospects of successful trading to new-comers. The existing trade in most industrial raw materials is firmly held by shippers on the Indian side and importers and agents on the U.S. side.

The remaining 50 per cent enquiries pertain to a wide variety of finished goods like carpets, druggets, coir mats, numdahs, sports goods, silks, embroideries, ivoryware, etc. For the development of trade on a substantial scale in the latter category of goods, the Report emphasises the need of adapting the production to styles and fashion tastes acceptable in U.S.A.

Mr. Ahuja's Appeal to Canadian Manufacturers

THE raising of the standard of living of the people of India means a higher purchasing power for almost 400 million souls- a fact which alone must contribute substantially to world prosperity and stability, declared Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Indian Trade Commissioner, addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association Ltd., at Toronto, on September 26, 1946. Mr. Ahuja appealed to Canadian manufacturers to help India in her industrialisation plans by supplying capital goods, by providing technical skill and by training Indian technicians and students in Canadian industry.

The Trade Commissioner pointed out that tnough India has always had a favourable balance of trade in goods, her capital indebtedness kept her a debtor nation until during the recent war. The war of 1939-45 gave an impetus to her industrial growth and India emerged a creditor nation. The necessity for intensive development of industries was now fully recognised both by the Indian Government and the people.

Referring to Indo-Canadian trade relations, the Commissioner said that the establishment of industries in India would develop a market for Canadian goods. Canada's total external trade in value in pre-war years averaged only about a billion and half dollars per year, which was slightly more than India's average trade during that period. With the further development and expansion during war years of Canadian industry, not only Canadian exports but also her imports had rapidly increased so much so that Canada's total external trade in value during 1945 totalled almost five million dollars while India's total trade remained almost stationary at pre-war figures.

INDO-CANADIAN TRADE

There was a decline both in Canada's exports to and imports from India in June as compared with May this year, according to the monthly report of the Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Toronto.

Canada's imports from India in June 1946 totalled Rs. 58,44,000 and exports Rs. 1,24,29,000. For the first six months in 1946 the figures were: Canada's imports from India Rs. 4,54,86,000 and exports to India Rs. 9,45,60,000, the balance of trade in Canada's favour for this period being Rs. 4,90,74,000.

The major items of Canadian exports to India were wheat, motor vehicles, motor parts, guns, rifles and other firearms. The major items of Canadian import from India were jute fabrics, walnuts, cashew nuts, carpets and raw cotton.

MILITARY ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE EXAMINES 1945-46 DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

THE Military Accounts Committee, which examines on behalf of the Central Legislature the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services, met in New Delhi on September 26 and 27 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Finance Member, Government of India, and examined accounts relating to the year 1944-45.

The total expenditure in India (including capital expenditure) on account of Defence Services and supplies during the year 1944-45 amounted to Rs. 913 crores compared to Rs. 774 crores in 1943-44 and Rs. 565 crores in 1942-43. India's share of this expenditure amounted to Rs. 458 crores against Rs. 327 crores and Rs. 259 crores in the previous two years. The rest of the expenditure was, in accordance with the financial settlement, borne by His Majesty's Government.

Additional Expenditure

The actual expenditure for the year exceeded the budget estimates by over 50 per cent. The chief reasons for this large variation were the additional expenditure that had to be incurred during the first half of the year in the operations in Assam and Eastern Bengal against the Japanese invaders and the additional expenditure on the construction of air-fields.

The Committee *inter alia* reviewed the accounts of Works expenditure and the commercial results of Military Dairy Farms. It also heard an account of the negotiations with the United States Government leading to the conclusion of an agreement in respect of Lend-Lease, Reciprocal Aid and surplus American property in India.

Disposal of Surplus Stores

The Committee concluded its examination of the accounts on September 27.

The Committee reviewed the reasons for the increase in Defence Expenditure compared with the Budget. It paid special attention to the maintenance of proper store accounts and the verification of stocks which had been one of the major difficulties of war time and which was now of some importance with reference to the terminal adjustments with H.M.G. following the end of the war. It also reviewed the progress of the disposal of surplus stores by the Department of Industries and Supplies.

NEWSPRINT RATION INCREASED

IN view of the present political situation in the country and at the urgent request of newspaper interests the Government of India have decided to replace the 12½ per cent increase in the basic ration of newsprint recently allotted to newspapers by a 25 per cent increase with effect from October 1, 1946. This restores the full cut imposed with effect from May 1 last on newsprint quotas, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on September 28.

Purchase Permits

Stock holding newspapers may use the extra quantity allowed from their stocks. So also dealers are informed that purchase permits already issued should be treated with effect from October 1, 1946, as valid for one-fourth increase over the quantities therein instead of one-eighth.

It is emphasized that this concession is being afforded in the hope that the newsprint position will improve as a result of the effort of the Newsprint Delegation which visited North America and certain European countries this year, but in case the newsprint arrivals during the next one or two months do not show sufficient improvement, the increase may be withdrawn.

It is also proposed to scrutinize existing quotas and refix them wherever they are excessive. No increase will however be granted except after supplies increase substantially. Audited statements have been called for from newspapers and where not received within a reasonable period may entail forfeiture of quotas for 1947.

The Services Post-War Pay Committee has been working for some months on a new Pay Code for the Indian personnel of the three Services. The policy of the Government of India is that the rates of pay for the Armed Forces shall in future bear relationship to civilian wages in India.

Now the Government of India has set up a Central Pay Commission to enquire into the future pay and conditions of living of civilian servants of the Government.

Obviously the conclusions arrived at by the Central Pay Commission must be linked with those of the Services Committee. This means that it is unlikely that any decision will be reached before the end of this year, and that it will not be possible to announce the new Services Pay Code before the end of the year or perhaps for several months after it.

PAR VALUE OF THE RUPEE

THE Government of India have been requested by the International Monetary Fund, in accordance with the Fund Agreement, to communicate the par value of the rupee based on the rates of exchange prevailing on October 28, 1945, which was the 60th day before the coming into force of the Agreement. The communication has to be made by October 12, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on September 25.

Under the Fund Agreement, the par value communicated by a member, on the basis indicated above, will be the par value of that member's currency, unless within 90 days after the request the member notifies the Fund that it regards the par value as unsatisfactory or the Fund notifies the member that in its opinion the par value cannot be maintained. The period within which the Government of India and the Fund can exercise this right is up to December 12, 1946.

The Government of India are anxious to ascertain as representative an opinion as possible on this important matter and invite Chambers of Commerce, Bankers' Association and other interested bodies or persons to send their views in writing in triplicate to the Finance Department, Government of India, New Delhi, before October 31, 1946.

INDIAN ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS

Responsibility for the educational training of troops in the post-war Indian Army is to be placed in the hands of a new corps—the Indian Army Educational Corps, the formation of which has recently been sanctioned, said a Press Note, issued by the Public Relations Directorate on September 25.

Duties of Corps

The duties of the Corps, which will be fully combatised, will include the training of instructors and the instructing of men in certain subjects in unit and station classes. Pending publication of conditions of service, enquiries and applications for service in the new Corps should not be submitted.

Before the war, responsibility for the educational training of Indian troops rested with the Army Educational Corps, which was a British Corps. A number of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers were, however, attached to it. During the war, the Corps was reinforced by Indian Commissioned Officers and V.C.O.s.





FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, C.-IN-C. IN INDIA, PRESENTED A DRUM MAJOR'S STAFF TO THE NEWLY-FORMED BAND OF THE R.I.A.F. AT AMBALA RECENTLY. *PICTURE SHOWS* THE C.-IN-C. PRESENTING THE DRUM MAJOR'S STAFF TO THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, F/LT. J.L. WALLACE. (RIGHT) THE C.-IN-C. INSPECTS THE R.I.A.F. BAND.

C.-in-C. Presents Drum Major's Staff to R.I.A.F. Band

AT a unique ceremony at Ambala on September 20, the C.-in-C. in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, accompanied by the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, presented the newly-formed Band of the R.I.A.F. with a drum major's staff, before a full station parade of men of the R.I.A.F. and R.A.F.

"I am very glad to be here to-day", said Field Marshal Auchinleck, "and to see so many of the R.I.A.F. on parade with this fine band of the Force which, I hope, will become as famous as the Force itself.

"A good band is a great help to efficiency and promotes good spirit in all ranks of any force or unit," said the C.-in-C. "I am sure your band will prove to be the same. I must mention with gratitude the generosity of H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore who has given Rs. 60,000 for the purchase of instruments for the band. A truly splendid gift."



THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ADDRESSING MEN OF THE R.I.A.F. AND R.A.F.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE HOUSING OF THE INDIAN ARMY ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS. A SCALE MODEL OF A NEW TYPE OF CANTONMENT WAS RECENTLY INSPECTED BY FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, C.-IN-C. IN INDIA. PICTURE SHOWS THE C.-IN-C. EXAMINING A SCALE MODEL OF THE PROPOSED CANTONMENT.

C.-in-C. Inspects Model of New Cantonment

PLANS for the future housing of the Indian Army are now being considered by the Armed Forces Headquarters. One of the suggestions takes the form of a new type of Cantonment, a scale model of which was recently inspected by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India.

Covering an area of approximately 25 square miles, this Cantonment is designed to house the headquarters of a completely self-contained division with its brigade and battalion headquarters as well as various ancillary units such as engineers, artillery and supply depots. An R.I.A.F. airfield and an air support school are also included in the layout.

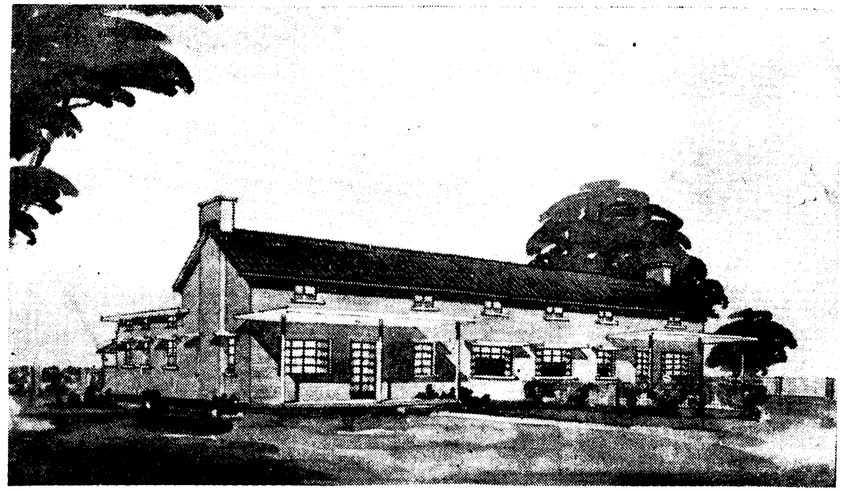
Notable features are the water supply system, electricity, sanitation and, on the amenities side, swimming pools, recreation rooms, playing fields and cinemas.

Provision has also been made for the birth of a new civil town in the centre of the Cantonment with three storied buildings, modern shops and restaurants. All the ideas in the model are entirely provisional, but the development of ideas in the form of models is a feature of all modern town planning.

Field Marshal Auchinleck was accompanied by General Sir Reade Godwin-Austen, Principal Administrative Officer; Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India; Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Chief of the General Staff; Lt.-Gen. C. M. P. Durnford, Quartermaster General in India; Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel H. de la Poeur Beresford-Peirse, Welfare General in India; Mr. G. S. Bhalja, Acting Defence Secretary and Mr. Mohamed Ali, Financial Adviser, War and Supplies.



FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK AND LT.-GEN. SIR ARTHUR SMITH, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, INSPECT ANOTHER PART OF THE MODEL.



FAMILY QUARTERS (TYPE A)

MODERN QUARTERS FOR ALL RANKS OF SERVICES

MORE modern quarters and better living conditions for Indian personnel and officers of the Royal Indian Navy, the Army and the Royal Indian Air Force in peace are proposed in a report issued by a special Inter-Services Committee set up by the War Department this year.

At the outset, the Committee undertook an extensive tour of India to obtain views, special regard being paid to Indian opinion down to the lowest ranks. The Committee's report is based on two main considerations. The first is to ensure that there will not in future be discrepancies in accommodation between the Services. The other is the provision of conditions which will approximate to a "home" atmosphere as opposed to uninteresting and dreary lines.

Standard Block

To avoid delay, the Committee has submitted its report in sections in order of priority. Recommendations on the future type of medical inspection rooms, unit schools, health centres, children's schools, women's institutes in married lines, parade grounds and playing fields are yet to come.

A standard block to hold 160 men is, in the Committee's view, the most suitable accommodation for unmarried personnel. The unit of a standard block or barrack is a 40 men-block or "brick". The main components of a 40-men block are four barrack rooms, a quiet room and verandahs. The recommendation to accommodate ten men in each barrack room was made after consideration of the latest views on the subject.

It is recommended that each room should be 41-feet long, 20-feet wide and 14-feet high. Each man should, the Committee thinks, be provided with a steel almirah, a steel cupboard, a steel folding chair and a bed (the *charpoy*, it was learnt, is universally disliked). Waterborne sanitation and hot and cold water would be provided in barracks. An ablution room would have facilities for washing and drying small items of clothing. It is proposed to have fans and central heating in all living rooms in the barracks and electric lights throughout. Equipment would include one full-size mirror surmounted with an electric clock near the exit and an automatic cold drinking water installation.

Modern layout and apparatus have been recommended for kitchens. Provision has been made for the preparation of vegetarian and non-vegetarian diets. Dining rooms would have tables, fans, electric lights, central heating and deep verandahs.

As regards married quarters, three main rooms are recommended. These would be a combined dining and sitting room, a parents' bed room and a children's bed room. Two types of quarters are recommended, one for the higher grade of personnel and the other for the medium and lower grades. The only difference is that the dining and sitting room for the latter type would be slightly smaller because there is less furniture.

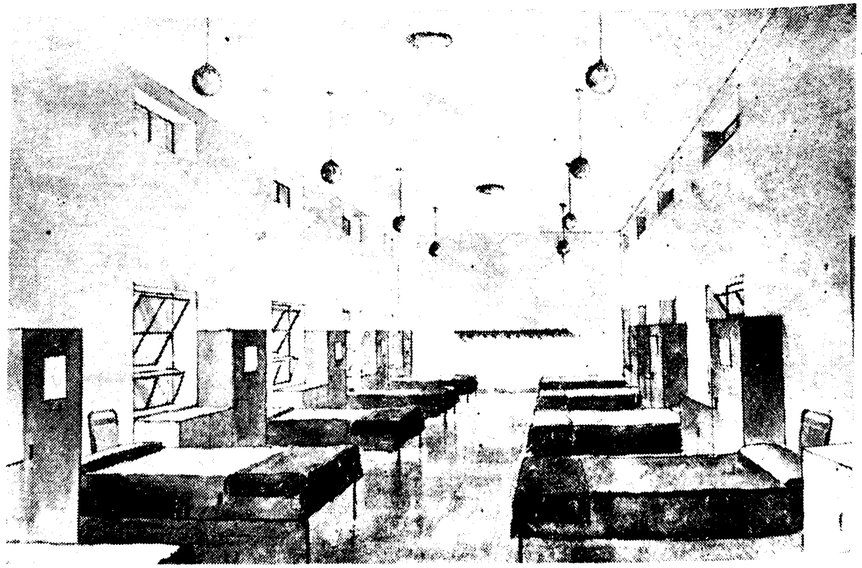
The Committee's recommendations are based on the view that the object of married quarters is to enable men to live with their families. The housing of the family should be the basis of calculation rather than a man's seniority, which is the present system. Seniority and *izzat*, it is felt, can be catered for in other ways.

Items of Furniture

The main items of furniture recommended for married quarters are built-in cupboards, dining tables, chairs, book cases, table lamps, ceiling fans, beds, cookers, ice boxes and floor coverings. Waterborne sanitation again is recommended for all quarters.

The Committee's recommendations in respect of single officers' and nursing officers' quarters make little change in existing standards. The Committee however strongly recommend that in each block of nursing officers' quarters there should be air-conditioned rooms for the use of those coming off night duty. The opinion of officers is unanimous that in the main the scales for married officers' quarters authorised in the Barrack Synopsis, published just before the war, are adequate.

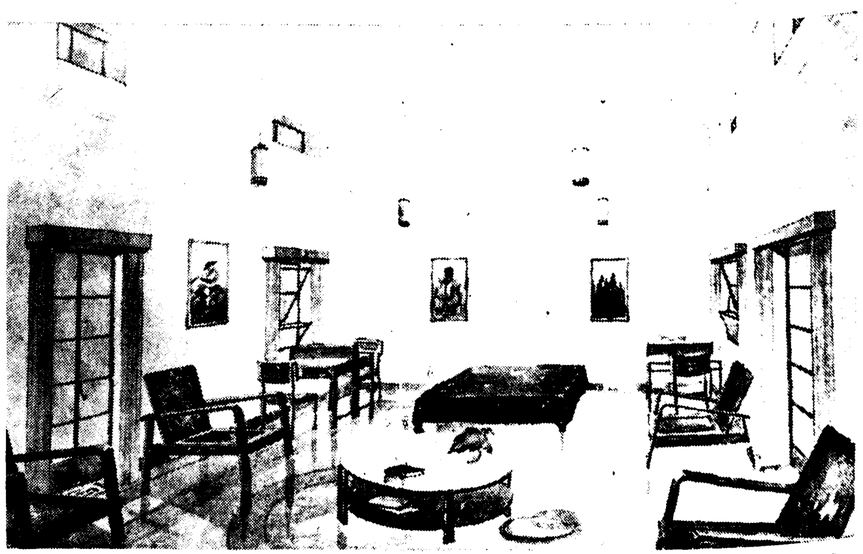
As amenities are of the greatest importance the Committee has recommended the provision of unit amenity blocks. Facilities which are recommended for these blocks are a recreation room, games room, canteen, grocery, bar, library, reading room, barber's shop, facilities for showing 16 millimetre films, and a mineral water factory. Throughout, modern furniture and equipment and



A BARRACK ROOM

restful colour schemes are recommended.

In no case has the Committee drawn distinctions between accommodation in the hills and plains. It is considered that modern methods of construction and design combined with fans and heating devices in certain places are all that is required.



THE QUIET ROOM

ONWARD

INDIA'S PREMIER MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN

Onward's first Annual Number will be out on October 15th. The number of pages has been greatly increased; there will be extra stories, special articles, new features, competitions and two attractive gift offers.

Also, a special Gift Picture in colour by a well-known Indian Woman Artist will be given away with this Number.

This is a picture you will be glad to frame and hang upon your wall.

But the price is the same as for ordinary issues, i.e.

ANNAS EIGHT ONLY.

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Children's Popular Monthly published in separate English and Urdu Editions.

Annual Number will be out on November 15th.

The number of pages in the annual will be much more than the ordinary issue.

Wonderful fairy tales, beautiful poems, informative articles about science, nature-study, animal life and post-war planning, jokes, puzzles, competitions and a BEAUTIFUL COLOURED PICTURE—all for

ANNAS FOUR ONLY

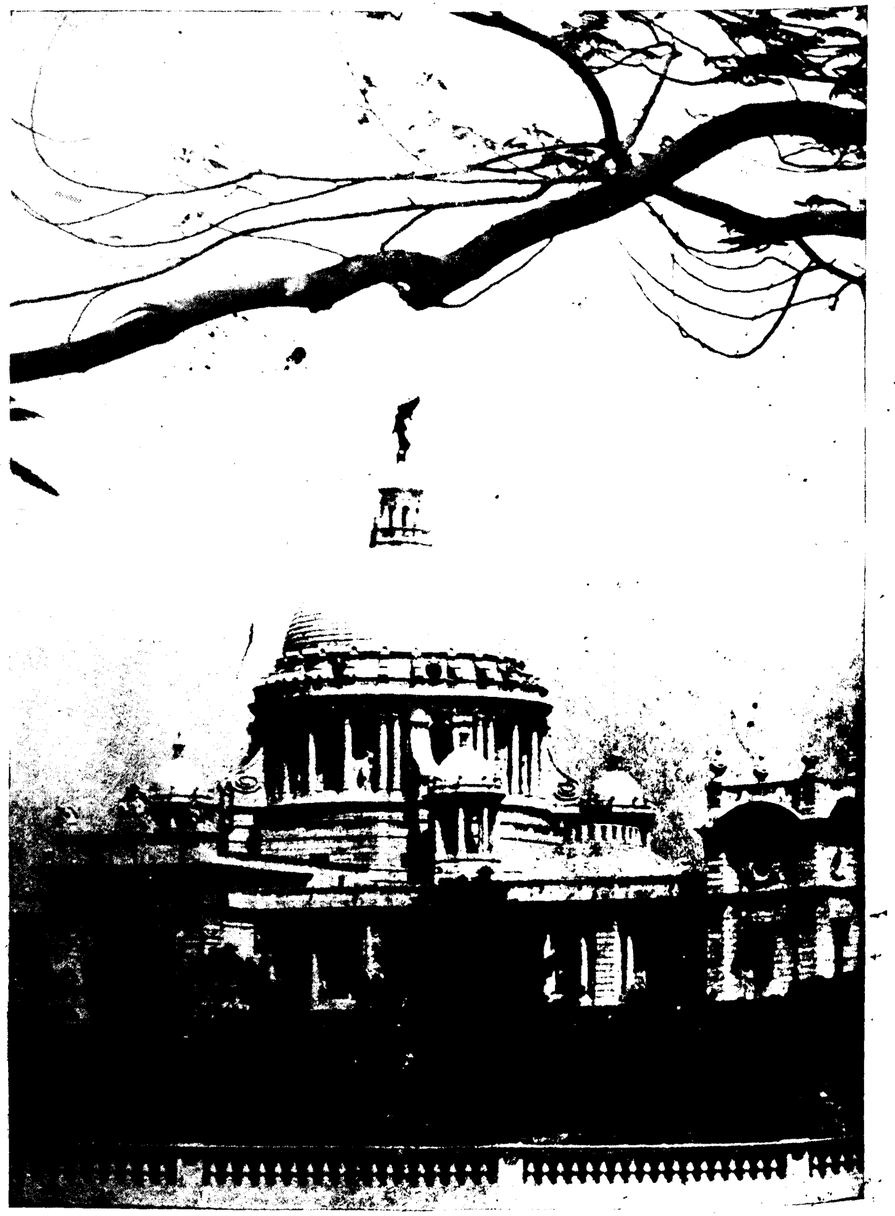
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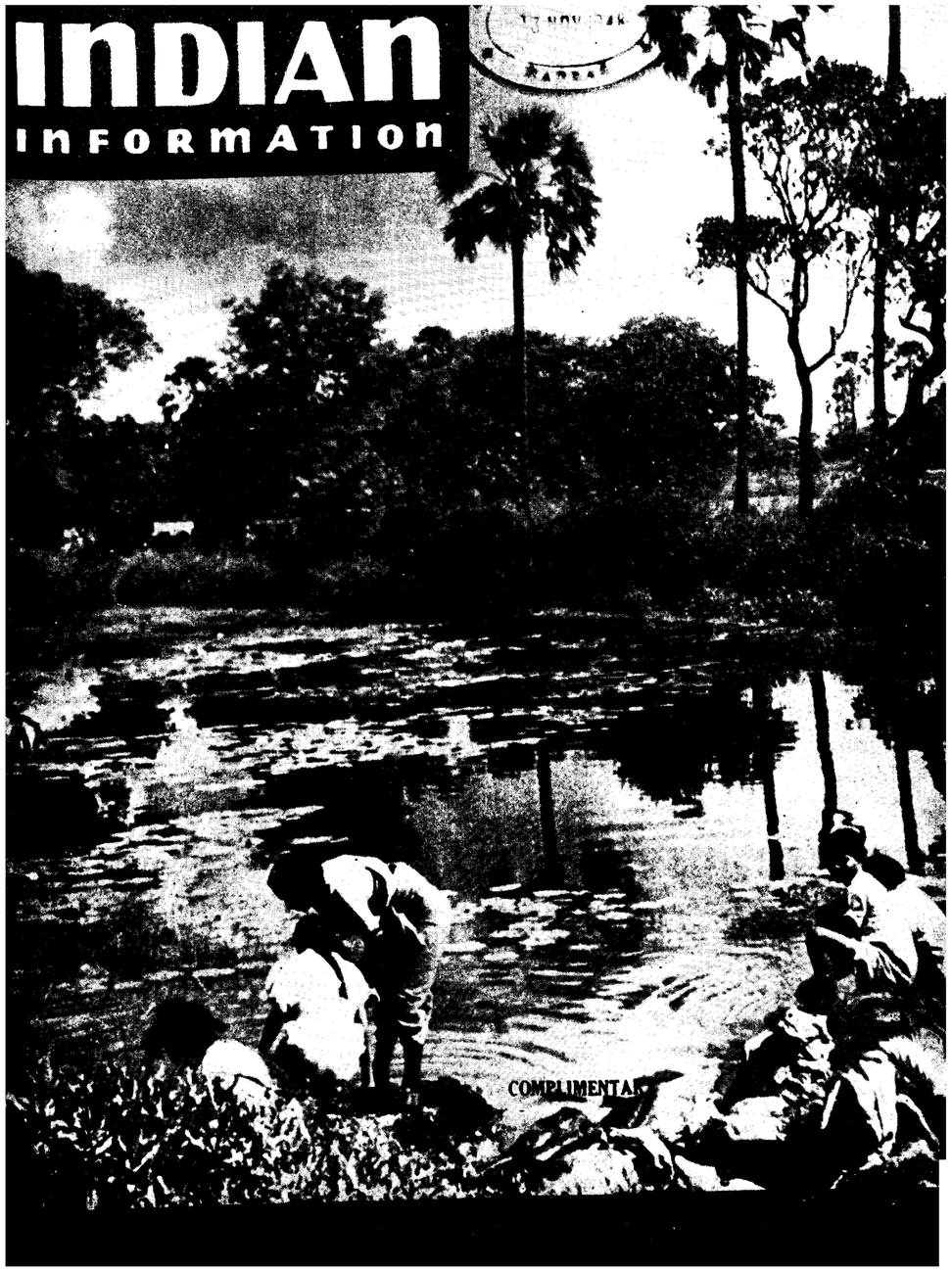
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A Group Photograph of Members of the Interim Government taken at the Viceroy's House on October 26 after four nominees of the Muslim League were sworn in.

(L. to R. Front Row): Sardar Baldev Singh, Dr. John Matthai, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mr. I. I. Chundrigar, Mr. Asaf Ali, Mr. C. H. Bhabha.

(L. to R., Back Row): Mr. Jagjivan Rom, Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar.

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AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

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

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Cover Picture: A Bombay Village Scene.



MR. LIAQUAT ALI KHAN.

MUSLIM LEAGUE JOINS INTERIM GOVERNMENT

FOUR out of the five representatives of the Muslim League, recently appointed members of the Interim Government, were sworn in by His Excellency the Viceroy at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on October 26. They were Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. I. I. Chundrigar, Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar and Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan. Mr. Jogendar Nath Mandal who was in Bengal took charge of his office telegraphically.

After the swearing-in ceremony there was a brief meeting of the Cabinet.

Announcing the allotment of portfolios to the new members of the Interim Government, a Press Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on October 25 stated: The portfolios to be held by the representatives of the Muslim League who have recently been appointed Members of the Interim Government have been allotted by His Excellency the Governor-General as follows:—

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan..Finance.

Mr. I.I. Chundrigar ..Commerce.

Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar ..Communications (Posts & Air).

Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan ..Health.

Mr. Jogendar Nath Mandal ..Legislative.

Consequent changes among the other portfolios are as follows:—

Dr. John Matthai ..Industries & Supplies.

Mr. Rajagopalachari ..Education & Arts.

Mr. Bhabha..Works, Mines and Power.

The other portfolios remain as before *i.e.*:—

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Home, and Information and Broadcasting.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food and Agriculture.



MR. I. I. CHUNDRIGAR.

Mr. Asaf Ali, Transport and Railways.

Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour.

An earlier communique issued on October 15, announcing the Muslim League's decision to join the Interim Government and the appointment of the five League nominees, stated *inter alia* that in order to make it possible to reform the Cabinet the following members had tendered their resignations:—

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose

Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan

Syed Ali Zaheer.



MR. GHAZANFAR ALI KHAN.



MR. ABDUR RAB NISHTAR.



MR. JOGENDAR NATH MANDAL.

Lord Wavell Tours Riot-affected Areas in Bombay

A remarkable demonstration by a crowd of cheering people was one of the highlights of H.E. the Viceroy's two-hour tour, on October 18, of parts of Bombay which were affected during the riots.

At Colaba which was one of the worst affected areas and was once under a 48-hour curfew, immediately on alighting from his car, the Viceroy was surrounded by a crowd of eager cheering people. They broke the Police cordon and surged round His Excellency's car while the Viceroy made many enquiries of officers on the spot. Despite an undercurrent of strain there were indications of a return to normal conditions. Traffic both on roads and sidewalks was busy as usual.

Later at the J.J. Group of Hospitals, where most of the riot casualties are being looked after, Lord Wavell was received by Lt.-Col. Bhandari, Surgeon-General, and Lt.-Col. Shah, Superintendent of the Hospitals. A large number of medical students from the Medical College who received a part of their training in the J.J. Hospitals thronged the alleys as the Viceroy went round from ward to ward.

The Viceroy asked many questions of hospital authorities standing by each patient. He also saw the emergency operating theatre and the blood bank.

Lord Wavell was accompanied by the acting Governor of Bombay, Sir Andrew Clow, the Area Commander, Major-General Goddard, the Sub-Area Commander, Brigadier Smith, the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Mr. G.E.B. Abell, the Governor's Secretary, Mr. D. Symington and the Commissioner of Police Mr. Wilson. A party of Pressmen also accompanied the Viceroy.

From the hospital the Viceroy drove through Parel, a predominantly mill area. At Jacob's Circle, where the Viceroy had alighted in order to greet a detachment of troops, he was confronted by a girl who produced an autograph book and the Viceroy obligingly signed his name for her.

H.E. the Viceroy on October 19 paid a surprise visit to the Haj pilgrim ship, the *Khosrou*, lying in the Victoria Docks, Bombay, a few hours before his departure. She is the fourth pilgrim ship to leave from Bombay this season, and the last of the pilgrims to go on board were still arriving when Lord Wavell, accompanied by the Governor of Bombay, reached the docks.

Going on board the ship, the Viceroy went round the passenger deck and chatted with the Captain of the ship Mr. J. I. Chundrigar, Member designate of the Interim Government, Seth P. Ibrahim Hasanali, Chairman, and other members of the Port Haj Committee, explained to His Excellency the work done by the Committee. The pilgrims were allowed to draw rations for the period they would be away on pilgrimage and some 40 yards of cloth each.

Difficulties experienced by pilgrims when they travel by ships not specially built for Haj pilgrimage were also mentioned to the Viceroy. There were over 1,600 pilgrims leaving by the *Khosrou*, including nearly 400 women and children.

At the Inoculation Centre at the dock, where a number of passengers were still waiting for inoculation, the Viceroy chatted with the Medical officer and was also introduced to a young pilgrim, a ten-year old boy, who was accompanying his grandfather.

Lord Wavell was received by Sir B. Rama Rau, Chairman of the Port Trust, who presented to His Excellency Seth P. Ibrahim Hasanali, Chairman of the Port Haj Committee. An extra ship specially chartered by the Interim Government is leaving Bombay to-day with more pilgrims.

In the morning, His Excellency granted interviews to Mr. Killedar, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. H.T. Sorely, Chief Secretary, and Mr. D. S. Bakhle, Supply Commissioner. Later at lunch he met Mr. J.I. Chundrigar, Sir Francis Low, Sir B. Rama Rau, Lady Rama Rau, Mr. C.P. Bramble, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, Mr. M. Shasham Premji, President of the Indian Merchants Chamber and Mrs. Premji.

His Excellency and the Party returned to New Delhi on October 20.

Viceroy's Appeal For Cessation of Communal Strife

HIS Excellency the Viceroy, broadcasting from A.I.R., New Delhi, on October 28, said:

"I HAVE ONLY A FEW WORDS TO SAY TO YOU THIS EVENING, BUT THEY COME FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART AND OF MY CONSCIENCE AND THEY ARE ON MATTERS VITAL TO INDIA.

"Firstly, I want to impress on you that with the formation of a coalition Government, India has taken another great stride forward on the road to freedom. It is my desire and hope that all elements in this Government shall work together in harmony, both in dealing with the present pressing problems of India, and in furthering the formation of a new Constitution, which will enable the British Government to complete the transfer of power to India.

"But India cannot go forward to her high destiny and we cannot devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the great work that lies ahead of us all, when our minds are filled with constant anxiety and apprehension. We desire, as I am sure does every man of goodwill, that freedom from fear of communal strife, should become general throughout the length and breadth of India.

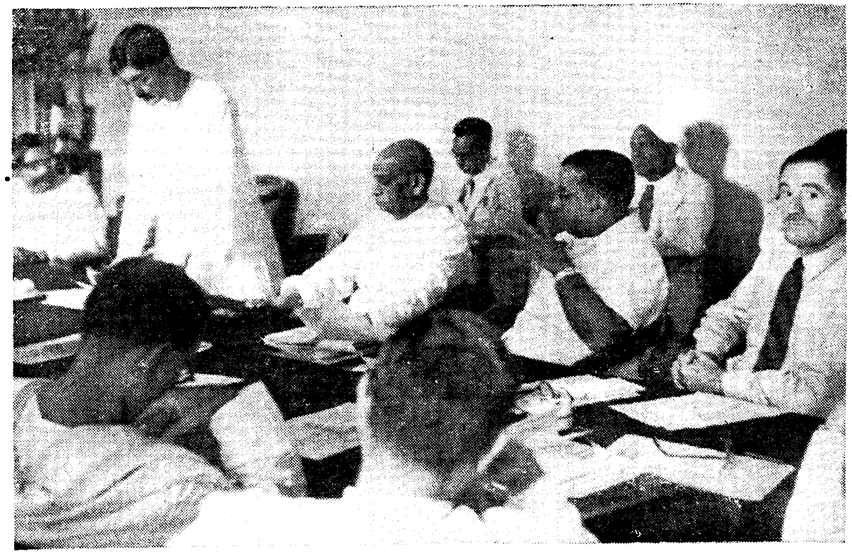
"I ask, therefore, on my own behalf and on behalf of my Government, which wholeheartedly supports this appeal, that the communal strife, which now poisons the life and disfigures the fair name of India, should cease.

"Let us not look backwards to old hatreds and injuries and recriminations, but forward to the prospect of a free, powerful and prosperous India."



LORD WAVELL VISITED THE J.J. GROUP OF HOSPITALS IN BOMBAY WHERE RIOT CASUALTIES WERE BEING LOOKED AFTER.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESS UNDER POPULAR GOVERNMENT



MR. TUSHAR KANTI GHOSH, PRESIDENT OF A.-I.N.E.C., ADDRESSING THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE, IN DELHI ON OCTOBER 13. SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL (FACING CAMERA, THIRD FROM LEFT) MEMBER FOR HOME, AND INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, ALSO ADDRESSED THE MEETING.

Sardar Patel's Address to A.-I.N.E.C.

"THE Press must have unfettered freedom in the presentation of news and expression of views, but it also has the obligation to preserve the integrity of the State and support the legitimate activities of a popular Government. It must, when occasion demands, help the Government in defeating the forces of disruption. Negatively as well as positively, the Press should discourage unruly elements," said the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Member for Home, and Information and Broadcasting, addressing the Standing Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference in New Delhi on October 13.

Referring to a suggestion that Government should set up machinery for revision of the Press Laws, to bring them in line with the Press Laws of other free countries, Sardar Patel said: "Government will have no objection to setting up a committee of officials and non-officials, including representatives of the Press, with a view to examining the repeal or modification of the laws now in force."

Sardar Patel said: "I welcome the opportunity you have given me to meet the members of your Committee. Most of you, I am glad to say, are not strangers to me; indeed many among you I count as friends.

I am sorry—as doubtless you all are that Mr. S. A. Brelvi, one of your former Presidents, is not here with us to-day. He has played a worthy part in enhancing the reputation of your profession and in building up the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference. I am sure you will join me in wishing him a complete and speedy recovery.

"Formative Period"

You would naturally like me, on this occasion, to refer to the relationship between the Press and the Interim Government. I may at once say that the Interim Government is most anxious to have the co-operation of the Press in the difficult task that lies ahead of us. We shall scrupulously respect the freedom of the Press; in fact, we shall help it to exercise its legitimate functions; and we have every confidence that the Press, for its part, will assist us in administering the affairs of the country during the strenuous times through which we are passing because of the change-over from foreign rule to independence. It will be your responsibility to guide and reflect public opinion during this formative period. I am sure you will discharge it with credit to your calling and benefit to our Motherland.

The All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference was born at a time and in circumstances which to-day are only a bitter memory. Faced with an unprecedented invasion of the liberty of the Press by a regime, which, in the name of war, forged an unending chain of restrictions, you got together in 1940 to protect your rights. Intent on suppressing the freedom movement, the Government of the day strove to prevent publicity about the movement and even about the sufferings and sacrifice of the people. I need not recall specific instances; they must be fresh in your minds. The Press resisted, I suppose as well as it could, these inroads into its rights.

"Mutually Beneficial Association"

But all that is now history. To-day the situation has radically changed. Foreign rule is about to end. There is now at the Centre a Government which is the forerunner of the fully independent State which we shall soon fashion. You will, therefore, naturally find yourselves in tune with the new set-up and I know you will extend to the Government your unstinted co-operation and support in carrying out the task of achieving complete independence without delay.

As one in charge of the Information Department, I look forward to mutually beneficial association with you. I am also responsible for Home affairs. As you are aware, anti-social elements are plying their nefarious trade in certain areas of the country. It is the primary duty of every Government to protect the life and property of the citizen. Our internal political and other differences must be solved not by force or violence but by negotiation and persuasion or, in the last resort, by arbitration. The Press has a great and worthy part to play in driving this maxim home to the people.

The Press must have unfettered freedom in the presentation of news and expression of views, but it also has the obligation to preserve the integrity of the State and support the legitimate activities of a popular Government. It must, when occasion demands, help the Government in defeating the forces of disruption. Negatively as well as positively, the Press should discourage unruly elements.

For the Guidance of Press

When feelings run high and tempers are frayed, it is the duty of every responsible person to desist from saying or doing things which are likely to inflame passions. Incitements to violence will, of course, not be tolerated. But there are other forms of writing containing veiled incitement which do great harm. I do hope and trust you will avoid both.

I understand that recently the Central Press Advisory Committee formulated certain suggestions for the guidance of the Press in respect of news and comments on communal disturbances. These are:

1. During riots reports should not contain anything to indicate the community of either victims or assailants.

2. While every endeavour should be made to ensure that reports are factually correct and are received from sources known to be reliable, such reports as give details of defiance of the law or are calculated to inflame public feelings or to create communal hatred should be treated with the greatest circumspection.

3. Reports of speeches, statements or news directly inciting people to violence should be avoided.

4. Care should be taken in editorials to avoid expressions calculated to encourage or condone violence or to arouse communal bitterness.

I am not sure that these suggestions fully meet the requirements of the situation, but they are. I think a step in the right direction, constituting as they do a healthy guide to the Press.

Revision of Press Laws

I notice that you have as an item on your agenda the suggestion that Government should set up a machinery for revision of the Press Laws in the country with a view to bringing them in line with the Press Laws of other free countries. I do not propose to anticipate your discussion. This much I may say on behalf of Government, that they will have no objection to setting up a committee of officials and non-officials, including representatives of the Press, with a view to examining the repeal or modification of the laws now in force.

As I said in my opening remarks, I am happy to meet you. You have, I expect, a heavy agenda to go through. Any resolutions you put forward will receive our careful and active consideration. The administration of the Press Laws is, as you know, a provincial subject; but there is unlimited scope for co-operation between the Interim Government and the Press in helping to build a new India. I have every hope that the Government and the Press will work hand in hand in that nation-building task.

MORE NATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR INDIA

INDIA'S scheme to set up four more National Laboratories at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 132 lakhs will be launched shortly. The plans for these were approved recently by the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food and Agriculture, will lay the foundation stone of the Fuel Research Institute at Digwadih, near Dhanbad on November 17. The capital cost of the Institute is estimated at Rs. 14 lakhs.

National Physical Laboratory

The Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies, and President, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, will lay the foundation stone of the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur on November 21. The initial capital expenditure on this laboratory will be about Rs. 43 lakhs.

The foundation stone of the National Physical Laboratory will be laid by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President, Interim Government, on January 4, 1947, at Delhi during the Indian Science Congress Session. The estimated cost of this laboratory is about Rs. 40 lakhs.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Prime Minister, Bombay, will lay the foundation stone of the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona sometime towards the end of January, 1947. The Government of Bombay recently agreed to the location of this laboratory in Poona and the transference to the Council of the land required for this purpose. The Chemical Laboratory is expected to cost Rs. 35 lakhs.

The first of the five National Laboratories planned for the industrial development of the country was the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute costing about Rs. 12 lakhs. The foundation stone of this was laid by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, former Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, in last December at Calcutta.

A DISTINGUISHED OFFICER

Tribute to Late Major Donald

"AN experienced and distinguished Frontier Officer" is the tribute paid in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* recording the tragic death of Major J. O. S. Donald, Political Agent, South Waziristan.

Major Donald was found shot in his bungalow at Tank in the morning of September 25. He was removed to a hospital at Dera Ismail Khan, where he died the same evening.

The *Gazette* states:

Major Donald was a son of Sir John Donald, a previous Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, and his name is recalled as a household word among the tribesmen of the North-West Frontier. Major Donald had been a member of the Indian Political Service since 1931 and served in various capacities on the Frontier. As a servant of the State, Major Donald followed worthily in his father's footsteps.

Earned Tribal Respect

Last June he was the victim of an unfortunate incident and was taken prisoner and held captive for 10 days by the Shabi Khel Mahsuds. After his release he returned to his post by his own wish and in the confidence that this way lay the path of duty. His presence was largely responsible for the conclusion of a settlement with the tribe, and with the settlement has dawned a renewed realisation that Major Donald was a true and just man who had earned tribal respect. But the strain had proved too great, and has ended in the tragedy of self-inflicted death.

The Government of India can ill-afford the loss of such an experienced and distinguished Frontier Officer.

Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been awarded by the Andhra University the Sir Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddy National Prize (value Rs. 1,116) for 1946 for the first time in Chemistry. This award was recommended by a committee of distinguished educationists and scientists and approved by H.E. the Governor of Madras in his capacity as Chancellor of the University.

Sir Shanti Swarup has decided to hand over the amount to the Andhra University for instituting an annual prize to be payable to the best student in the B.Sc. Honours Class in Chemistry in that University, or for any other similar purpose the University may wish to utilise this money.

ARMED FORCES' ROLE IN FREE INDIA



SARDAR BALDEV SINGH, DEFENCE MEMBER IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, BROADCASTING TO THE ARMED FORCES FROM A.I.R., NEW DELHI, ON OCTOBER 9.

Defence Member's Broadcast

THE Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member in the Interim Government, broadcasting from A.I.R., New Delhi, on October 9, said:

Men of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, it is my privilege to address you today as the Defence Member in the Interim National Government. By the establishment of this Interim Government a change has come over the Indian scene and all the world has felt this change. We have not achieved our full freedom yet, but we have taken a long step in that direction. As evidence of that step, you may have heard on the radio sometime ago the broadcast of the Vice-President of this new Government, the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, addressed to the Indian people, and today I am addressing you as the first Indian Defence Member of this Government.

A Heavy Task

As Defence Member, the task that has been entrusted to me, is a heavy one, and full of responsibility. I have undertaken it as a duty, but the burden of that duty is lightened because I know that I shall have the co-operation, not only of my distinguished colleagues in the Cabinet, but also of the officers and men of India's Armed Forces.

India has many problems to face. We have to rid our country of poverty and unemployment; we have to increase rapidly our industry and to raise the standard of life of the masses of this country. We have to make India foremost among the nations of the world in all that goes to make a nation great and progressive. But all progress and stability depend ultimately on security, and security comes to a nation from confidence in itself and in its strength to defend itself against any disruptive forces that may seek to upset that stability and encroach upon its freedom. The guardians of that security and freedom are the Armed Forces of the country. They guard the gateways of the country; they protect it from inroads across land frontiers, from the high seas and from attacks from the air. Yours, is therefore, a primary and fundamental responsibility.

In Free India

India, on the threshold of freedom, is fortunate in having an Army as well as a Navy and Air Force which have been tested on many hard-fought battles and have emerged triumphant from these trials. That is a heritage which we cherish and I greet you, officers and men of India's Armed Forces, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the new Government, for the part you have played in the past which has brought so much honour to you and to India. You distinguished yourselves in many parts of the world and have earned fame for your fighting qualities, your valour, your discipline and efficiency. What can such an Army not do when it is the Army of a free country, fighting to preserve its freedom?

The Indian Army has built up a noble tradition and the Indian Navy and Air Force, though young in years, have already a fine record behind them. We shall prize that record; but from now onwards, we are not going to live merely on past records, but create new and nobler records in the free India for which so many of her brave sons and daughters have laboured in the past. This free India, will be for all of us Indians,—whatever our religion or creed or Province might be. We shall all be equal sharers in that freedom and in the joy that freedom brings.

You, officers and men of the Armed Forces of India, have been known for your unity in mind and spirit and have known no communal barriers. You, of all, have borne aloft in the past and now, the most prized ideal of a people that alone makes freedom worthwhile the ideal of unity. You are one a compact whole, and, you know —more than anyone knows that oneness, unity, alone is the basis of success, or else, all effort is futile. On many a battlefield, Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs and others in the Army, have shed their blood together and have stood by one another in times of grave peril. That is the spirit which has made you so well knit and so powerful. You must preserve this unity.

Tradition of Unity

So far as I am concerned, I can assure you that I shall not allow any communal or other narrow considerations to come in the way of service of India or her Armed Forces. I appeal to you, and I appeal with confidence, that you will also remain true to this spirit.

Your whole outlook and spirit must also be imbued with the love of India, our common Motherland, so that we may take pride in this great Land of ours and serve it to the best of our capacity, for, every soldier and sailor and airman in this National Army is a standard-bearer of India's freedom.

I said we are on the threshold of freedom. It is a grand adventure we have embarked on—all our own. We stand, in fact, before its open door. Let us enter it, together, united in mind and spirit and imbued with the tradition of unity which you have so zealously preserved.

This done, your role shall be my pride—the pride of all my colleagues in the Cabinet—the pride of all your countrymen whom we have the privilege to serve.

A National Army

You know all is not right anywhere to-day. There is the terrible aftermath of the World War that has enveloped everything everywhere adding new complications to the old. There is the legacy of a past that is dying hard. Doubt, fear, want, pestilence and what not, afflict many nations. We in India are perhaps not so gravely involved as others, but inevitably we have to be concerned, for you know, as well as I do, that the world is now small and inter-mingled and the issues of peace and security are likewise inter-linked. Nor can there be, even within a nation itself, any problem that can be isolated from the rest.

I have said this for a purpose, as I want now to refer to some of the problems that beset and concern you. You take it from me that whatever else our preoccupations, your problems, big



THE INDIAN ARMY PLAYED A MEMORABLE PART IN CRUSHING AXIS AGGRESSION IN NORTH AFRICA AND OTHER THEATRES OF WAR. PICTURE SHOWS MAHRATTAS LAUNCHING AN ATTACK ON AN ENEMY POST IN ITALY.

or small, are now my problems, and they shall be my constant concern. But you must not forget that your problems are inter-linked with other problems and cannot easily be isolated. I would therefore ask you to bear with me awhile. The National Armed Forces of a country are the major concern of any National Government. We, who have the first privilege of bearing this honoured name, will now watch your interests with care. I know you stand to a man by our beloved Motherland. It will be mine and my colleagues' earnest endeavour to stand by you and help you as far and as expeditiously as we can.

Army and People.

Let me tell you what we aim at. We aim at building up, in a truly national way, a national army, which will be the pride of this great land of ours. It is indeed our right to have our Armed Forces completely Indianised. Nobody disputes that right. Indianisation of Armed Forces will now be speeded up at an accelerated pace compatible with efficiency and our only concern will be to maintain and better the excellence of the standard you yourselves have built up.

That indeed must be the concern of any National Government and of the people whom it serves. And it follows from this that between the Army and the people also there must develop relations of friendliness and esteem. The Armed Forces cannot be cut off from the people for they exist for their security and the people, too, must look upon the Armed Forces as their own and give them the consideration and respect which is their due.

I have said that a National Army must necessarily consist of the nationals of India. We have at present many British Officers who have served the Army loyally and faithfully. It is nobody's desire that in achieving our objects we will be unjust to them. They and others before them, have contributed greatly in fashioning the steel that is the envy of others. I have every hope that their help and co-operation in the great task of Indianisation will be available now, as in the past. We shall value their talent and their co-operation as ever before.

'Serve the new India as loyally as India of the past. Pass on to your Indian Comrades who are to follow you, in a spirit of unselfishness and service, all the experience and knowledge that you have gained in the past, so that they may, in their turn, serve the Indian Army as faithfully and truly as you have done.'

This is the wise counsel of Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck to you, British Officers particularly. We well realise your share in the laurels our men have won, for the excellence of discipline and tradition, you have brought in. We are conscious of it all. The change-over will not mean an injury to your interests.

Tribute to C.-in-C.

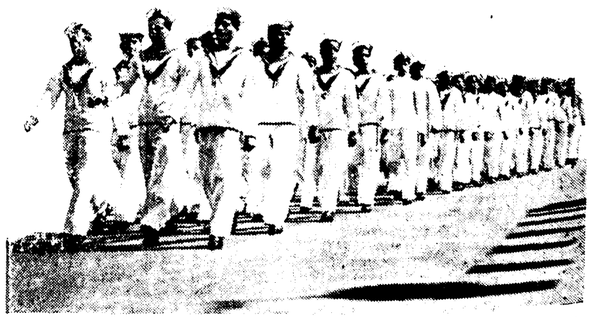
It is our good fortune to have as a Commander-in-Chief, at this critical juncture in India's history, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, who is not only one of the most distinguished and gallant Officers in the Army but who has also endeared himself to all ranks. I am happy that he is by me at this crucial juncture and am sure that with his help we shall make rapid progress in our work.

India, as you know, has never sought dominion over others. We have lived in peace with our neighbours and the world outside. Even the Thought that has crossed our borders has trailed the message of peace and neighbourliness to the world outside.

To you, members of India's Armed Forces, this is the background which at once reassures as it undoubtedly also inspires. It entitles you to be sure that your might is but an insurance for the security of the land we love. It adds the dignity of righteousness to your profession; for, might is indeed righteous when it is conserved for the care of the weak and protection of one's homeland. That then is your role in India of our dreams in India free within its borders and friends with the world outside.

Nation's Honour

May it be well with you, officers and men of the Indian Army and Navy and Air Force, and may you keep bright and untarnished the honour of our Armed Forces and of the Nation. May you ever remain true soldiers of India and true soldiers of freedom co-operating together in the great task before us—the achievement of full freedom of the 400 million people of India so that they may advance in peace and security and get rid of the poverty and other burdens that have crushed them so long. May we all, sons and daughters of India, make of our country a nation great and strong in the cause of peace and progress in the world.



MEN OF H.M.I.S. "BENGAL" WHICH, DURING THE RECENT WAR, MADE HISTORY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BY SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGING TWO HEAVILY ARMED JAP RAIDERS TEN TIMES THE SIZE OF THE "BENGAL", SINKING ONE AND DRIVING THE OTHER AWAY.

C.-in-C. Praises Troops' Conduct During Calcutta Disturbances

CONGRATULATING Lieut.-General F.R.R. Bucher, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, and the troops who worked under him during the recent communal disturbances in Calcutta, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, says:

"I have read the very clear report you have submitted on the communal disturbances which occurred in Calcutta last August.

"You and the troops under your command have already received many expressions of gratitude for the excellent work done by the Army, and public recognition of this was made by H.E. the Viceroy in his recent broadcast. To these testimonials I would now like to add my own appreciation.

Speed, Good Temper and Efficiency

"Action by the Army in support of the police is an unwelcome task, calling for tact, forbearance, steadiness, firmness and impartiality. These qualities were shown in most difficult circumstances by Formation Headquarters and all units—armoured Corps, engineer and signal units, infantry battalions, transport and supply units, medical units, pioneer companies and the Military Police.

"I congratulate you personally, and also your subordinate commanders, Brigadiers Sixsmith and McKinlay, and I would be grateful if you would pass on my congratulations to the troops who maintained so well and so calmly the highest traditions of the Army.

"Speed, good temper and efficiency seem to have been the keynote of the operations and these are the qualities for which our soldiers, British and Indian, are justly praised."

With headquarters at Karachi, a new corps of the Indian Army—1st Indian Corps—came into being on October 14. The Corps covers an area formerly administered by Sind Area.

First Commander of this new Corps is Lt.-Gen. D. D. Gracey, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., who led the 20th Indian Division in the Burma campaign. He was, till lately, G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, where he is succeeded by Lt.-Gen. Sir Frank Messervy.

Troops of the new Corps will include 14th Indian Parachute Brigade, 50th Indian Parachute Brigade and 77th Indian Parachute Brigade—all of the 2nd Indian Airborne Division, the Zhob Frontier Brigade Group and the 6th British Parachute Brigade Group.

INDIAN ARMY WINS 7,000 DECORATIONS

MORE than 6,900 awards for gallant and meritorious services have been won by the Indian Army since September 3, 1939. Awards for gallantry alone total 5,000, including 31 Victoria Crosses, nine George Crosses, 265 Distinguished Service Orders, 355 Indian Orders of Merit, and 1,409 Military Crosses.

The Indian Infantry has won more than 4,300 awards, among which are 29 V.C.s, five George Crosses, over 220 D.S.O.s, 300 I.O.N.s, and 1,037 M.C.s.

To the Royal Indian Engineers go 393 awards and the Royal Indian Army Service Corps has 386 to its credit. Of the 311 awards won by the Indian Armoured Corps, two are George Crosses, 21 Distinguished Service Orders and 91 Military Crosses.

Army Doctors

The gallant services rendered by Army doctors to front-line troops have earned the Indian Army Medical Corps nearly 300 awards, of which 145 are for gallantry, among them being eight D.S.O.s and 75 M.C.s.

To the men of the Indian Signal Corps go 142 awards. One Distinguished Service Order and eight Military Crosses are among them.

The Royal Indian Artillery have won 152 awards which include one V. C., six D.S.O.s and 43 M.C.s.

Honorary Ranks for Princes

Five Ruling Princes have been appointed honorary Lieut.-Generals and seven have become honorary Major-Generals in His Majesty's Land Forces, according to an announcement in the *London Gazette*.

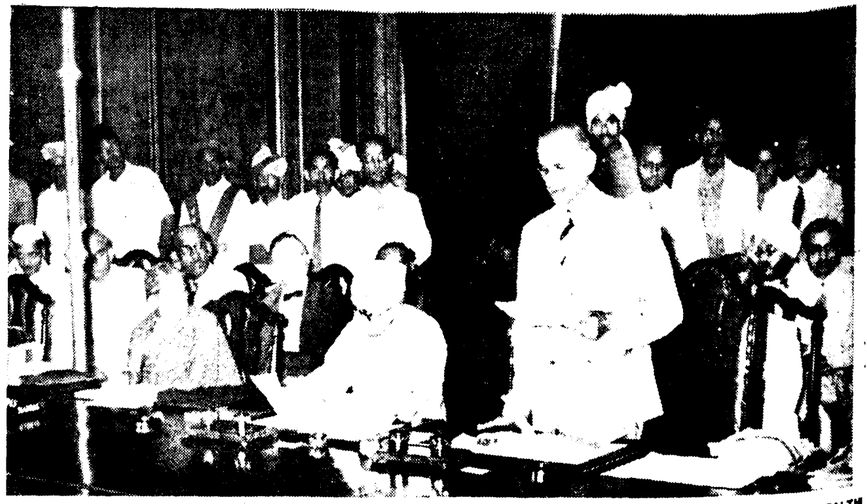
These awards are in recognition of the Princes' personal military assistance to the Crown and of the services rendered by their States Forces units during the late war.

Their Highnesses of Bikaner, Jaipur, Patiala, Gwalior and Jodhpur are promoted honorary Lieut.-Generals. The Rulers of Bhopal, Baroda, Travancore, Udaipur, Bahawalpur and Rampur become honorary Major-Generals.

Among other appointments, Their Highnesses of Tripura, Faridkot, Kotah, Bhavanagar, Alwar, Nabha, Bharatpur and Junagadh become honorary Colonels and Their Highnesses of Mandi, Panna, Porbandar, Sirmur, Dhar and Cooch Behar become honorary Lieut.-Colonels.

New appointments to honorary ranks include the Maharaja of Indore who becomes Major-General and the Maharao of Cutch, His Highness the Mehtar of Chitral, the Nawab of Amb and Nawabzada Syed Murtaza Ali Khan, Heir-Apparent to Rampur State, who have been granted honorary commissions in various ranks.

STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE'S HEALTH



SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN, TILL LATELY MEMBER FOR HEALTH IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT ADDRESSING THE HEALTH MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI ON OCTOBER 10. PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI, HEALTH MINISTER FROM MADRAS ARE ON SIR SHAFAAT AHMED'S RIGHT.

Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan's Address to Health Ministers' Conference

WHILE detailed plans for health development are to be made and carried out by Provincial Government, the Interim Government "will do all in their power to assist sound health development in India" was the assurance given by Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, the then Health Member in the Interim Government, in his address to the Health Ministers' Conference which opened in New Delhi, on October 10. Health Ministers from seven Provinces and a number of States attended the Conference, which lasted three days.

Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan said:

On behalf of the Interim Government I extend to all of you a cordial welcome.

When I assumed charge of the Health Department about a month ago my first action was to make enquiries regarding the state of development planning. It was immediately clear that it was necessary to bring Provincial Ministers into consultation without avoidable delay on the measures to be taken to improve the health of the people. It was also evident that the field was so great that it could not be covered at a single conference and I have, therefore, selected for our present agenda some of the more important matters with particular reference to the recommendations of the Bhore Committee which will provide a useful starting point for our discussions.

Neither the Interim Government nor the Provincial Ministries had any part in the appointment of the Bhore Committee. Perhaps this is an advantage as we can bring impartial judgment to bear in our discussion of the Report. We can all agree, however, that a comprehensive survey of this kind was necessary and we are thankful to Sir Joseph Bhore and the members and Secretary for the diligence and thoroughness with which they discharged their immense task. As far as I am aware in no country except South Africa has such a comprehensive review of the health services been undertaken and few committees have been faced with such an extensive field of enquiry. The survey of present conditions which has been given in the Report should be studied by all who are in any way connected with, or interested in, health administration and health conditions. No one can read it without being convinced of the most urgent need for an effective programme to improve the health of the people.

Health Services

The facts of high mortality, sickness and disease and the inadequacy of our hospitals and health services have of course long been known to us in a general way. We read frequently enough of the progress of epidemics which would be startling in their magnitude if we were not so accustomed to them. Wherever we go in town and village, the defects of our sanitary services come to our notice only too often. Our high death rate of 24 as compared with 11 in other countries and our appalling infantile mortality rate of 169 per thousand births have frequently been published. But I think we needed a review of this kind to bring home to us how serious the position is and how rudimentary and inadequate our services are, to compel us to cast off apathy and indifference and to stir us to activity.

There was a time when health was regarded as being largely the personal concern of the individual. That conception still lingers, but we have travelled far from the days of *laisser faire*. It was the ravages of an epidemic disease which first compelled the State to intervene. In India the great plague epidemic of the nineties led to the setting up of the Plague Commission and the development of public health organisations in some of the larger towns. The latest example is the great cholera epidemic following on the famine in Bengal which provided the incentive for a considerable improvement in the medical organisation, and to a lesser extent in the public health services in that Province.

Such stimuli, however, are to some extent fortuitous and are apt to be transient. In recent times a more permanent and a more effective incentive comes from the growth of social consciousness, of democratic ideals and of a new conception of social welfare and of the rights and duties of the individual and the responsibilities of the State. It is now accepted that health is one of the goods of life to which man has a right. He has a right to those conditions of living in which health can be achieved and maintained and when he is ill, to the medical treatment necessary for his recovery. Health like education, must, therefore, become a function of the State.

The objective of the State must be to create the conditions for healthy living, to provide as complete a health service as possible and to include within its scope the largest possible proportion of the community. In India it will take a long time to realise these aims owing to the paucity of our financial resources and our large population, but the Centre is prepared to take an active part in promoting them with the help and co-operation of the Provinces.

A large proportion of our people are living below the normal level of subsistence and the State must provide for them the medical benefits for which they themselves are unable to pay. As far as our resources permit we should avoid imposing a "means test" and should make our medical services accessible to all without distinction.

A spur to action should be the realisation that a disease-ridden community cannot be a prosperous community. The President of that great and wealthy country, the United States, has said that the United States could afford many things but ill-health was one thing they could not afford. The Bhore Committee has put the matter in another way in saying that a nation's health is perhaps the most potent single factor in determining the character and extent of its development and progress. Certainly no development programme can be complete or effective without adequate provision for measures of improving the health of the people.

Influence of Environment

I will not attempt to cover the whole field of the Committee's report but I should like to refer to two or three matters on which the Committee has rightly laid emphasis and which, self-evident though they may be, are as yet imperfectly understood.

The first is the influence of conditions of living and environment on the health of the individual and the community. It is idle to talk of health to a person whose cereal ration is far below the standard necessary to maintain normal health and vigour; or to persons living ten in a room in a slum tenement; or to those who through poverty are unable to obtain the essential necessaries of life. Health is indeed affected by the whole of man's environment by the conditions in his home, at school and at his place of work, by his economic condition and security of employment. It follows that the responsibilities of those of us who are concerned to any degree with the health of the people extend far beyond the hospitals and it is necessary that we should take an interest in all those Government or social activities which promote health or might be used to promote it.

There are Government and municipal activities which have been and are still being, carried on without relation to, or even to the detriment of, the needs of national health. I need only refer to road and railway construction which has often through faulty design led to an increase in malaria. Private enterprise also is frequently responsible for practices which are inconsistent with national health. If we are to improve our national health all our Governmental and social activities must be reviewed from the point of view of their effect on national health.

Preventive Measures

Another matter which the Committee emphasises is the need for an improvement in environmental hygiene, and preventive measures generally, if a substantial improvement in health is to be secured. They have pointed out that unless we can clear up our towns and villages and provide a safe and adequate water supply they will continue to be factories of ill-health which will fill all the hospitals we can provide.

If we look to the West we find that the fall of 50 per cent. in the death rate which occurred in the second half of the last century has been attributed largely to the improvement in sanitary conditions. A safe water supply, an efficient system of scavenging and refuse disposal and in the towns adequate sewerage have long been recognised as the primary necessaries of civilised life in any community. But they are necessities in which we in India are still deficient. Even in some of the largest towns, the sanitary organisation is notoriously inefficient, while in the rural areas there has been in most Provinces no systematic attempt to improve sanitary conditions.

If there is a question of priorities—and planning means priorities—I think all will agree that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in our towns and villages is one of the most urgent of our needs. This is one of the matters on the agenda for discussion.

Another equally important item in the programme for the improvement of living conditions is that of housing and the planning of our towns. That is a subject of considerable complexity and difficulty and will, I think, have to be dealt with at a special conference. As a preliminary to an inter-Government discussion I propose, if the Provincial Governments agree, that it would be useful to call a conference of Chairmen of Improvement Trusts and Development Boards.

Then there is of course the whole field of preventive medicine. The development of modern science since 1880, the discoveries of Pasteur, Koch, Manson and Ross and countless other workers, by revealing the cause of disease and its process, has given us the knowledge without which all efforts at prevention or control are at best empirical. I will refer only to one disease—malaria. Here we have a disease which is not only the direct or indirect cause of tremendous mortality but is also responsible for an

HEALTH, FOUNDATION OF NATION'S EDIFICE

—Pandit Nehru

Health is a basic problem which forms the foundation of a nation's edifice; and if the foundation is weak, the building is likely to collapse. This was stressed by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, inaugurating the Health Ministers' Conference in New Delhi on October 10.

Pandit Nehru said that various questions faced the country, some of which were controversial. But others were basic problems, health being one of them. Political and other matters might brook some delay, but not problems like health, which if not given proper attention to in time could not be rectified. Hitherto, not much attention had been paid by the State to problems like health and education. Lack of funds was the explanation.

If funds could be available for big wars, there was no reason why they should not be provided for to fight against ill-health, which was like the enemy from within and weakened the nation. No doubt it was a gigantic task, but it was one of those urgent questions which had got to be attended to, if we were to avoid situations like the aftermath of the Bengal Famine.

So far attention had been paid more to the towns, where as India lived in the villages. The producer of the country's wealth should be physically strong and expenditure on him should not be grudged. It was necessary to concentrate on preventive health measures rather than on huge buildings for hospitals.

Proceeding, Pandit Nehru said there was no intention on the part of the Centre to compel the Provinces to adopt a particular policy. They were free to chalk out their own measures, but in matters like health co-operation of all the Provinces and the Centre was essential. In fact, it was really a matter of international co-operation; for, with modern transport, there was always a danger of disease spreading from one part of the world to another. Inside the country itself, if one part was in a bad state, it affected the other parts as well.

Pandit Nehru hoped that the mutual discussions which the Health Ministers were going to have on health problems would prove beneficial to the country.



A HEALTH UNIT AT WORK IN A U.P. VILLAGE.

incalculable amount of disablement. No one can deny that if we could get rid of or control this disease we should substantially increase our national productivity and vitality. Science has revealed to us not only the cause and the method of transmission of the disease, but has placed in our hands powerful larvicides, insecticides and drugs. It remains for us to find means for effective application of the knowledge made available to us. Control is expensive but it pays dividends and I am confident that with enthusiasm and determination, by planned experiment and a resolute search for economical methods of control a large measure of success can be achieved.

Most Provinces have included anti-malaria schemes in their plans although some of them are on a very meagre scale. An exception is Bombay which plans to control malaria over two whole districts with a population over one million. There is another particularly important aspect of malaria control. As you are aware that incidence of malaria has often been greatly increased through engineering works by faulty design of culverts, by inadequate provision for drainage and by excavation of burrow pits. It is imperative that the creation of this man-made malaria should be avoided in the big programme of railway and road construction which lies ahead. A committee of experts has been set up to recommend what measures should be taken to avoid creating conditions favourable to the spread of malaria and I hope we shall have its report in the near future.

While speaking of prevention I should like to refer to the measures for dealing with epidemics. We are still visited by great epidemics of cholera, small-pox and plague. In the cholera season three to four thousand deaths a week is not unusual. While eventually as our health programme develops it should be possible to reduce these preventable diseases to small proportions, there is in the mean time a need for more vigorous measures to check epidemic in the early stages and to provide treatment for those who have the misfortune to be attacked. This is a matter in which the Government of India are particularly interested as they are concerned with the spread of disease from one province to another. Disease does not recognise provincial or any other boundaries and in this matter Provinces have a duty not only to their own people but to their neighbours.

I have suggested two priorities - sanitation and malaria. As a third I suggest the provision of health services in the rural areas. As one who comes from rural stock I know well how neglected these areas have been in the past. We have here and there a few dispensaries, mostly inadequately staffed and equipped; there may be a sanitary inspector with an area in his charge so large that nothing substantial can be achieved; but as the Bhore Committe says "it is only the outermost fringe of such public services and amenities as the country enjoys that occassionally comes within the orbit of the cultivator's daily life".

I do not suggest that we should neglect the towns where, indeed, mortality and sickness are often even higher than in the countryside. But after all over 80 per cent. of our people live in the rural areas and the time has come for an effective programme to bring the benefits of modern medical science within the reach of the cultivator. The Bhore Committee has suggested for this purpose the development of a district health organisation with a primary health centre for every 40,000 people, a 30-bed hospital for every 200,000 and a secondary centre with a 200-bed hospital for each district. This is not, I think, an extravagant programme to be carried out over a period of 10 to 20 years, and is, I understand, the minimum organisation which the Bhore Committee considered to be necessary to provide a reasonably effective, curative and preventive health service. The question of implementing this recommendation is one of the items on our agenda.

Whatever organisation may be adopted, I have no doubt that both in the rural areas and in the towns it must be organically related to our local self-government institutions. Our local bodies have their defects; they are known only too well to all of us. But they are our safeguard against bureaucracy; and bureaucracy means routine, centralisation, the loss of adaptability to changing conditions and leads eventually to authoritarianism.

Moreover, as the Bhore Committee has pointed out, a health organisation can attain its objective only with the co-operation of the people themselves. The people themselves must take an active part in the protection of their own health through self-governing bodies in rural and urban areas which reflect the needs of the individual citizen. Our problem is to secure a minimum standard of efficiency. The Bhore Committee's solution for co-ordination of the health administration with local self-government and for securing an efficient health administration is one of the matters we have to discuss.

Training Institutions

The training of personnel is evidently a matter which must be given special attention in the early years of development. The building up of training institutions takes time, while the training of medical officers and some other categories of personnel takes some years. Unless adequate provision is made in the early years therefore, development in later years will inevitably be hampered.

There are at present only about 47,000 qualified doctors in the country. The Bhore Committee has estimated that for the first five years of their scheme an additional 15,000 medical men will be required. The number of nurses requires to be doubled or trebled even to provide an adequate staff for existing institutions. The number of midwives is at present about 5,000 whereas it is estimated that for an adequate maternity service something like 100,000 would be required. These figures give some indication of the dimensions of our problems.

School Health Services

There are, of course, many other matters which require consideration. There is nutrition and the question of school feeding which has given such good results in other countries. There is the question of school health services. There are the maternity and child-welfare services. These services hardly exist in India at present. When we recall that nearly 25 per cent. of the deaths among the people of India take place among children in the first year of life and that the corresponding percentage in the United Kingdom is six, the need for maternity and child-welfare services is clear.

There is the question of industrial health services and health insurance. A report by a scientific worker under the Medical Research Council which is being circulated to you will give some indication of the urgent need in the field of industrial health.

Outlining Government's plans to improve health conditions in India at the recent Health Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi, Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, the then Member for Health, said it was proposed to implement the Bhore Committee's recommendations by setting up a committee to advise the Government regarding the establishment of an All-India Institute for training and research, providing facilities at Calcutta for Licentiates from all parts of India to take their M.B.B.S. degree and sending selected students abroad for training. A Nursing College had been opened which would provide a course for University degree in nursing. The Malaria Institute of India would be expanded. Legislation for regulation of pharmacy, dental and nursing professions would be undertaken.

Regarding the provision of health services in the rural areas Sir Shafaat Ahmed agreed with the Bhore Committee that 'it is only the outermost fringe of such public services and amenities as the country enjoys that occasionally comes within the orbit of the cultivator's daily life and said that "the time has come for an effective programme to bring the benefits of modern medical science within the reach of the cultivator." He endorsed the Committee's proposal for the development of a district health organisation with a primary health centre for every 40,000 people, a 30-bed hospital for every 200,000 and a secondary centre with a 200-bed hospital for each district.

Referring to the question of expenditure, Sir Shafaat Ahmed said: "I have no doubt that if we are serious in our desire to build up the people's health and do not pay mere lip service to an ideal, we must devote a large part of our resources to health."

There are the important proposals of the Committee relating to medical education which have been referred to the Medical Council of India for their opinion. There are the problems of special diseases such as tuberculosis, venereal diseases and leprosy. These and other matters will, I hope, be subject for discussion at a future conference.

Then there is the mater of finance. We must face inescapable realities and one of these is the limitation imposed by our resources. But I have no doubt that if we are serious in our desire to build up the people's health and do not pay mere lip service to an ideal, we must devote a larger part of our resources to health.

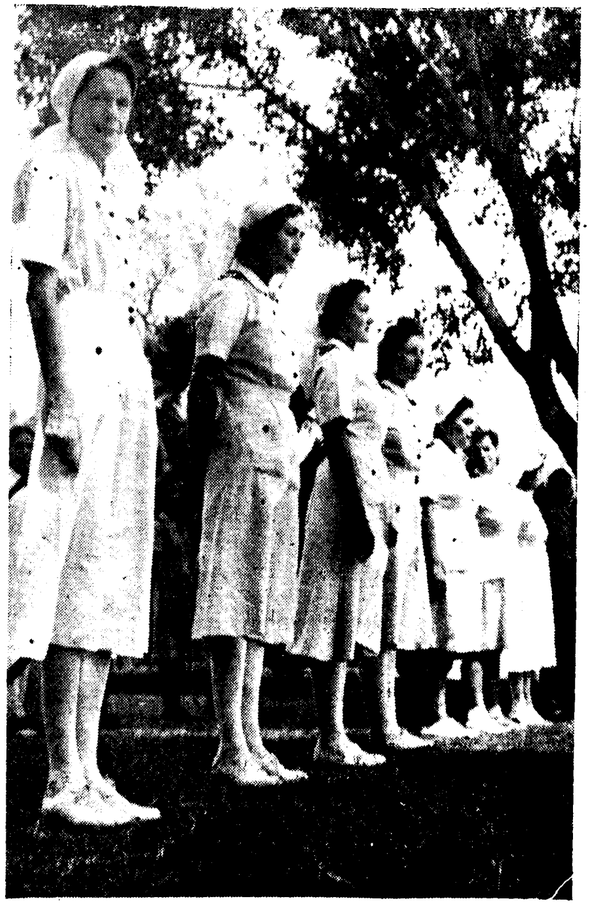
The pre-war average of expenditure on medical relief and public health was about 5 per cent. of the total expenditure of about 5 annas per head. In Ceylon the corresponding figures were 10 per cent. of the total expenditure and Rs. 2 per head of population.

The Bhore Committee has suggested that the amount of Government expenditure on health should be increased to at least 15 per cent. of the total expenditure. Provincial Governments have already been informed of the assistance that is likely to be available to the Provincial Governments from the Centre in the form of general development grants but this assistance will be of little avail unless there is a substantial increase in the provision for the health services from provincial resources.

Before I close I should like to say something of our own plans. Detailed plans for health development must of course be made and carried out by Provincial Governments. Our function here is largely to assist by co-ordination, provision of expert advice, and development of activities and institutions which are beyond the scope or capacity of individual Provinces. Within these limitations the Interim Government will do all in their power to assist sound health development in India.

The most important recommendation of the Bhore Committee in relation to Central activities is that concerning the establishment of an All-India Institution with up-to-date facilities for training and research of the highest standard. I think the conception is a fine one and we propose to pursue the scheme actively and expeditiously. I propose to set up very shortly a small committee to advise the Government on the scheme. We also intend to provide facilities at Calcutta for medical licentiates from all parts of India to enable them to take their M.B.B.S. degree and we have taken over surplus American buildings and hospital equipment for the purpose.

While we must develop medical education in India as rapidly as possible, we must in the mean time send selected students abroad for higher training. There is no doubt that we have not at present in India the facilities for advanced post-graduate training which are to be found in other countries and I hope we shall be able



MEMBERS OF THE NURSING DIVISION AT ST. JOHN HEADQUARTERS, NEW DELHI.

to place abroad, under recognised leaders in the various branches of medical science, at least 50 of our most promising men in each year.

There is also a good deal to be said for enabling some of our specialists to go abroad for short periods. Most of our scientific workers have been cut off from contact with workers abroad during the war and I feel that there will be a considerable advantage in enabling some of them to travel abroad, make contacts with scientific workers in other countries and study at first hand recent scientific development.

We are expanding the staff and accommodation of the Malaria Institute of India to enable it to play its part in the drive against malaria which we hope will be set on foot in all Provinces. In the field of research I have no doubt that far greater asistance must be given than in the past and the proposals of the Bhore Committee are being considered in consultation with the Indian Research Fund Association.

In the field of nursing, in which India is so woefully backward, we are assisting in the higher training of future nursing administrators and specialists by the establishment of a nursing college which will provide a course for a University degree in nursing as well as shorter specialised courses. It is hoped to develop in this institution in due course facilities for training in public health nursing. The legislative proposals for the regulation of the pharmacy profession which are already before the Central Legislature will be pursued and I hope that we shall also be able to introduce similar legislation for the dental and nursing professions.

The arrangements for the enforcement of drug standard control, which is of such importance to the country, are in hand and the control will be introduced from April 1 next.

We also intend to develop what I may call the advice and information services. For example a bureau is being set up with the function of collecting information and advising Provinces regarding the design and equipment of medical institutions.

Another subject which is engaging our attention is that of the data relating to population and vital statistics. Vital statistics are the foundation for public health work and there is a great and urgent need for improvement in the quality and speed of collection of such statistics. The growth of poulation is of course one of our large problems. I will not enter this controversial field now but there is a clear need for the collection and co-ordination of data relating to population growth. This is important not only from the point of view of material for study of the so-called ponulation problem but also from that of long-term planning generally. These are some of the more important activities which we have in view and I hope that we may be able to extend them in directions in which Provincial Governments and institutions need assistance.

"Age of Achievement"

With the establishment of our own national Interim Government at the Centre we have entered the "age of hope". Let us go forward in company to make it the "age of achievement". The building of a nation's health is no easy task. With our meagre resources we shall not be able to advance as rapidly as we should like; but it is a task worthy of all our energies and devotion. And no task is more important for the national welfare, for without health we cannot have happiness or contentment or prosperity. With co-operation, sustained effort and determination I am confident that we can succeed.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The Conference on October 10 unanimously adopted the following resolution:

> "The Conference endorses 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: there should be adequate provision for the medical care of the individual in the curative and preventive fields; special provision will be necessary for certain section of the population, *e.g.*, mothers, children, the mentally defficient; and no individual should fail to secure adequate medical care because of his inability to pay.



A PATIENT BEING EXAMINED IN THE OPTHALMIC SECTION OF THE KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BOMBAY.

At its Session on October 11, the Conference passed a resolution accepting in principle the Bhore Committee's proposal for district health organisation and recommended that the scheme should be implemented on as wide a scale as possible consistent with financial limitations. The resolution is as follows:

> "The Conference considers that the District Health Organisation proposed is administratively sound and acceptable in principle. The programme for the first five years is not within present financial resources, but it is agreed:—
>
> "Firstly, that the scheme should be implemented on as wide a scale as possible consistent with financial limitations, taking full advantage of existing institutions and staff;
>
> "Secondly, that modifications in the scheme may be made where necessary to adapt it to local conditions;
>
> "Thirdly, that in areas where the full organisation could not be set up immediately, schemes for development should be framed with due regard to the objective of building up a curative and preventive health service on the general lines recommended by the Committee;
>
> "Fourthly, that each Province should review its plans with these considerations in view."

Training of Personnel

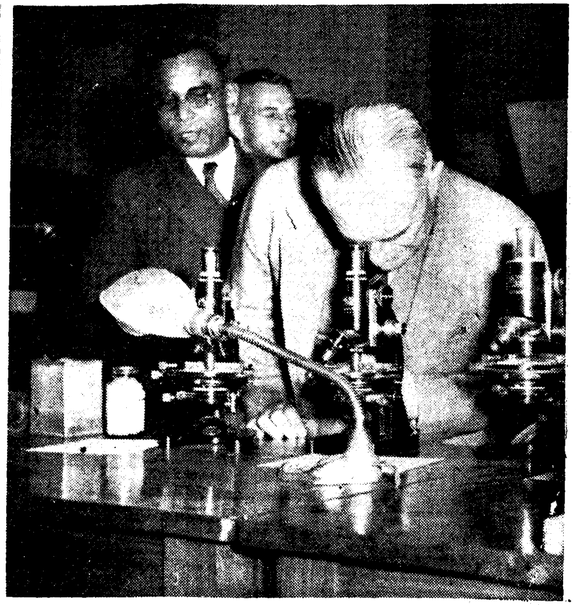
The Conference also adopted the following resolution:

> "The Conference agrees 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. It also agrees 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."

In the afternoon some of the Ministers visited the College of Nursing and the Malaria Institute of India.

The abolition of the civil branch of the Indian Medical Service and adequate provision for research in

(BELOW) LORD WAVELL, DURING A TOUR OF BENGAL, SOME TIME AGO, VISITED THE ALL-INDIA INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH AT CALCUTTA. PICTURE SHOWS HIS EXCELLENCY IN THE SANITARY ENGINEERING SECTION OF THE INSTITUTE.



and the application of the scientific method for the investigation of the indigenous systems of medicine formed the subject matter of two resolutions adopted by the Conference which concluded its deliberations on October 12.

The resolution on the abolition of the civil branch of the I.M.S. is as follows:

> "This Conference of Health Ministers is of opinion that there should be no civil branch of the Indian Medical Service and requests that the Central Government may arrange to take back immediately the Indian Medical Service personnel in civil employ in the Provinces, and post them on the military side to which they rightly belong."

The Conference resolved that in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Committee, "adequate provision should be made in the Centre and the Provinces for research in and the application of the scientific method for the investigation of the indigenous systems like Ayurveda and Unani with reference to maintenance of health and prevention and cure of disease; for starting schools and colleges for training for diploma and degree courses in indigenous systems of medicine; and for post-graduate courses in Indian Medicine for graduates in Western Medicine."

The Conference further resolved to absorb the practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine into the State Health Organisation by giving them further scientific training wherever necessary as health personnel, like doctors, physical training experts (*Ustads*), sanitary staff, masseurs, nurses, midwives, etc.

In all, seven resolutions were adopted on October 12 dealing with various health matters. 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 Ministers 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 andn that subject to adaptation to suit local conditions, anti-malaria organisation should follow the general framework of the organisation proposed 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 received that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be undertaken.

Winding up the proceedings, Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan assured the Provincial Health Ministers that the Central Government would help them by giving substantial grants and enabling them in every possible way to put their health plans into operation.

He emphasised that both the curative and preventive aspects of the health problem should receive proper attention and the poor, as the rich, should have access to all medical facilities.



PREVENTIVE ASPECT OF MEDICINE

ADDRESSING the members of the Delhi Medical Association on the Bhore Committee's recommendations regarding the medical profession, Dr. C. K. E. Raja, Officer on Special Duty, Health Department, Government of India, emphasised the preventive aspect of medicine and the provision for direct insight into social medicine by contacts with home and community life.

The speaker pointed out that the Bhore Committee had stressed, in under-graduate training, the inclusion of methods "which would enable the student to learn for himself, think, observe and draw conclusions". This would be done by introducing clinical teaching in the pre-clinical period of training and by revising the syllabus for anatomy, physiology and other basic subjects so as to reduce the number of didactic lectures and increase the number of lecture-demonstrations.

Post-Graduate Education

After the final examination at the end of the fourth year there is to be for every student one year's "internship", during which time he is to work under supervision and not given the full rights of a practitioner. At least three months of this period should be devoted to work in a public health unit.

As regards post-graduate education, Dr. Raja observed, the ultimate objective was for the country to become self-sufficient in the matter of training facilities although, during the early stages, it would be necessary to send students abroad for training.

Explaining the proposals regarding regulation of the medical profession, the lecturer said that the Committee had recommended the creation of an All-India Medical Register for registration of medical qualifications and for regulating the exercise of the profession.

In regard to employment of doctors in public services, it was pointed out that since the Committee aimed at the provision of adequate preventive care and treatment facilities to all members of the community, irrespective of their ability to pay for such services, in the State health organization the doctor should be paid adequately and prevented from private practice. This would ensure equal attention to the richer and poorer sections of the community.

He believes in prevention being better than cure and knows that some exercise every day keeps the doctor away.

IMPROVEMENT IN INDIAN ARMY'S HEALTH

STATISTICS issued recently by Armed Forces Headquarters show that there has been a progressive improvement in the health of Indian and British troops serving in India during the past 18 months. The hospital admission rates in 1945 approached the level existing in 1940 when the living conditions of troops in India still approximated to those in peace time and the figures available for the half of 1946 show a further improvement on those of the previous year.

In 1944, the average monthly admission rate for officers was 62 per thousand as against 51 in 1945 and 43 for the first six months of 1946. Corresponding figures for British Other Ranks were 85 per thousand, 72 per thousand and 56 per thousand. Admissions of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Indian Other Ranks into hospital were 61 per thousand in 1944, a figure which dropped to 50 in 1945 and 43 for the first six months of this year.

Malaria is still the greatest single cause of sickness but admissions to hospital through this disease have been greatly reduced not only in actual numbers but in proportion to the total hospital admissions. Last year, the admission rate for malaria among Indian troops was 75 per thousand, the lowest figure ever recorded, and figures so far avilable for 1946 indicate that this year may show a further reduction in the incidence of this disease.

A high standard of anti-malaria discipline, use of D.D.T. in mosquito control, the introduction of improved mosquito repellents and the administration of suppressive mepacrine to troops in certain highly malarious areas are some of the factors responsible for the reduction in the incidence of malaria.

Improved sanitary conditions and the use of D.D.T. against flies have brought about a considerable reduction in the incidence of diarrhoea and dysentery group of diseases.

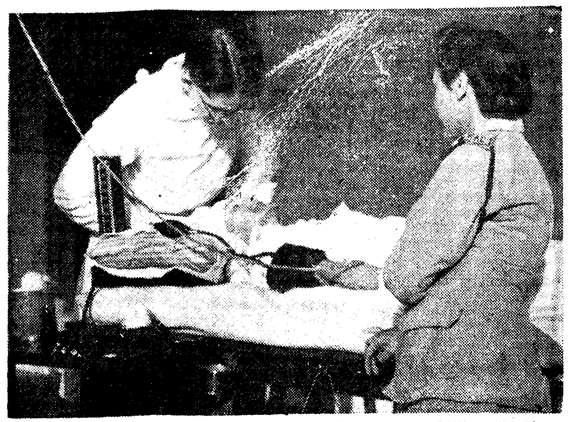
In response to an urgent request from H.E. Sir Fredrick Burrows, Governor of Bengal, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, A.O.C.-in-C., India, has sent aircraft to Calcutta to transport foodgrain to the famine-striken population in the Dacca and Chittagong areas.

Service aircraft operating between Calcutta and Madras supported by aircraft from other areas have been switched over to this new task. In consequence the Service airline between these centres has been restricted pending completion of this operation.

In August this year at the time of the Chittagong floods, a similar operation was carried out by aircraft of India Command at the request of the Government of Bengal.



LADY WAVELL AT THE INDIAN MILITARY HOSPITAL, RAWALPINDI.



R.A.M.C. OFFICER, HELPED BY A W.A.C. (I), GIVES A BLOOD TRANSFUSION TO A PATIENT.

ELIMINATE WASTAGE OF FOODGRAINS

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Addresses Storage Officers

"THE problem of the conservation of foodgrains is really of a wider significance than the looking after of Government Depots or *kothas* and *khatties* in the hands of the traders. The layman must be explained things in common language in a manner which he can digest; he must be convinced by Demonstrations and with patience. For the solution of the bulk of the problem, a close personal contact must be established with the rural folk," said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member, addressing Storage Officers from Provinces and States who had been attending a refresher course in storage at the Pusa Institute, Delhi, on October 19.

The refresher course was inaugurated on October 7 by Mr. B. R. Sen, Additional Secretary, Food Department, and lasted till October 19. Over 100 officers attended the course.

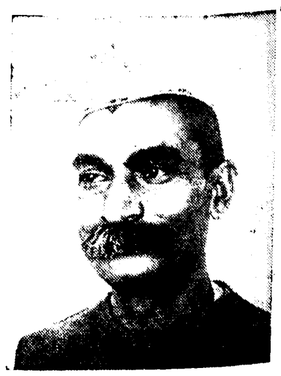
Dr. Rajendra Prasad said: I am glad to have this opportunity of addressing you, for the problem with which you are concerned is one of the most important facing us in India today. It is generally estimated that about three million tons of foodgrains are lost in India annually owing to defective and unscientific storage conditions. Our producers and traders have been in the habit of accepting losses in storage as a matter of course. The commercial attitude has merely acquiesced in the fact of loss; and so long as those losses were covered in the margin of profit, none of the intermediaries worried about the loss of the food itself.

The impossibility of eliminating these losses altogether is fully appreciated; but, if even a third of the losses were averted, the quantity saved would feed over seven million of our countrymen all the year round. The reduction of such colossal wastage is, therefore, a matter of the greatest consequence. Our aim in food matters is to make India self-sufficient. One of the means which should make a rapid and effective contribution to the achievement of that aim must be a substantial reduction of that wastage.

Storage

The bulk of the produce harvested in India remains in the hands of the producers. Only a portion of the harvested crop is brought into the market. The question of storage has therefore a twofold aspect. Each little producer has to so store his little stock as not to expose it to wastage, insects, and climatic conditions among which moisture in the [illegible] and atmosphere is a most important factor. He has to meet it in [illegible] which suits his purse and intelligence. The larger producer, the big trader and any other agency including the Government that may be required to store large quantities of grain have the same problem to solve, but their resources are correspondingly greater.

We know that our *kisan* is not altogether ignorant of the problem nor can it be said with truth that he has failed to appreciate its importance or find his own solution for it. I can say that within certain limits the methods adopted by him are efficient, but we cannot say that they are always the best or most successful. We have such divergence of climatic conditions and difference in the quality of various grains produced in different parts of the country, that, any one uniform method of storage for protecting the grain form wastage is not possible. The only possible method was to vary it from place to place and from grain to grain, and that is what our *kisans* have done. I know that they keep their wheat in one way and paddy or maize in another, and this can be observed particularly in the case of seed which requires to be protected more than the ordinary grain intended for consumption otherwise.



DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD.

We have thus had decentralised stores in almost every house in the country and it is easy for a family to look after its small stock more efficiently than can be done with large stocks kept in one place and looked after by no one in particular. But we must not run away with the idea that the *kisans'* methods are perfect or that they require no improvement. I presume there is considerable wastage in their stock also and it is the function of the Directorate of Storage to attend to the need of improvement in the method of storage pursued by the small cultivator, and it will be one of your duties to carry the knowledge and practical application of new methods to him as and when you are apprised of them.

The problem of the conservation of foodgrains is, therefore, really of a wider significance than the looking after of Government Depots or *Kothas* and *Khatties* in the hands of the traders. The layman must be explained things in common language in a manner which he can digest; he must be convinced by demonstrations and with patience. For the solution of the bulk of the problem, therefore, a close personal contact must be established with the rural folk.

The other question of large scale storage with which I understand you have been immediately concerned, has arisen because of the necessity of concentrating large stocks at some selected centres. This need for centralisation has in this matter as in so many others created new problems. You have learnt how these are sought to be solved.

You can see that your role as Storage Officers in Provinces and States is a very important one, and that not merely while food administration is under governmental control. For your expert knowledge will continue to be valuable even under conditions of normal economy.

The organised study of the subject of storage was, as I understand, first started on an all-India basis in June 1944 under the auspices of the Government of India. A Directorate of Storage was set up by the Central Government with a comprehensive objective. Supplementary organisations working to the same end have since also come into existence in a number of Provinces and States. As is clear from the review of the Director of Storage, to which we have just listened, a great deal of basic work has been done in this matter. It is to be hoped that when you go back to your respective Provinces and States, the knowledge that you have gained here will be used to further the accomplishment of the goal.

The disinfestation and other remedies suggested by the scientists must be tried out in large scale application, their organisational problems must be studied under different conditions and their use extended on the basis of such experience. That is how each one of you can contribute to the researches of the scientists. You can adapt scientific knowledge to indigenous conditions and so evolve the storage machinery most suitable to our needs.

Central Food Reserve

I, of course, realise the limitations under which you have to carry on your work. As technical officers you can only advise and help your Governments to frame suitable schemes. Questions of policy must rest with your Governments. I feel that we must try and get those who are responsible for policy in the Provinces and States to give serious and sustained attention to the problem. In this, you as technical officers have to play your part but a heavy responsibility rests on the Central Government also, which I have no doubt they are now trying to discharge.

There are also other aspects of storage work to which the Additional Secretary made a passing reference in his inaugural address. I might mention the scheme for the setting up of an Emergency Reserve, with the dual purpose of stabilising the prices of agricultural produce and of providing protection against the threat of famines. For the housing of such a reserve storage problems of unprecedented magnitude will have to be faced. We must decide on the distribution of this reserve between producing and deficit areas. We must examine the related questions of transport and turnover in the light of our climatic conditions. We must in fact take into account many important considerations to ensure the objective of the reserve and its safe storage.

World Food Reserve

The idea of a similar World Food Reserve, propounded by the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation, while our own scheme for the establishment of an Emergency Reserve was still under consideration, has somewhat complicated the issue. But, while co-operating with international measures of this nature, we must not lose sight of the objective of our proposed internal reserve, viz., to reduce internal price fluctuations within the fixed maximum and minimum limits, and to overcome the danger of monsoon failures.

In any case the fact that further storage accommodation will be required in India, and of the modern type, is obvious. Whatever may be the ultimate decision in regard to the type and extent of the new storage necessary, we must endeavour to coordinate our policy with the welfare of the farmers, linking it up with the problems of transport and rural credit, as well as with the marketing modus operandi *so as to minimise the price-lag between the producer and the consumer.*

The new order thus visualised cannot be materialised overnight and the policy of *laissez-faire* will obviously not be conducive to the desired results. We must be in a position to look after our stocks in Government and private hands before we launch upon an import programme for the building up of the reserve, even if such imports were available. It is the expert knowledge of men with your background and training that will be increasingly required by the country. By a wise use of your technical knowledge in handling these vital problems you can resolve half my difficulties. Yours is a work not dependent upon any blue prints and plans; paper schemes will not solve the problem. It is the initiative and zeal with which you tackle them that will matter. It is your precept and example that will help most. I trust your sense of duty in this great national task will help to achieve the objective quickly and successfully.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari's Appeal

The following appeal has been made by the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Education and Arts in the Interim Government:

There is serious food shortage in South India. More than 15 crores of people are covered by food rationing schemes now in India. There is not much scope now for external help to South India. We are grateful to Orissa and C.P. and Berar for their efforts to help us with some rice.

Babu Rajendra Prasad has permitted me to add my appeal to that of the Government of Madras, that the season ahead in South India being full of danger, every good man who has a quantity of paddy to spare should sell it at once to the Government at the favourable rates announced without fear of being prosecuted for hoarding or infringement of laws of any kind.

I appeal to the people to help the Government in every way to prevent deaths by starvation or disturbances arising out of food shortage. There is no question of prosecution or harassment of people who voluntarily come forward to help.

Mr. B.R. Sen on Problems of Storage

"The Central Government have built new storage for nearly 195,000 tons, the Provincial Governments for 12,00.000 tons and the States for 11,50,000 tons. Besides these new constructions, storage for about 77.00,000 tons has been leased mostly from the trade to whom assistance has been given in priority materials, improved designs and technical supervision", said Mr. B. R. Sen, Additional Secretary, Central Food Department, inaugurating the refresher course in storage at the Pusa Institute, Delhi, on October 7.

Mr. B.R. Sen said: India this year has suffered an unprecedented failure of crops. We had made a demand of a minimum of 40,00,000 tons of imports to cope with the situation. We have up to now received only 12.50,000 tons from overseas. Our food position during the next two months is one of great anxiety.

I have heard some critics of Government say that the normal loss of foodgrains in storage in India amounts to no less than three to five per cent. of the total production or about 20,00,000 to 30,00.000 tons a year, that if Government had taken proper steps to prevent this wastage India need not have been dependent so much on imports and should have been able to see through the year without a critical shortage. This facile argument appears to ignore the basic facts of trading in foodgrains in the country and the nature and causes of wastage to which foodgrains in India are subject.

India's annual production of all foodgrains is 60 million tons. Her average pre-war imports were 1½ million tons. The producers in India are largely subsistence farmers and normally only about 40 per cent of the total production, that is, 28,00,000 tons come into the market for sale. The producers bring their grains to the market in small parcels throughout the year and there is hardly any large accumulation in traders' hands. This is in direct contrast to the practice in countries like U.S.A., Canada, etc., where foodgrains are cash crops and large stocks are stored in silos at ports or railside stations inland to maintain an even flow of substantial quantities for export.

Crux of the Problem

The crux of the problem in India, therefore, is how to prevent wastage at the source, that is, when the grains are with the producers. The producers in India are not altogether ignorant. They have storage habits which they have developed after centuries of practical experience. In fact, some of their storage methods will bear comparison with these evolved out of the latest scientific knowledge on the subject. But the climatic conditions in India are particularly favourable to infestation by pests and once infestation has attacked the grains, the producers in the village are unable to check it with their normal methods.

Though wastage at the source represents by far the greater part of the problem the losses at the later stages, which are more easily controllable also run into high figures. As I have already explained, in normal times when the internal trade functions without any State control, the grain is held by hundreds of thousands of small producers and traders who bring it to the market in quantities according to the demand. The responsibility for quality is firmly fixed on the seller who is interested in maintaining quality in order to secure his profits.

Restricted Imports

Since 1943, the Central and Provincial Governments have progressively taken over the functions of the trade in foodgrains. The quantities which are procured by Provincial Governments alone now amount to over 45,00.000 tons a year of which 15,00,000 tons move under the Government of India's Basic Plans.

Under the present conditions when owing to the severely restricted imports, the demand for foodgrains outstrips the supply and the Government have to procure with an official machinery unaccustomed to trade practices, whatever they can during the peak of the season and store them pending their despatch to deficit areas; when at the receiving end also Provincial and State Governments have

to accept the stocks as they arrive and store them as best as they can, when the profit motive as an inducement to maintain quality is absent, the losses due to deterioration must be appreciably greater.

I would mention another development which has since brought the question of improvement of storage to the forefront of the post-war problems. It is an accepted policy of the Government that steps should be taken to stabilize agricultural prices in future. One of the proposals made is that the Government of India should hold at strategic centres, about 20,00,000 tons of foodgrains, mainly wheat and rice, to support the minimum and maximum prices to be guaranteed by the Government.

It will be remembered that in 1943, the Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended a Central reserve of 500,000 tons to prevent a breakdown in the machinery of procurement, rationing and price control, and later the Bengal Famine Inquiry Commission recommended a Central reserve of 500,000 tons as a protection against failure of crops. It seems clear that if the proposal to provide a support to foodgrains, prices in the post-war period by means of a reserve is to be accepted, the size of the reserve must be such and the reserve must be so located as to meet the purposes mentioned by the Policy Committee and the Famine Inquiry Commission also. I refer to this matter, which is still under discussion, only to emphasise the point that improvement of storage conditions will, from an administrative point of view, assume an even greater significance in the post-war economy of the country than it has in the past.

Prevention of Waste

Against this background you can judge how important your work as Inspectors and Supervisors of Storage and administrators responsible for food, is going to be. The producers in India gather in about 60,00,000 tons of foodgrains a year and release their surplus in small quantities. Steps must be taken to educate and help the producers to improve their storage, so that the losses while the grains are in their custody are reduced to the minimum. Nearly 45,00,000 tons of foodgrains pass through Government hands. The volume will largely increase when the policy regarding stabilization of agricultural prices is finally accepted. Prevention of wastage of grains in Government hands would require more comprehensive measures by the Government than have been attempted in the past.

There are mainly two ways in which the problem of prevention of wastage can be approached: (i) provision of properly designed storage accommodation and (ii) provision of improved technical supervision of grains in storage.

During the last two years we have made considerable progress in the construction of storage for grains handled by the Government. The Central Government have built new storage for nearly 1,95,000 tons, the Provincial Governments for 12,00,000 tons and the States for 11,50,000 tons, that is, 2½ million tons in all. Besides these new constructions, storage for about 77,00,000 tons has been leased mostly from the trade to whom assistance has been given in priority materials, improved designs, technical supervision, etc. Much of this leased storage is, however, ill-designed and unsuitable and must be improved. The existing storage does not provide for the Central reserve which is under contemplation. The question is under examination by the Food Department, but it is clear that a final scheme must await decision on certain important points.

If Agriculture is not to be a Central subject under the new constitution, how is the Reserve to be administered, as it must be if it is to serve its purpose, on a co-ordinated all-India basis? Then there is the proposal for a World Food Board: (a) to stabilize prices of agricultural commodities in the world markets, including provision of the necessary funds for stabilizing operations, and (b) to establish the World Food Reserve adequate for any emergency that might arise through a failure of crops in any part of the world.

It is stated in the Proposals submitted to the F.A.O. Conference at Copenhagen held in September that the World Food Board, operating through its Commodity Committees, should be given power to hold stocks. It would announce a maximum and minimum price and would undertake to buy into its stock when the world price fell below a declared minimum and sell from its stock when the world price exceeded the maximum. The objectives and methods proposed for the World Food Board are in fact a projection on a world scale of the same ideas as have been under our examination in India during the last few months. Before we launch into construction schemes costing crores of rupees, we would be wise to wait and to see what emerges out of the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee of 16 Nations, of whom India is one, set up by the Copenhagen Conference, to examine the details of this scheme. The Preparatory Committee is to sit from October 28 and India is sending a strong team of experts headed by one of her ablest Provincial Ministers.

So far as provision of improved technical supervision of grains in storage is concerned, we cannot claim that our progress has yet been appreciable. It is true that valuable work has been done in India by our scientists in problems of pests, but the field application of the results of their research lags far behind. It is stated that our grain losses due to weevils at Karachi amount to two to three per cent. up to November, four to five per cent up to December and six to seven per cent up to March, while the percentage of losses for Bombay, Calcutta and Madras where the humidity is higher is substantially greater.

It is clear that where Government hold large stocks it should be possible to bring infestation by weevils under much greater control than at present. Experimental work undertaken by the Food Department particularly on GAMMEXENE has given convincing results and its use has been advocated to Provinces and States. In view of the lack of suitable airtight godowns in all places where grain is to be stored large scale fumigation under tarpaulin conditions has been tried with satisfactory results.

The idea of mobilising squads to demonstrate the efficacy of insecticide in *Mandis* and mills has been suggested to Provinces and States. Universities have been approached to include storage in the syllabus of Agricultural Colleges.

These are, however, only the preliminaries of an intensive countrywide campaign which we must undertake if we are to achieve substantial results. I hope that those of you who are attending this course would help us to spread these ideas and thus contribute your share in dealing with the great problem which is before us.

PREPARATORY COMMISSION ON WORLD FOOD BOARD

THE Preparatory Commission of the F.A.O. for the inauguration of the World Food Board will start its work at Washington on October 28, said a Press Note, issued by the Agriculture Department, Government of India, on October 15.

Among the items for consideration at the meeting will be statements by the representatives of the member Governments, the general aspects of the World Food Board Proposals, the first report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's standing Advisory Committee on Economics and Marketing, alternative proposals and any other memoranda submitted by Governments or International Agencies and the desirability of requesting for oral or written evidence from individual experts and non-Governmental organisations.

The Commission proposes to discuss the problems relating to the special price programmes and commodity stabilisation in two separate committees. The Committee for special price programmes will consider, among other items, special national measures for wider food distribution as recommended by the Hot Springs Conference, the application of national experience to international programmes, and financial and marketing questions involved in such international special price programmes.

The Committee for commodity stabilisation will examine the national price support programmes, the national ever-normal granary arrangements, the technical and financial problems of buffer stocks held nationally or internationally, the role of long-term contracts for agricultural products between countries, the place of production quotas and export or import quotas and the other aspects of commodity stabilisation.

Delegates

The Government of India's Delegation to the Preparatory Commission will be led by the Hon'ble Dr. K. N. Katju, Minister for Justice and Development, United Provinces.

The other members of the Delegation will be as follows:

Alternate

Sir S. V. Ramamurthi, C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, Madras.

Advisers: Official

Mr. A. D. Gorwala, Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Government of Bombay, Bombay; Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Department of Food, New Delhi; Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee, Economic Adviser, Gwalior (Indian States Representative); and Mr. G. Rameswaran Pillai, Reconstruction Officer, Travancore (Indian States Representative).

Advisers: Non-Official

Prof. C. N. Vakil, University of Bombay, Bombay; and Chaudhari Mukhtar Singh, Meerut City.

The name of the second Alternate and a nominee of the Reserve Bank will be announced later.

Mr. Aziz Ahmed, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Agriculture Department will act as Secretary to the Delegation.

EXPERIMENTS AT IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

DURING the last few years a survey of the species of termites or white ants found around Delhi has been made by the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, and trials have been in progress to determine chemicals which will ward off their attack.

Of the various chemicals tested within recent months, a solution of five per cent D.D.T. sprayed on the soil at the rate of 40 pounds of D.D.T. per acre before sowing wheat has been found to be very effective. Treatment of wheat seeds with five per cent solution of the same chemical before sowing has also given promising results. Further trials are in progress.

Control of Potato Pest

One of the most serious pests of stored potato in India is the potato tuber moth. It has been found that the biological control of this pest offers the most economical and effective means of attack. A parasite called *Microbracon Gelechiae* has been discovered which attacks the larvae of the tuber moth and eventually kills them.

This parasite has been imported from Canada by the Institute and is being bred in thousands in its Entomological Laboratories. Preliminary studies have given encouraging results and it is proposed to breed this parasite in millions and liberate it in various godowns and warehouses where potatoes are stored.

Increase in Rabi Crop Yields

Experiments have been in progress at the Institute, New Delhi and at its sub-station Karnal since 1941-42 to examine the possibilities of utilizing surplus monsoon river water by flooding the land with a view to supplementing the low monsoon rainfall and thereby increasing the *rabi* crop yields under dry farming conditions.

In 1945-46, the monsoon rainfall was fairly high, about 25 inches at New Delhi and 30 inches at Karnal, the precipitation being heavy towards the end of the season, *i.e.*, in September. The yields of wheat, barley, gram and oilseeds were high in the non-flooded plots in spite of failure of winter rains. The results suggest that good yields of rabi crops can be obtained in this tract even under *barani* (rainfed) conditions with very low winter rainfall, provided the monsoon and September rainfalls are good.

Basic Slag as Fertilizer

It has been found that the Indian basic slag can be utilized as a fertilizer for crops. Field trials were started at the Institute in 1944 in which basic slag was applied as a fertilizer at 120 lbs. per acre on berseem clover, a winter fodder crop. Increased yields of green fodder up to 46 per cent over the "no manure" plots were obtained.

The results suggest that basic slag has a definite manurial value and is a valuable source of phosphatic fertilizer provided arrangements for grinding are made available.

GUR PRODUCTION IN INDIA IN 1945-46

AN analysis of the working of *Gur* Control shows that although it is difficult to make a precise estimate of the quantity of gur produced in the season 1945-46 or to compare it with the previous season, the fall in the area under sugarcane has had a corresponding effect on production, which resulted in insufficient supplies and high prices of *gur*.

The main surplus areas in *gur* are the U.P., N.W.F.P., Madras and Kolhapur. From all these areas, actuals fell far short of the estimated export for the season. Thus, although it was estimated that the surplus available during the season from the U.P. would be about 300,000 tons, the final estimate of surplus at one time fell to 200,000 tons owing to deterioration in the condition of the crop, but later it was possible to allot to deficit areas aggregate quotas of 285,000 tons.

The N.-W.F.P. estimated an export quota of 72,000 tons at the beginning of the year, but owing to a short fall in the actual production, export permits could be issued for 56,000 tons only. The Madras surplus of 50,000 tons had to be reduced to 26,600 tons due mainly to the increased local demand resulting from the acute shortage of foodgrains.

Planned distribution of *gur* was rendered difficult owing to the receiving areas not having correct estimates, early enough in the season, of the *gur* they would actually receive, or of the quantities that surplus areas would be able to spare.

It is not possible to judge accurately the production nor the local consumption of *gur* which forms a high percentage of the production. In U.P. alone, the normal annual pre-war production was over 17,00,000 tons of which only 3,00,000 tons was exported. Even a small variation in the estimated production or in local consumption, therefore, has a disproportionately marked effect on the surplus available for export.

His Majesty the King Emperor has been graciously pleased to approve the promotion of the Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hissam ud-Din, lately Army Minister, Bhopal State, to the Honorary rank of Brigadier in the Army.

FOOD PARCELS

A Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on October 12 stated:

The Government of India have recently revised the rules regarding food parcels. In doing so, they have had regard to the food position in India, which still necessitates prohibition of the export of articles commonly consumed in India, and also to the interests of indigenous food industries and the disposal of surplus American Army Stores.

Ordinary parcels are still severely restricted. Gift parcels, however, may be sent without export licences, provided the overall weight of the parcel does not exceed five pounds. For full details, members of the public should apply to their nearest Post Office.

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation, photographed with the Hon'ble George R. Merrell (centre) American Commissioner in India and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at the Willingdon Aerodrome. The members of the Delegation left by air for New York on October 13.

Prior to their departure Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru met the Indian Delegation and discussed various matters likely to come up at the conference.

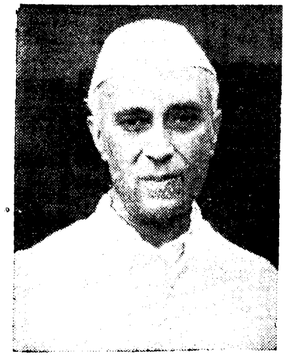


U.N.O. Delegates Leave for New York



A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TAKEN AT THE WILLINGDON AERODROME, DELHI.

PANDIT NEHRU'S GREETINGS TO CHINA



PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.



GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

35th Anniversary of the Chinese Republic

"IT gives me much pleasure to convey to you and through you to your Government the greetings of the Government and people of India on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China. India of to-day greatly values the ancient ties between our countries and desires to strengthen them, and I take this opportunity to express the hope that we shall march forward together in closest friendship to lasting peace, prosperity and happiness."

This message was sent by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government to Mr. S. H. Sih, Secretary-in-charge of the Office of the Commissioner of China to India, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China, which fell on October 10.

Mr. Sih replied: "I write to thank you and through you the Government and people of India for the greetings you have been good enough to convey to me on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China. The Government and people of China greatly appreciate your message of good wishes

"As the two most populous nations in the world, I am sure, India and China have great role to play in the destiny of mankind and our closest friendship will certainly contribute much to the lasting peace, prosperity and happiness of the world."

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK AND MRS. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE COMPOUND OF THE TAJ MAHAL IN 1942, WHEN MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK AND HER HUSBAND VISITED INDIA.

Viet Nam Greets India

"IN the name of the people of Viet Nam I send brotherly greetings to the people of India. When I reach home I shall tell my people how India is working not only for her own freedom and independence but also for the freedom and independence of all countries of Asia," says President Ho Chi Minh of Viet Nam (Indo-China), in reply to a message from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, conveyed by Mr. M. S. Aney, Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon.

President Ho Chi Minh, who was returning from Paris, broke journey on October 10 at Kandy, where he had a cordial discussion, lasting nearly an hour, with Mr. Aney.

In his message, Pandit Nehru said: "It would have been a great pleasure to me to meet the Head of the Viet Nam Republic and to convey personally to you the greetings and good wishes of India for your people.

"We welcome the freedom of all parts of Asia and we look forward to the co-operation of all the countries of Asia and their peoples in the cause of freedom and peace.

"There is a proposal to hold an Inter-Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in March, 1947. We hope to have representatives from almost all the countries of Asia at this Conference. I trust that it will be possible for the Viet Nam Republic also to participate in this Conference."





PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, INAUGURATING THE PROVINCIAL LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI ON OCTOBER 14. ON HIS LEFT IS MR. JAGJIVAN RAM, LABOUR MEMBER, WHO PRESIDED OVER THE CONFERENCE.

IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS OF LABOUR

Mr. Jagjivan Ram Outlines Five-Year Programme

DEFINITE proposals for the improvement of working conditions of labour, both industrial and agricultural, were outlined by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram in his Presidential address to the Conference of Provincial Ministers of Labour, which met on October 14 in New Delhi. Stressing the need for co-ordination of labour policy and administration between the Centre and the Provinces, he suggested that the Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference, to which States' Ministers would also be invited in future, should meet once a year or even more frequently.

He proposed that, as far as possible, all major legislation should be Central and that the Provinces should pay special attention to the organisation of adequate administrative and inspection services to secure a proper enforcement of labour legislation. He explained the need to devise at this stage a definite five-year programme of action.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram said:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Conference. Annual Conferences of Provincial Labour Ministers were a regular feature in 1940, 1941 and 1942. In 1942, the Conference was expanded into the Indian Labour Conference, a tripartite organisation consisting of not only representatives of Central, Provincial and State Governments, but also of Employers and Workers.

Thinking over the question, I feel there is both room and necessity for a Conference of Labour Ministers in addition to the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee. The Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee are usually attended by Provincial Labour Commissioners. As permanent officials, they can only discuss problems within the limits of their briefs. They cannot, naturally, discuss and formulate policy. This function is the responsibility of Ministers.

Uniform Labour Laws

It is unnecessary for me to stress the necessity for uniformity of labour legislation and administration throughout the country and on which there is happily complete unanimity of views among all parties. What we should now do is to evolve a suitable machinery for formulating policy and periodically reviewing the extent to which it is being implemented from time to time. Policy must be, to some extent, flexible so that it can be modified or altered to meet new situations and circumstances that may arise. These things can be done only at the Ministerial level. It is because of this necessity that we have suggested for your consideration the institution of a Ministers' Conference meeting regularly once a year or oftener, as you may decide.

Long hours of work, often under trying conditions, reduction in the standards of living brought about by wartime scarcities and high prices, which, unfortunately, are likely to continue for a few years more, an acute shortage of housing and the fear of unemployment resulting from the contraction of wartime activity have all combined to produce a complex of intense dissatisfaction, fatigue, fear and a nervy feeling which tends to explode in strikes or threats of strikes, sometimes over perfectly genuine grievances and sometimes over completely trivial matters.

Three months ago, the country was faced with threats of strikes which would have resulted in widespread breakdown in the transport and communication services. Fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed and the strikes did not materialise. Even so we have had to face a partial strike in the Postal and Telegraph services and in a section of the Railways. The position is now better, but we cannot afford to take a complacent view, simply because the temperature at the moment is not running high.

Need for Bold Programme

The advent of the Interim Government at the Centre has naturally given rise to hopes that both Central and Provincial Governments will now pull together and do something real and effective to make the life and labour of the working man a little more bright and cheerful. It is to take counsel together and chalk out an effective programme of work in this direction that we have met here this morning. It is no good drawing up a programme which will remain just a series of pious hopes and aspirations. The stage for platitudes is past. What is required is a bold and well-conceived programme which can be implemented during the next five years or so.

With this object in view, certain proposals have been placed before you. They include the promotion of fair wage agreements, organisation of industrial training and apprenticeship schemes with a view to improving the productive and earning capacity of workers, improvement of working conditions, elimination, wherever possible, of contract labour, the evolution of fair terms of service particularly in regard to security of tenure, social security measures, welfare work, housing and the institution of a suitable machinery for the promotion of industrial peace and maintenance of cordial relations between the employers and workers.

These proposals, when given effect to, will bring about a substantial and marked improvement in the health, efficiency and working conditions and the standards of living of workers in industries, mines and plantations.

Agricultural Labourers

It must not, however, be forgotten that workers in industries number only a few millions compared with the large masses of people who earn their living in agricultural occupations. The conditions under which they have to work are such as cannot be controlled and regulated effectively by the State. But they may, however, require a measure of protection in regard to wages. It is proposed, accordingly, to institute an enquiry into the earnings of agricultural labourers. Some preparatory work has already been done in this connection. Upon the results of the enquiry, into the conduct of which I hope, we can count upon the fullest measure of support and co-operation from the Provincial Governments, will depend the nature and the extent of the measures necessary to protect the wages of agricultural workers from sliding below the minimum.

Our immediate tasks will relate to the promotion of fair wage agreements, standardisation of wages, rationalisation of the rates of dearness allowances, organisation of industrial training and apprenticeship schemes with a view to improving the productive and earning capacity of workers, regulation and improvement of working conditions in factories, mines, transport services and shops, elimination of contract labour, provision of medical and monetary relief to workers during sickness and the provision of housing.

Co-operation

Whatever be the details of the programme that we may, as a result of the deliberations at this Conference, eventually evolve, there can be little hope of fully implementing it unless there is the fullest measure of co-operation between the Central and Provincial Governments. Compared with the vastness and complexity of the problems facing us, our Secretariat and administrative services are exiguous and unless we have a clear division of work, we may well be wasting our energies, a great many of us working on the same job or set of problems. We can achieve far more if we each have an allotted field to work upon. Most labour matters are in the concurrent field of legislation. While both the Centre and the Provinces can legislate, administration is the sole responsibility of the Provinces.

In view of this and of the demand for the maximum measure of uniformity in labour laws and standards, a suggestion has been placed for your consideration that, as far as possible, all major legislation should be Central and that the Provinces should pay special attention to the organisation of adequate administrative and inspection services to secure a proper enforcement of labour legislation, a sphere of activity which, for one reason or another, has not received sufficient attention in the past and without which no real improvement in working conditions can be brought about.

Five-Year Programme

It may be asked whether we should, at this stage, plan a five-year programme in view of the uncertainty of the future constitutional set-up. Whatever may be final distribution of authority in regard to labour matters, it is common ground that there should be the maximum measure of uniformity in matters relating to labour laws, administration and standards. Details of legislative and administrative measures necessarily take time to work out. The different Governments, the employers, workers have all to be consulted. Material has to be prepared for legislation and the details of the administrative organisation have to be worked out. Collective agreements between employers and workers on matters like wages have to be promoted and before any effective action can be taken in this direction, detailed studies have to be undertaken.

These things cannot be done unless we set before ourselves a definite programme of action. Even if we are not able to achieve all that we set ourselves to secure, the preparatory work that we shall have done will be of great assistance to those who may be charged with responsibility for labour administration under the new Constitution and enable them to proceed ahead.

After we have discussed amongst ourselves as regards the main lines of policy, I propose consulting States' Ministers so that there may be uniformity of policy and administration not only amongst the Provinces but also among the States. Future Labour Ministers' Conferences will include States' Ministers as well. Also, I propose placing the results of our deliberation before representatives of employers and workers so that we may have a programme of action on which all the parties concerned, namely, Central, Provincial and States' Governments, the employers and workers are agreed.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL

After the Labour Member's opening speech, the Conference discussed a new Bill intended to regulate industrial relations. The Bill, which would be placed before the ensuing session of the Central Legislature, aims at setting up Works Committees in industrial establishments to smoothen the day-to-day difficulties. It also aims at creating a machinery of conciliation, enquiry and adjudication which Government propose to initiate in the case of all utility services and other industries and services which may under the provisions of the new Bill be declared utility services.

Initiating the discussion on the provisions of the Bill, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that suitable machinery should be provided not only to promote an amicable settlement of serious differences that might arise between workers and employers, but also to remove those small irritations which must inevitably arise in the day-to-day working and which, if not attended to then and there, had a habit of assuming nasty proportions and eventually threatening industrial peace.

The Bill, therefore, sought to set up Works Committees in industrial establishments employing 100 or more workers to smoothen the day-to-day difficulties.

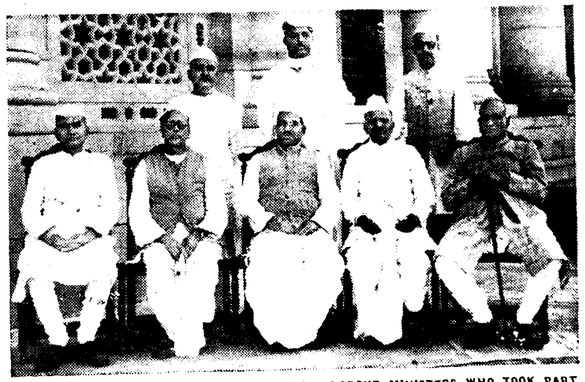
A more elaborate machinery of conciliation, enquiry and adjudication was required and had been provided for in respect of serious differences between workers and employers in regard to wages, conditions of service, etc. Conciliation would be attempted first and if it failed, the points in dispute would be referred to a Court of Inquiry. If even then employers and workers could not come to an agreement, the matter could be referred to adjudication and the award enforced wholly or partially as the appropriate Government

PANDIT NEHRU ON LABOUR WELFARE

THE Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, inaugurating the Labour Minister's Conference in New Delhi on October 14 emphasised the need to devise methods to help workers of India to stand on their own feet.

Pandit Nehru, who spoke in Hindustani, said that the labour problem was one of the most important facing the country today. There was urgent need to work out a plan to suit the whole of India, for if Provinces followed different policies the result would be to create difficulties.

Referring to the recent strikes, Pandit Nehru said that strikes might become unnecessary at some future time when the differences between the employer and and the employed disappeared, but at the moment what was needed was to devise methods which would ameliorate the working and living conditions of workers. Such help should be aimed at assisting the workers to stand on their own feet.



A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PROVINCIAL LABOUR MINISTERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE CONFERENCE. (L. TO R.) DR. K. N. KATJU (U.P.); MR. ANUGRAHA NARAIN SINHA (BIHAR); MR. JAGJIVAN RAM; MR. S. V. GOKHALE (C. P.); MR. V. V. GIRI (MADRAS). (STANDING. L. TO R.) LALA BHIM SEN SACHAR (PUNJAB); MR. RAMNATH DAR (ASSAM) AND MR. GULZARILAL NANDA (BOMBAY).

might decide, having regard to all relevant circumstances.

In the matter of referring disputes to conciliation, enquiry or adjudication, a distinction had been made between public utility services, that is to say, Railways, Water Transport, Postal, Telegraph and Telephone services, industrial establishments supplying power light or water, or public health services on the one hand and other essential industries on the other. The necessity for the distinction was obvious, and Government as representative of the community could not, obviously, allow a breakdown in the services essential to the life of the community.

Strike and Essential Services

In regard to public utility services, the Labour Member said that no strike or lockout would be legal unless due notice was given and if such notice was given, Government would have the right on their own volition to refer the disputes to conciliation, enquiry or adjudication as the case may be, and enforce the award, if necessary, so that there may be no breakdown in essential services. It was, however, possible to take a less serious view in regard to other industrial undertakings and set the machinery in motion only if the parties to a dispute made a request.

"In these days, however, when every essential article is in such acute short supply. Government cannot afford to take a complacent view even in the non-public utility service sector," the Labour Member continued. "We cannot, for instance, content ourselves with holding the ring, if the Cotton Textile Industry, Steel and Cement Works or Coal mining operations are threatened with paralysis because of widespread disputes. We have, therefore, provided that wherever the appropriate Government is satisfied that public emergency and public interests so require, the appropriate Government may declare any industry to be a public utility service and the procedure applicable to public utility services would accordingly apply.

"I am aware that Bombay Government are seeking to set up a more elaborate machinery and that the C.P. and Madras Governments would also like to move in this direction though not quite so far as Bombay. Other Governments are in agreement with the lines on which the Central Bill has been drafted. The scope of the Central Bill has been left purposely elastic. It can be expanded and the machinery set in motion to settle disputes in almost all important industrial undertakings or it can be limited to the minimum number, viz., the public utility services, as Provincial Government may decide from time to time."

Factory Inspection Service

The Conference, which concluded its session on October 15, gave full support to the Health Insurance Bill sponsored by the Central Government.

It considered a number of specific details relating to the Five-Year Programme referred to by the Labour Member in his address. In regard to the Bill for regulating industrial relations, suggestions were made that when Government was satisfied that no alternative was possible reference to the Adjudicator might be made directly without waiting for the process of conciliation, and that this could be done in the case of both public utility industries and other industries and services.

The Conference welcomed the Centre's suggestion that it would provide facilities for training new recruits for Factory Inspection Service under the direction of the Chief Inspector of Factories, and it generally approved the proposal to expand and improve Factory Inspection Service to secure due observance of the provisions of the Factories Act.

The Provincial representatives agreed to the principle enunciated by the Labour Member in his speech that major legislation on labour must, as far as possible, be initiated by the Centre. Expressing appreciation of the need to co-ordinate policy and administration, they approved of the suggestion that the Conference might meet as frequently as necessary. It was also agreed that before any Government decided on any important line of action, the Central Government and other Provincial Governments, which might be concerned in it, must be fully consulted.

As there was need for full and free exchange of information between the Central and Provincial Governments, it was agreed that the Centre would act as a clearing house of information receiving fortnightly reports on strikes, etc., from the provinces and monthly reviews of their respective legislative and administrative measures pertaining to labour. Then the Central Government would circulate the information to all the provinces.

The Conference also discussed the Central Government's scheme for Resettlement and Employment Exchanges.

The Conference was attended by the following Provincial Labour Ministers: the Hon'ble Mr. Anugraha Narain Sinha (Bihar), the Hon'ble Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda (Bombay), the Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri (Madras), the Hon'ble Lala Bhim Sen Sachar (Punjab), the Hon'ble Dr. Katju (U.P.), the Hon'ble Mr. S. V. Gokhale (C.P.) and the Hon'ble Mr. Ramnath Das (Assam). The Provinces of Bengal and N.-W.F.P. were represented by the official advisers of the Ministers of the Provinces.

LABOUR BUREAU

The Labour Department of the Government of India have opened a new office called the Labour Bureau since October 1, 1946. It is in Simla and its present Director is Mr. S. R. Deshpande, formerly Member of the Labour Investigation Committee of the Government of India.

The Labour Bureau will collect statistics relating to labour and examine the statistical methods employed by the various agencies to facilitate the adoption of a uniform and scientific technique. It will publish the statistics. It will also maintain the cost of Living Index Numbers now under preparation.

The Bureau will bring out Year Books giving authoritative descriptions of labour affairs in this country. The *Indian Labour Gazette*, the standard of which the Government of India want to raise to that of a first class monthly magazine, will be edited by the Bureau and so will be the Labour Code of the various legislative enactments and the statutory rules made thereunder.

The Bureau will keep up to date the factual data relating to working conditions collected by the Labour Investigation Committee. It will also conduct research into specific labour problems with a view to furnishing data whenever required.

WORKING OF THE FACTORIES ACT IN 1944

More Workers Employed in Industries

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 number of seasonal factories fell from 3,337 in 1943 to 3825. 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 33.2 in 1944 in the 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 was as follows:

	1943	1944
Men	2,133,622	2,209,503
Women	262,244	269,720
Adolescent males	24,687	26,659
Adolescent fremales	3,365	3,524
Boys	10,574	11,199
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.

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 39 in Sind.

Factories numbering 11,713, *i.e.*, 83.2 per cent. of the total, were inspected at least once. 2,358 or 16.8 per cent.



WORKERS OF A TINPLATE FACTORY.

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 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. The Punjab tops the list with 815 convictions. Bombay coming next with 457 convictions, followed by the U. P. and Madras. Bengal had only 29 convictions. A number of provinces complained against the small amount of fines imposed.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN 1944

A note published in the *Indian Labour Gazette* of September 1946, which reviews the working of the Factories Act (1934) in 1944, contains facts and figures on the wages and other conditions of industrial labourers in the various provinces of the country in that year.

In the first place, the Factories Act (1934) was amended in 1944 with a view to remedying certain defects. The main changes introduced related *inter*



WOMEN MILL WORKERS OF BOMBAY.



BOMBAY'S TEXTILE MILLS PROVIDE THEIR WOMEN WORKERS WITH LEAVE AND MATERNITY BENEFITS AND CRECHES WHERE SMALL BABIES CAN BE LEFT DURING WORKING HOURS. PICTURE SHOWS BABIES SLEEPING IN A ROOM IN A MILL CRECHE WHILE THEIR MOTHERS HELP TO COPE WITH THE TEXTILE SHORTAGE.

alia to the provision of washing facilities in all factories. The most important of the provincial amendments of the rules under the Act were the addition of rule 28-A to the Madras Factories Rules compelling factories employing more than 250 persons to submit fortnightly notices of accidents and the notification by the Government of U.P. of the Act and the rules to apply to factories manufacturing glass bangles.

Most of the provinces reported a general increase in earnings due to payment of dearness and other allowances. In Bengal the wage rates remained stationary, but amounts of dearness allowance increased. In Bombay dearness allowance was paid on a higher scale, but the supply of foodgrains to workers, especially in the mofussil, continued to be a pressing problem. In the Punjab the lack of accommodation in industrial localities had such a deterrent effect on supply of labour that the report from the Province suggested the need for proper location of industries and provision of housing facilities as a means to promote industrialisation.

Sanitation

The provision of the Factories Act with regard to sanitation was generally well observed in all the provinces. But difficulties were experienced in several places as in Ahmedabad (in Bombay) where industrialisation had outstripped municipal facilities, and in the Punjab where the cleanliness of the area surrounding the factories is not within the jurisdiction of the Factories Act. As for the supply of water for drinking and other uses within the factory the position was generally satisfactory except that the report from the U.P. mentioned the apathy of the small factory owner in this respect.

"It is hightime," said the U.P. report, "that this industry (sugar) in particular dropped their apathetic attitude to the question of safety and brought a more enlightened outlook to bear on this very vital question of service to humanity". The total number of accidents rose from 59,176 in 1943 to 67,322 in 1944 or by 13.8 per cent. This heavy increase was mainly in minor accidents. As regards propaganda among the workers for making them safety-conscious, apart from the posters and advices, lectures were arranged in the U.P., to train workers in the avoidance of accidents. Some progress was made there with the formation of Safety First Committees. In Bombay the need was felt for energetic safety committees as well as an active interest on the part of the management and supervisory staff in the proper instruction and training of new workers. Some safety first films were shown in the several welfare centres in Bombay.

The health of the industrial workers in most of the provinces was reported to be good and no epidemics were reported. In the suburban areas of Calcutta, however, malaria was so common that in many cases absenteeism amounted to as much as 50 per cent. Madras reported a loss of 9,90,167 man-days due to sickness as against 1,050,615 in 1943. The decrease was attributed to improved working conditions such as grant of paid weekly holidays and casual leave with pay.

Among the various welfare activities undertaken in 1944 the most notable was the establishment of canteens, which made great headway during the war years. Facilities for medical treatment were also being provided by a number of concerns. In Sind, for example, many larger factories have dispensaries at their works with compounders in attendance and two cement mills have hospitals and qualified doctors in full time employment.

In Bengal the Indian Jute Mills Association established seven welfare centres, which considerably assisted in stimulating the workers' interest in the most profitable enjoyment of leisure. It also prepared the ground for the extension of activities in regard to conciliation, examination of workers' grievances, provision of remedies and welfare generally.

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE WAGES OF COLLIERY LABOUR

THE Government of India have decided to appoint a committee to examine the question and to make recommendations on what should be considered as the reasonable wages of coal-mining labour of various categories. The scope of this enquiry will for the present be confined to the collieries in the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and C.P. and Berar. The wages recommended may vary in the different areas according to varying local conditions.

The Government of India do not wish to fetter the discretion of the Committee in expressing wages in the manner considered most suitable, but believe that one method would be to formulate a suitable basic wage for an eight-hour shift plus dearness allowance in cash or in kind or in both and other concessions, the rates of overtime allowances and the mode of calculation, e.g., whether overtime should be based on the basic wage or the basic plus the dearness allowances etc.

A recent inquiry into the conditions of labour in the coal-mining industry has emphasised the need to formulate and implement as soon as possible, a positive policy in regard to the wages of the workers in the industry. For reasons connected partly with the habits of the traditional coal-mining labour and perhaps to a larger extent with the conditions of life and work in the coalfields, the industry has generally had difficulties with the supply of labour. The vital importance of the coal industry points to the need to secure for it an efficient, contented and settled labour force. Among the measures that seem necessary to achieve this objective are more congenial working conditions, the spread of education, and above all, a wage that will ensure certain basic essentials of life and tolerable living conditions.

Through the Coal-Mines Labour Welfare Organisations, recently set up, an attempt is being made to improve living conditions in the coalfields and to provide certain amenities and facilities. As regards wages, the practice hitherto in India has been to allow them to be determined by the price that could be obtained for coal. In the result, it has happened that when coal prices fell, the wages of labour, as representing a substantial portion of rising costs, were the first to be cut down. But it is now being recognised generally that it is essential to reverse the price-wage relationship so that the basic needs of the worker, as a human being, are first determined on social considerations, thereafter translated into wages in cash or in kind or in both and thus form the foundation of the price structure.

The personnel of the inquiry committee will be announced later.

A.I.T.U.C. MORE REPRESENTATIVE THAN I.F.L.

Chief Labour Commissioner's Findings

"THE conclusion that the All-India Trade Union Congress is more representative and more active than the Indian Federation of Labour is inescapable", observes Mr. S.C. Joshi, Chief Labour Commissioner to the Government of India, in his final report on the representative character of the two Central Trade Union Organisations in India, *viz.*, the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour.

There is in confirmation of the conclusion arrived at by the Chief Commissioner of Labour in his interim report subimtted in July last. In it he had referred to an increase in 1944-45 of 44 per cent in the membership of those Unions affiliated to A.I.T.U.C. which were inspected; a similar inspection in the case of I.F.L. showed a fall in the membership of the latter by 44 per cent.

The interim report further revealed that while I.F.L. possessed greater membership in Bihar, Sind, Delhi and the Punjab A.I.T.U.C. was leading in all the other ten provinces and territories. The latter was also found more representative in 12 industries, *viz.*, Railway, Shipping, other Transport, Cotton Textile, Jute Textile, Engineering, Printing and Paper, Non-manual, Agriculture, Municipal, Distributive and General, while the I.F.L. was more representative only in Mining, the difference in membership observed in that industry between the two Central Organisations not being very wide. In all, A.I.T.U.C. had 336 unions affiliated to it with a total membership of 696,555; while I.F.L. had 134 unions with a membership of 313,807.

The conclusion was arrived at after official inspection either by the Chief Labour Commissioner or by officers subordinate to him and test-checked by him. In all 43 unions affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress claiming a total membership of 2,65,611, and 32 unions of the Indian Federation of Labour claiming a total membership of 2,07,912 were inspected. It was observed that the membership as given by the inspected unions affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress had gone down from 265,611 to 2,26,071, *i.e.*, by 14 per cent of their original strength, the membership of the Indian Federation of Labour had gone down from 207,912 to 101,500, i.e., by 51 per cent. It may be added here that the decrease in membership relates only to inspected unions. There are also a number of unions affiliated to neither of these.

The Chief Labour Commissioner repeats in the final report that the unions need improvement in their working both for their better functioning and also for preventing exaggerated membership. He says, "In my opnion it is desirable to make a suitable provision in the Trade Unions Act for the maintenance of the Register of Members and for the minimum membership fee. This may have a good check on the membership of Unions.'

REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN 1944

The number of Trade Unions, registered, rose from 693 in 1942-43 to 818 in 1943-44; and compared with 1942-43, the membership of Unions which submitted returns, increased from 685,299 to 780,967 (according to a statement published in the *Indian Labour Gazette*, September, 1946), the highest figure since 1927-28. Almost all the provinces participated in the increase.

In Bengal the Trade Union movement was steadily gaining ground during that year. In U.P. there was nearly a 57 per cent rise in the membership of Trade Unions, which was probably partly due to increased employment on account of the war and partly to the growing consciousness among labour of the advantage of union membership.

Classified according to industries, trade unions of Railway workers were 82 in 1943-44 compared to 80 in 1942-43, while their membership rose from 2,54,510 to 2,63,262. Similarly the number of textile workers' unions rose from 98 with 1,61,133 members in 1942-43 to 122 with 2,22,667 members in 1944-45. Nearly 25 per cent of the total number of unions had a membership of 100 to 300, 16 per cent of them had from 300 to 500 members and 17.9 per cent, from 500 to 1,000 members. There were 116 unions (20.6 per cent of all the Unions) who had from 1,000 to 10,000 members, while 18 unions (3.2 per cent) had more than 10,000

Income

The total income of the registered trade unions increased from 15,96,984 in 1942-43 to Rs. 23,18,780 in 1943-44. The average income per union and per member also increased from Rs. 3,265-13-3 and Rs. 2-5-3 to Rs. 4,115-9-10 and Rs. 2-15-6 respectively.

During 1943-44, according to available information, the registration certificates of 136 unions were cancelled.

INDIA'S RECORD IN LABOUR LEGISLATION

Pride of Place in Asia, Says Mr. S. Lall



MR. S. LALL.

"THE principles of the International Labour Organisation have an appeal for my countrymen. Our collaboration has been spiritual no less than material. We have throughout tried to raise our standards. Our progress should not be judged by ratifications alone, although in this respect also I find we hold pride of place in Asia and our record is not below world average." In these words Mr. S. Lall, the Government of India delegate to the 29th session of the International Labour Conference in Montreal, brought out India's consistent adherence to the ideals of the International Labour Conference.

"If you are to judge our collaboration aright, however", added Mr. Lall, "you must also look to the labour measures that have come on our Statute Book which are independent of Conventions and Recommendations, and to the spade work already undertaken for future labour legislation. Further, you must have regard to the improvements effected in our machinery for labour administration and our plans for future development. Finally you must not ignore the special difficulties with which we have had to contend."

Speaking of the progress made in labour administration in this country, Mr. Lall said, "we have set up a tripartite organisation in India similar to the International Labour Organisation.....I can say that our tripartite organisation like the International Labour Organisation, has been our effective instrument in securing the maximum measure of agreement resulting from friendly discussions. We are now hoping to go a stage further by organising industrial committees, also on a tripartite basis, making a start with one or two major industries."

Legislative Measures

Reviewing the Labour legislation of the Government of India, Mr. Lall said:

"Our most important legislative measure during the year was the 48-hour week in all perennial factories. An Act has also been passed requiring employers in certain classes of industrial undertakings to frame and display standing orders relating to the conditions of employment of their workers. A Bill for the compulsory recognition by employers of representative trade unions has also been introduced in the Legislature. Both these latter measures are considered necessary until workers' organisations in the country as a whole are more strongly established than at present.

"A still more important Bill now pending in the Legislature relates to the fixation of minimum wages. In coalmines, we have provided by legislation for pit-head baths. The uniform scheme of insurance for factory workers covering medical care, sickness benefits, accident insurance and maternity benefits, to which Sir M. Samuel Runganadhan made reference at the Paris Conference, is also making progress, the vastness of the measure and connected administrative problems being responsible for the delay in finalising our Bill.

Centre's Function

"While the executive and administrative functions relating to labour laws are primarily the concern of the Provincial Government, the Government of India, mainly through the machinery of its tripartite organisation, exercises a co-ordinating function. Problems connected with improvements in factory inspection and the major problems of industrial housing are now engaging our attention.

"In the matter of industrial housing, we have laid down certain minimum standards for future construction. In the main coal-mining areas, we have large schemes of hospitalisation and anti-malarial measures for the benefit of miners which are financed by a cess on coal. Experience has shown how useful schemes of these types can be executed from the proceeds of such cess. We have therefore passed a law enabling recovery of a similar cess in the case of mica mines, and a welfare organisation on a tripartite basis similar to that for administering the cess on coal is being established for the benefit of workers in mica mines. On the principle that Government should be a model employer, a Fair Wage clause has now been included in all contract forms of the Central Public Works Department, which employs very large numbers through contractors.

"At the last session of the Conference, the leader of the Indian delegation also referred to our proposals to set up a closely co-ordinated and integrated system of Employment Exchanges to deal with post-war resettlement and employment. These Employment Exchanges are now in being, and we are watching their working with great interest. Without a suitable employment service, we cannot hope to introduce any system of orderly recruitment for industry. Nor can we deal with the difficult problems of industrial employment. We have also, in co-operation with Provincial Governments, started a technical training scheme, an important feature of which is that the scheme, including the syllabus of training, was prepared by a committee consisting of representatives of Governments, Indian States, employers and workers.

On the financial side, our collaboration with the International Labour Organisation has been exemplary. We are the third largest contributor to its funds and, although we have the smallest per capita income, our contributions from the beginning have been paid regularly and promptly."

Mr. Lall stressed the fact that "our problems are different from those of Europe and America, and added, "our danger is that we may have to return to pre-war condition of disguised rural unemployment and underemployment. To quote the Director, 'Full and useful employment will depend on industrialisation'. This is where international co-operation can help us and we are hoping that capital goods will be available to replace worn out plant and to assist in developing new industries."

Mr. Lall then criticised the I.L.O. for its comparative indifference to Asiatic labour problems in the past.

"In the first place," said Mr. Lall, "we maintain that the International Labour Organisation has concentrated too closely on labour problems affecting European and American countries. It has focussed attention on industrial labour to the almost complete disregard of agricultural labour, though admittedly the latter comes within its scope as much as the former. This may suit countries which are highly industrialised or which have a balanced agricultural and industrial economy. But so far as Asiatic countries are concerned, it is tantamount to giving them the go-by. Of the 67 Conventions adopted up to date, only seven relate to agriculture, and these too have greater relevance to conditions in Europe than in Asia."

Mr. Lall continued: "Our second point is that in the Governing Body, Asiatic countries have but a feeble voice having regard to their population and the problems confronting them. This point was stressed forcibly in our Legislature by representatives of all parties. I have been instructed by my Government to stress the fact that failure to ensure due representation of Asiatic countries on the Governing Body would seriously affect India's future collaboration with the International Labour Organisation.

I. L. O. CHIEF'S GREETINGS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT

THE following telegrams were exchanged between Mr. Edward Phelan, Director, International Labour Office, Montreal, and the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, and the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, Interim Government:

From Mr. Edward Phelan—

"Please convey to Mr. Jagjivan Ram and through him to Mr. Nehru, on the occasion of their assumption of office, my cordial good wishes for every success in the great and historic responsibilities they and their colleagues now assume. I venture to express the hope that their term of office will also mark an important stage in the social and economic evolution of the country. The International Labour Organisation since its inception has been closely associated with India and will be at all times ready to lend any assistance in its power. I consider the January Conference one of the most important initiatives undertaken by International Labour Organisation and am certain that it will lead to fruitful intensification of I.L.O. activities in Asia. I look forward with pleasure to making the acquaintance of the members of the new Government during my forthcoming visit to India.

In reply, the Secretary of the Labour Department, Government of India, sent the following telegram to the Government of India delegate at the International Labour Conference in Montreal:

"Please convey the warmest thanks of Messrs. Nehru and Jagjiwan Ram to Mr. Phelan for his message of good wishes on the occasion of their assumption of office. They are deeply appreciative of the value to India of her close association with the International Labour Organisation during the last 25 years, and hope that the Organisation with its aims and purposes redefined in the Declaration of Philadelphia will, in the years to come, make it one of its primary and urgent tasks to secure an effective application of the principles of the Declaration to the peoples of the less developed countries of the world, dependent or self-governing.

"They look forward to the pleasure of greeting the Director and the representatives of the Governing Body and of the countries attending the forthcoming Asiatic Regional Conference, which they hope will be the first of a series of regular Conferences pledged to bring about an improvement in the conditions of the workers in Asiatic countries."

The principle of reservation is not a new one, and we must insist on a reservation in favour of Asiatic countries in the Constitution, in order to remove the injustice of the unequal treatment from which we are suffering.

"The third point is, that in spite of repeated protests, some of which I myself made on the Governing Body before the last war, and in spite of the many warnings of the Indian delegates at previous sessions and at the League of Nations, very few Indians have been recruited to the staff of the International Labour Office. India has over one-fourth of the total population of the Member States of the International Labour Organisation, and pays about eight per cent. of the total contribution, but, according to the statement furnished by the Director, only three or four Indians are employed at Headquarters. On no basis do we consider that we have received adequate or appropriate representation. We also wish to record a protest against the system of recruitment, which gives a few countries a preponderant share in staff appointments."

Welcoming the preparatory session of the First Asiatic Regional Conference to New Delhi in January, 1947, Mr. Lall said:

"I am also grateful to the Director for the interest which he is taking in the Asiatic Regional Conference, to be held in 1947 and 1948. We are now going ahead with our preparations. A very warm welcome awaits the delegations from other countries who will come to India to attend this Conference. It is our hope that the Regional Conferences will lead to the setting-up of Regional Offices, which we consider to be absolutely necessary if the Organisation is to have due regard to the special problems of distant countries. Incidentally, the Regional Offices will, I believe solve the problem of a proper balance between too much travelling and too much desk work, which seems to have worried the Director."

Pleading that the I.L.O. "should take a more lively interest in our problems, which in some cases are peculiar to us along with some other Asiatic countries," Mr. Mirajkar, the Workers' Delegate suggested that the I.L.O. should open without delay an Asiatic Regional Office in India. He cited the economic disabilities of Harijans as an example of India's special problems and reminded his audience that in an earlier session of the Conference in Paris Mr. Khedjikar, a workers' delegate from India, had requested the I.L.O. to study these disabilities and to make a report on them to the Conference.

Referring to the Asiatic Regional Conference Mr. Mirajkar expressed the hope that the Conference would consider in detail the many difficult

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Certifying Officers for Industrial Establishments

The Government of India have issued a notification in pursuance of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act of 1946, which announces the appointment of the Certifying Officers and the Appellate Authority above them mentioned in that Act.

It is the object of the Act to compel employers of industrial workers numbering 100 or more to prepare draft Standing Orders defining the conditions of recruitment, discharge, disciplinary action, holidays, leave etc. and submit them to a Certifying Officer for certification. The Certifying Officer is empowered to modify or add to drafts so as to render the Standing Orders certifiable under the Act. In case the employers dispute the modification made by the Certifying Officer, they have a right of appeal against his decision.

The new notification, published in the *Gazette of India, Extraordinary*, on October 4, 1946, announces that the Regional Labour Commissioners (Central) at Lahore, Calcutta and Bombay will be Certifying Officers in respect of industrial establishments under the control of the Central Government, specifically mentioned against their respectives names in the *Gazette*. The Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) will be the Appellate Authority.

SPECULATION ABOUT SALT DUTY

In view of the effect on the salt market of reports which have appeared in the Press in regard to a possible reduction or abolition of the salt duty, traders are assured that if Government should decide to take any action on these lines, the tax paid on all substantial stocks in the possession of traders will be refunded. There is, therefore, no foundation for any apprehension on their part and it is hoped they will do all in their power to keep the market amply supplied, said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on October 17.

The internal salt position, which was hampered during the war by transport difficulties, has been gradually returning to normal in recent months, but a number of up-country markets still remain short of supplies. Any further cause for uncertainty in these circumstances, will only hamper the free flow and distribution of supplies and entail serious risk of a salt famine particularly in up-country areas. The first and worst sufferers in such a contingency will be the poorer classes of the community.

INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS IN ECONOMIC SPHERE

Sir Samuel Runganadhan's Speech at Paris Peace Conference

"WE must ensure that the peoples of the world are free and are not subject to exploitation in any form. In the economic sphere we must recognise the interdependence of nations; economic instability in one part of the world inevitably has its repercussion on the world as a whole," said Sir Samuel Runganadhan, Leader of the Indian Delegation, and High Commissioner for India in the U.K., speaking on the Italian Peace Treaty in the closing stage of the debate at the Plenary Session of the Paris Peace Conference, on October 9.

India's Attitude

Sir Samuel Runganadhan said: Mr. President, in the course of my remarks in the opening sessions of this conference I indicated the general attitude of my country towards the problems inherent in the drafting of the peace treaties. In the first place we must free the world from aggression and threats of aggression. Secondly, and as a positive contribution towards the establishment of lasting peace, we must remove the causes that breed war. Political and economic disequilibrium have led to war in the past and our task must now be to eliminate these factors in the political sphere. We must ensure that the peoples of the world are free and are not subject to exploitation in any form. In the economic sphere we must recognize the interdependence of nations; economic instability in one part of the World inevitably has its repercussion on the World as a whole.

African Colonies

The Indian Delegation has in the course of its work in the commissions sought to ensure the application of these principles to the specific problems raised by the peace treaties. As regards the colonies we have made it clear that the peoples of Africa must be free and independent and that they must have unfettered discretion in choosing the form of Government under which they wish to live. It was for these reasons that we supported the amendment originally proposed by China in regard to independence for Libya. Although that amendment was withdrawn we welcome the assurance of the Members of the Council of Foreign Ministers that the wishes of the inhabitants of those territories will be the paramount consideration when a final solution is arrived at either by the Big Four themselves or by the Assembly of the United Nations. India believes in strengthening the United Nations Organisation and thereby enabling it to fulfil its task of securing peace and prosperity throughout the World.



SIR SAMUEL RUNGANADHAN, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN LONDON, LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE.

As regards the difficult question of the Italo-Yugoslav Frontier we are glad that a sincere attempt has been made to undo the injustice of the Rapallo Treaty and to free the peoples of this area from the foreign yoke which they have borne so long. We are aware that Yugoslavia is not fully satisfied with the proposals in regard to Trieste but we believe that, considering the complex nature of the problem, a solution along the lines proposed is inevitable and is the one most likely to lead to stability and peace in this area.



SIR JOSEPH BHORE (X), MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE, PRESIDING OVER THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ITALY AT THE SALLE DES PAS PERDUS (HALL OF LOST FOOTSTEPS BECAUSE IT IS SO LONG THAT WHEN ONE REACHES THE OTHER END, ONE CAN HEAR NOTHING OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE HALL AT ONE END).

As regards the form of administration for the free territory, we believe that the popular assembly should have full authority subject only to certain reserve powers in the hands of the Governor. To prevent a breakdown of administration or action in opposition to the principles laid down by the Security Council, we further believe that it is preferable that even these reserve powers of the Governor should be excercised only after reference to the Security Council itself. We hope that these principles will be developed by the Council of Foreign Ministers in considering the draft clause proposed by the French Delegation and adopted by the Commission.

Reparations from Italy

Finally, in the economic sphere we have made clear our attitude towards reparations from Italy. We have refrained from presenting a formal claim under Article 64 B for two main reasons. Firstly, we do not wish to add a burden on Italy which may result in her becoming a focus of economic instability with its inevitable repercussion on World economy. Secondly, it has thus been possible to make available a larger amount for distribution to countries whose claims deserve priority of consideration.

In this connection I would point out that the Indian Delegation has supported a proposal for granting an increased allocation to Ethiopia, the first victim of Fascist aggression.

Mr. President, we believe that the principles which we have sought to follow will lead to the establishment of peace. We are glad to have had this opportunity of meeting together and exchanging views on the problems which the greatest war in human history has left us to solve considering the various interests involved and the complex nature of the questions that have to be resolved. It is not surprising that unanimity was not reached on all the clauses of the peace treaties, but in spite of the divergence of opinion expressed in the conference there has in fact been a substantial measure of agreement on a number of important problems.

We hope that the recommendations that will go forth from the conference to the Council of Foreign Ministers will help them to reach agreement among themselves in a spirit of goodwill and mutual trust and so to draft the final texts of the treaties as will lead to enduring peace.

GENERAL AUNG SAN THANKS PANDIT NEHRU

"Many thanks for good wishes of yourself and your colleagues. With close and friendly co-operation between them and India Burma would regain sooner full independence," says Major-General Aung San replying to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's telegram felicitating General Aung San on the formation of the new Government of Burma.

Commemoration of World Wars

A Press Communique issued by the Secretariat of the Governor-General (Public) on October 16 stated:

His Majesty the King-Emperor has expressed the wish that, in order to commemorate the Wars of 1914-18 and of 1939-45, a two minutes' silence should be observed this year throughout India from 11 a.m. to 11.02 a.m. on Sunday, November 10, and that normal business should cease during the two minutes' silence, though rail, water and air transport will not be suspended. Sunday, November 10, will be known as Remembrance Day. There will be no observance of Armistice Day on November 11.

The Governor-General is confident that all loyal subjects of His Majesty will co-operate in giving effect to this wish. In order that the ceremony should be synchronised throughout British India, it is suggested that 11 a.m. railway time should be adopted everywhere.

"SHIRALA" FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

It has already been announced that the Government of India have been able to secure a new passenger ship, the *Shirala* for transporting the Haj pilgrims. This has been found possible owing mainly to the co-operation and assistance of the British India Steam Navigation Company to whom the ship belongs.

Not only did they not insist on the release of a substitute ship, but they also agreed to waive their claim for compensation on account of any loss in cargo earnings on the outward journey. Special efforts have been made to expedite the arrival of the ship at Bombay by speeding up her departure from Mombasa, by shortening her call at Marmagoa and also by arranging for the transhipment of cargo in other ships from Bombay to Marmagoa, which the *Shirala* cannot discharge in time at the latter port.

The Director of the Mogul Line, Ltd., Bombay, who are operating this vessel on the pilgrim voyage, has generously offered to bear the cost of this transhipment, if any. The Government of India are grateful to both the shipping companies for their valuable assistance, but for which the transport of an additional 1,350 pilgrims would not have been possible.

The pilgrim ships, *Khosru* and *Akbar*, that sailed from Calcutta and Bombay on September 15 and 20, 1946 respectively, arrived at Jedda on October 3 and October 1, 1946, respectively.

The pilgrim ships, *Rizwani* and *Englestan* that sailed from Karachi on September 25 and 26, 1946, reached Jedda on October 4 and 5, 1946, respectively.

PANDIT NEHRU ON BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA

THE Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has issued the following statement:

Certain speeches delivered at the British Conservative Party's Conference held at Blackpool indicate a hostile attitude on the part of some leading members of the Party towards the Interim Government of India. These speeches are irresponsible, full of malice and calculated to stir up strife and prevent unity and settled government in India.

A charge has been made that I am silent about the withdrawal of British troops from India and that we seek to use them for quelling communal disturbances. This charge, as much else in the speeches delivered at Blackpool, is completely false. We do not want to use them for quelling internal disturbances. It was our policy before we took office and it is our policy now to have British troops withdrawn from India immediately or, at any rate, with the greatest possible speed. We do not want them to stay on in India for a day. It is unfair to us and unfair to them to keep them here.

I invite the leaders of the British Conservative Party to support us in these demands and help in giving effect to them in the immediate future. While we have expressed our willingness to co-operate with the United Kingdom, I want to make it perfectly clear on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the Government of India that there will be no co-operation with those who adopt an unfriendly attitude towards us or trifle with the independence of India.

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

India has been invited by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a representative to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs set up by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations which will open at New York on November 18, 1946.

The Commission, which replaces the League of Nations Advisory Committee on traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs, is composed of 15 members of the United Nations.

It has been decided to nominate Mr. H. Greenfield, Member, Central Board of Revenue, as India's representative and Mr. N. Sundaresan, Financial Adviser to the Agent-General to the Government of India in New York as Mr. Greenfield's Alternate *cum* Adviser.

GOVERNMENT MOST SYMPATHETIC TO JUST DEMANDS OF WORKERS

Mr. Asaf Ali's Reply to Railwaymen

"ALL workers should regard themselves as a national army fighting in the economic trenches of the country," said the Hon'ble Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport and Railways, in the Interim Government to a deputation consisting of Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation and Mr. M. Kalyanasundaram, President, South Indian Railway Labour Union, who met him on October 8 to discuss matters relating to the recent South Indian Railwaymen's grievances.

The present Government of India, said Mr. Asaf Ali, should be presumed to be most sympathetic to all the just demands of workers. Immediately on assuming office he studied most carefully the South Indian Railway strike situation and felt convinced that the Union had precipitated the strike without taking a ballot or attempting to negotiate a settlement, caused great loss to the Railway, dislocated movements of essential supplies including foodstuffs, and thrown a heavy strain on those who remained on duty.

Public Reaction

The decision to continue the South Indian Railway strike even after the Interim Government had taken over, was most unfair and was calculated to prejudice the cause of trade unionism itself. Public opinion, as revealed by Press comments from all quarters, was definitely against the organisers of the strike. The Union knew full well that the All-India Railwaymen's Federation had taken up all railwaymen's demands and that all questions affecting pay were covered by the Pay Commission's enquiry.

Mr. Kalyanasundaram said that the strike was not called off on September 2 (the day on which the Cabinet took office) because of fear of victimisation of the staff. The Hon'ble Member's appeal reached the Strike Committee only on September 8. The delay in calling off the strike was, said Mr. Kalyanasundaram, due to delay on the part of the Provincial Government in releasing members of the Strike Committee. Ballot on certain issues had already been taken in April, 1946 which covered the issues now in dispute, but Mr. Asaf Ali pointed out that a ballot taken in April, 1946, could not be held to be valid months later.

Mr. Guruswami placed before the Hon'ble Member issues arising from the strike. He pleaded that offences for which the strikers were being prosecuted were committed in abnormal circumstances and, in cases where conviction resulted in only a petty fine and was for a technical breach the law not involving moral turpitude, the extreme penalty of discharge from service should not be ordered.

Mr. Asaf Ali agreed that cases venial and technical would be dealt with on their merits and with sympathy and asked the Federation to submit a list of such cases. He, however, made it quite clear that men convicted of offences such as theft, arson, grievous injury, and offences of like gravity would not be reinstated. He emphasised that genuine trade unionism should eschew violence and the fact that the workers indulged in violent offences was most regrettable.

"Serious Misconduct"

In regard to the reinstatement of seven discharged men which was one of the Union's demands in connection with the Golden Rock dispute, Mr. Asaf Ali said that all that the Union could reasonably ask for, and this he was prepared to grant, was reinvestigation of the men's cases with the grant of such facilities as the rules permitted. The spirit should be to find out whether the men were guilty or not and the investigation would be undertaken in this spirit taking account of all the objections raised.

As regards the plea that the punishments provided for in the Discipline Rules introduced on April 1, 1945 were heavy, Mr. Asaf Ali agreed that the question of permitting the imposition of fines for petty offences would be examined if the Federation would make a specific recommendation to that effect after getting the opinion of all Unions.

Mr. Asaf Ali said that it would be difficult to arrive at a workable definition of the term "serious misconduct" and if an attempt was made the result might be prejudicial to the interests of the staff. As regards the provision of canteen services, in view of the overall shortage of food, which the Provincial Governments were finding difficult to relieve the most that could be done was to approach Provincial Governments for such assistance as they could render.

Housing Programme

Railway Member informed the deputation that provision for housing all workers had been made on a liberal scale in the Railway Department's programme and, provided funds are available to which end the Union should co-operate with the administration—the workers' grievances on this account should disappear in the near future. The question of allowances came under the purview of the Pay Commission.

Mr. Asaf Ali agreed to examine the demand for distribution of mill cloth through grain shops, and said that if Provincial Textile Commissioners could provide the cloth, arrangements to distribute it through the grain shops could be made.



MR. ASAF ALI, MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND RAILWAYS

Mr. Asaf Ali also undertook to see that every effort was made to ensure a regular supply of all commodities to the grain shops. So long as the question was one of shortage of commodities this was the best that could be done and there could be no justification for claiming compensation for non-supply in unavoidable circumstances.

Staff Benefit Fund Committee

Mr. Asaf Ali further agreed that the question of increasing the membership of the Staff Benefit Fund Committee, so as to provide for an element elected by the staff, would be examined. Mr. Asaf Ali could not commit himself on the question of recognition of the S.I. Railway Labour Union and remarked that it was for the Union to negotiate with the administration as regards the assurances asked for by the latter.

Messrs. Guruswami and Kalyanasundaram thanked Mr. Asaf Ali for the careful consideration given to their demands.

INDIAN TARIFF BOARD

In addition to the claims from certain industries already referred to the Tariff Board, the Government of India have decided to forward to the Board applications received from the following industries, namely: Belting, Steel Belt lacing, Dry Battery, Oleic acid, Stearic acid, Superphosphate, Ferro-Silicon, Alloy tool and Special steel and Pickers.

Firms or persons interested in any of these industries or in industries dependent on the use of these articles, who desire that their views should be considered by the Tariff Board, should address their representations to the Secretary to the Board, Caltex House, Ballard Estate, Bombay 1.

97,000 ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE LINES FOR INDIA

INDIA is to increase her telephone lines from 121,000 to 218,000 of which 20,000 additional lines will be provided in Bombay alone. This figure includes extensions of 2,400 lines at Naigaum Exchange, 3,000 lines at Gell Street, 2,800 lines at Colaba and a new 10,000 lines exchange at Mandvi.

Apart from this ambitious programme for increasing telephone facilities throughout India, the Department is paying special attention to combating inefficiency in the telephone service.

Most of the present difficulties are due to the after effects of the war and the Posts and Telegraphs Department is at present working under handicaps which have proved to be the root cause of most of the complaints. For instance, the erroneous impression that the War Department, now that the war has ceased, has surrendered for civilian use all the telephone connections which it had requisitioned during the war. Actually, the War Department has had to continue the use of a large number of direct lines, not to speak of the manual exchanges. Though a number of connections have been given up by the War Department or are being given up, the process is necessarily slow and certain difficulties are being experienced in meeting demands for new civil connections.

During the war years the Posts and Telegraphs Department had to recruit a large number of temporary staff and employ them after the very briefest of periods of training, and this has provided another cause for complaints as nothing but very poor standard of operating could be expected of such raw recruits. This staff is, however, being trained to improve their operating officers. The amount of work to be done in this direction is considerable and it will take some time to improve the present conditions.

All telephone exchanges and particularly automatic exchanges such as those at Bombay have been severely overloaded. Spare parts were not obtainable during the war and the exchanges are suffering from the wear and tear of these abnormal conditions and makeshift arrangements. Orders have since been placed for new equipment and replacements of badly worn parts are being made. But the Department has to recover from six years of war time limitations and deficiencies and it will take an appreciable time to recover and reach the high standard of service connected in all telephone services.

Lines Heavily Loaded

There is also heavy congestion on all trunk lines throughout India as all the lines erected during the war have not yet been made available to the general public. Urgent telephone calls are still subject to delays of about one to two hours and sometimes when the lines are heavily loaded the delay has been known to be eight hours. More and more lines are being made available to the public and the position will certainly continue to improve.

APPLICATIONS FOR AIR TRANSPORT LICENCES

THE Air Transport Licensing Board received up to October 3, 1946, 64 applications from 14 air transport companies, for licences to operate scheduled air transport services on various routes covering the whole of India, including many Indian States. These applications have been fixed for hearing on various dates between November 4, 1946, and January 24, 1947. Other applications are still being received, said a Press Note, issued by the Communications Department, Government of India, on October 16.

Particulars Published

The proceedings of the Board are of a quasi-judicial nature and, except in any particular case where it may be considered necessary in the public interest to hold the proceedings in private, all applications for licences will be heard in public. The applicants and all other persons making representations under the Indian Aircraft Rules in respect of the applications may appear before the Board in person or through advocates, pleaders or duly authorised agents.

Particulars of the above mentioned 64 applications and the dates on which they will be heard have been published in the *Gazette of India* and many daily newspapers and the States concerned have been requested to publish such particulars in the State Gazettes. The said information may also be obtained from the Secretary, Air Transport Licensing Board, Talkatora Road, New Delhi.

It appears from correspondence received in the Board's Office that the fact is not fully appreciated that applications for licences to operate scheduled air services are required by the rules to be made to the Director-General of Civil Aviation in India, New Delhi, only on prescribed forms available from him.

An American Mission, headed by General George A. Brownell, Personal Representative of President Truman, has come to India to negotiate with the Government of India a long-term bilateral agreement for the operation of air transport services between India and the United States of America.

Formal discussions with General Brownell and party started in New Delhi on October 16, 1946.

RAIL TRANSPORT POSITION

THE rail transport position in India generally where goods traffic is concerned has been easy for some weeks. Numbers of bans and restrictions have been cancelled, and, although it is still necessary to exercise control over movements through certain bottlenecks where transhipment and line capacity impose limitations, and although floods, strikes and civil disturbances in various parts of the country have affected rail transport adversely, essential goods traffic, generally speaking, is being accepted freely.

This, however, is the slack season, and, with the advent of the busy season in a few weeks, it may well be that Railways will again be as heavily tested as they have been in the past. The public would be well advised, therefore, to take advantage of the present lull in the demands on transport to despatch as much of their goods as possible before the busy season sets in.

In the matter of passenger transport, it needs to be appreciated that the number of passengers travelling to-day is twice what it was in 1939 while the coaching stock available for their transport is 15 per cent less than in 1939 as a large number of coaches are still utilised by the Armed Forces. The position is slowly improving, however, and certain new passenger services are being provided. Further additions will be made as rapidly as the building of new coaching stock and the release of stock by the Army permit.

"COMPLAINTS SECTION"

In pursuance of the decision of Government to establish machinery for speedy disposal of complaints made by the public, a new section has been set up in the Railway Board's office, which will be called the "Complaints Section", said a Press Note issued by the Railway Board on October 17.

This section will be in charge of a special Complaints Officer, who will be responsible for the rapid disposal of all complaints, except those connected with compensation claims for loss and damage of goods carried by the railways which should continue to be addressed to the railway administrations concerned. The office of the Complaints Section will be located at Room No. 52, 'N' Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

A 'Complaint Book' will be maintained in the above Office in which the public can enter any complaints they may have and all complaints, whether received by letter or by entry in the Complaint Book, will be given individual attention, and the action taken will be communicated to complainants.

Similar complaints organisations are also being set up at the headquarter offices of each railway administration which will ensure that complaints affecting individual railways will also be expeditiously dealt with.

C.-IN-C. PRESENTS FLAG TO BOYS OF 2ND PUNJAB REGIMENT

Tour of Meerut





MORE than 100 boys of the 2nd Punjab Regiment were on parade on September 27, when Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, during a tour of the Meerut sub-area, presented them with a flag, invested Brig. T. R. Henry, Meerut Sub-Area Commander, with the C.B.E. and decorated veterans of the late war.

Accompanied by Maj.-Gen. H. H. Stables, Lucknow District Commander, the C.-in-C. also inspected signallers of the 6 Jat Regiment and men of the Animal Transport Training Centre. At the Centre he saw the various means employed in the training of mules and watched the progress of a class where men are taught English by basic methods. Later the Field-Marshal inspected 510 Command Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Workshops.

At the Indian and British Military Hospitals, His Excellency spoke to hundreds of patients, including families of Indian Servicemen undergoing treatment in the newly-formed Indian wing.

MORE G.H.Q. APPOINTMENTS DOWNGRADED

Three more Major-Generals' appointments at Armed Forces Headquarters have been downgraded to those of Brigadier. This announcement follows a similar one made in April, this year, to the effect that four Major-Generals', seven Brigadiers' and six Colonels' appointments had been downgraded.

Since March, 1945, five Major-Generals' appointments have been downgraded to those of Brigadier, 20 Brigaders have reverted to the rank of Colonel and one to Lieutenant-Colonel, and ten Colonels to Lieutenant-Colonel. In addition, two Major-Generals' and one Colonel's appointment have been abolished to be replaced by those of a Brigadier and a Colonel respectively.

The appointments of Major-General affected are those of Deputy Engineer-in-Chief, Director of Weapons and Equipment, Director of Military Intelligence, Director of Infantry and the Director of the Armoured Corps.

In addition, with the closing down of the Welfare General's Branch, the appointments of one Lieutenant-General and one Major-General have been abolished.

(Above) Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck presenting the flag to Boy Hav. Mehr Mohamad and (below) the C.-in-C. inspecting the Boys' Club.

C.-IN-C. ATTENDS DUSSERA CELEBRATIONS



SEVERAL "Clean cuts" were scored with a single blow of the *kukri* when men of the 4|9th Gurkha Rifles, veterans of Gen. Orde Wingate's "Chindit" force, celebrated Dussera, on October 24, at Delhi Cantonment.

Present at the ceremony was the C.-in-C. in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, who tied the "pugree of honour" round the head of Jemadar Chakra Bahadur Mall, I.D.S.M., for decapitating a buffalo, the chief sacrifice, with one clean faultless blow. The feat is regarded as a sign of good luck for the battalion during the coming year.

Recitations from the Ramayana, Gurkha dancing sword play and a physical display were some of the features of the Dussera celebrations.

G.H.Q. ARMY POST OFFICE

At a ceremony on the afternoon of October 1 at Armed Forces Headquarters, the transfer of a mail bag by Lt.-Col. M. H. T. Bickers, Director of Army Postal Services, to Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, symbolised the passing of the responsibility for the G.H.Q. Army Post Office to the civil Posts and Telegraphs Department.

"We are thus approaching the last milestones on the road to the restoration of normal peacetime postal arrangements for the Forces in India and the dissolution of the Indian Army Postal Services," said Lt.-Gen. C.M. P. Durnford, Quartermaster-General in India, in his address at the ceremony.

General Durnford stressed the importance of maintaining the contact established during wartime between the Army and civil postal services. "Such a measure," he said, "would form a permanent link between the civil postal services and the Army."

Established in April, 1944, to deal with the volume of correspondence that followed the enormous expansion of General Headquarters, the G.H.Q. A.P.O. handled approximately 12 lakhs of postal packages a month, and realised a monthly postal revenue of about Rs. 2,00,000.

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck attended the Dussera celebrations at the Regimental Centre of the 4|9th Gurkha Rifles at Delhi Cantonment. (Above) the C.-in-C. and other officers watch a performance of folk dances by Gurkha soldiers. (Below) Gurkhas doing Puja (worship) to arms and ammunition.





DR. AMARNATH JHA RECENTLY VISITED BOMBAY WHERE HE MET THE PREMIER, MR. B. G. KHER, AND OTHER PROMINENT OFFICIALS OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT. PICTURE SHOWS DR. JHA ADDRESSING THE LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND CHIEFS OF THE SERVICES AT A LUNCHEON PARTY.

N.W.A. PROJECT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL—DR. JHA

"THE project of the National War Academy was enthusiastically received by all the Provinces and States visited by me during the last two months," said Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chairman of the N.W.A. Working Committee, in an interview with an Army Observer. Dr. Jha returned to Delhi on October 11 after a tour covering nearly 10,000 miles.

Dr. Jha visited the United Provinces, Bihar, Assam, Bengal, Orissa, Madras, Bombay, Sind, N.-W.F.P. and the Punjab as well as Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda and Kashmir. He met the Premiers of most of the Provinces and States, the Education Ministers and other provincial Cabinet members and leading educationists and political leaders.

Explaining the reaction of the Provinces, Dr. Jha said that the main features of the project were acceptable to all. The proposal to do away with social distinctions and the recommendation regarding free tuition, messing and clothing were particularly well received.

Admission to Academy

The only point on the acceptance of which hesitation was displayed by some was that in regard to the system of admission to the academy. While some Provinces, hitherto not well-represented in the Services, asked for an adequate share, others with good representation wanted to maintain their position. But they were more or less all agreed that preferential treatment of any class could not be tolerated in the India of today. Every Province was keen to set up preparatory schools and introduce physical and military training in its secondary schools to enable its young men to compete for admission to the Academy.

"I am really pleased with the keenness of Provinces and States to see the Academy functioning at an early date and their offers of all possible help," said Dr. Jha. He thanked all the Provinces and States for "the very good reception given to him. It was, indeed, a great honour," he said, "to go round on such a mission."



MR. B. G. KHER INTRODUCING DR. JHA TO THE GATHERING.

Kolhapur Support

Unstinted praise for the National War Academy projects and an assurance of all possible help for it is conveyed by Her Highness the Maharani Regent of Kolhapur in a letter received by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India.

Her Highness says: "An institution like the National War Academy has been a long felt want in India, especially as it is to be above party and communal politics and as the selection of candidates will be governed entirely by considerations of merit, irrespective of class, creed and social status. I have no doubt that the boys trained on the lines chalked out by you will prove to be officers of the highest calibre and be an asset to our country."

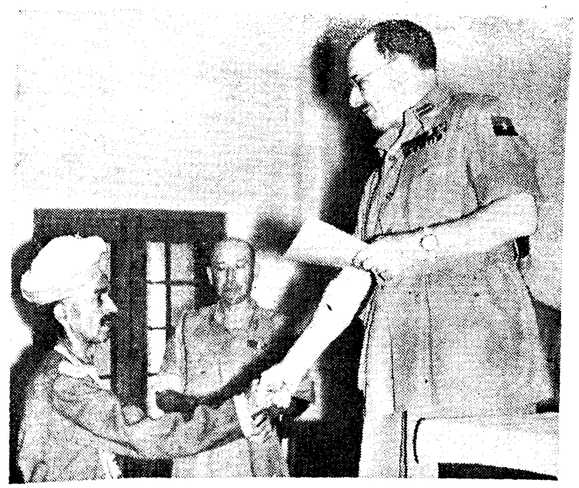
C.-in-C.'s Reply

The Maharani Regent particularly welcomes the decision to locate the institution in Maharashtra, as it would "give direct encouragement to Maratha boys to pursue the high martial tradition of their race."

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, in his reply to the Maharani Regent, says: "I am extremely glad to hear that you are pleased that the new National War Academy is to be situated at Kharakvasla, in the heart of Maharashtra. The martial traditions of the Maratha race are well-known wherever there are soldiers. The bravery of the Maratha soldiers in the late war has proved that these traditions are as strong as ever today."

"Radio Brindiv," the broadcasting station of the British-Indian Division in Japan, was opened recently at Okayama and has already broadcast some ambitious programmes.

Sponsored by the Welfare Branch of Division H.Q., "Radio Brindiv" caters for the needs of both Indian and British troops. Programmes include news from Delhi and London, items in Hindustani and English and relays from Radio S.E.A.C., in addition to music, talks and other features.



LT.-GEN. C.M.P. DURNFORD, QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL, INDIA, PRESENTS THE C.-IN-C.'S COMMENDATION CARD TO JEM. JIVAN RAM OF THE Q.M.G.'S BRANCH.

C.-IN-C.'S COMMENDATION CARDS PRESENTED TO Q.M.G.'S STAFF

BEFORE a large gathering at Armed Forces' Headquarters on September 17, Lt.-Gen. C.M.P. Durnford, Quartermaster General in India, presented 19 civilian members of his staff with Commendation Cards granted by C.-in-C. in India, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, in appreciation of their devoted and loyal work.

Before presenting the Certificates, General Durnford paid a tribute to the work done by his ministerial, clerical and subordinate staffs.

"The Commendation Certificates which I shall present," he said "are no mere impersonal formality. The Commander-in-Chief has ordered me to make this clear. They are an expression of his personal appreciation of services rendered."

Also present at the ceremony were Maj.-Gen. F. J. Alfieri, Director of Supplies and Transport; Maj.-Gen. G. W. Hodgen, Director General, Lands, Hirings and Disposals; and Maj.-Gen. D. Beanland, Deputy Quartermaster General in India.

"THE STATES NEVER FAILED TO RESPOND"

—C.-in-C.

More than 20 Indian States' representatives and military advisers met recently at Delhi to discuss matters relating to the Indian States Forces. Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck addressed the conference which was under the presidentship of Maj.-Gen. F. M. Moore, Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces.

In his opening address, Field Marshal Auchinleck referred to the part played by the Indian States Forces during the late war. He hoped that the spirit of co-operation and the very good relations brought about between the Indian States Forces and the Indian Army would continue during peace.

The C.-in-C. then went on to stress the need for uniformity in equipping the Indian States Forces and the Indian Army. "This," he said, "is most essential and important for co-operation during a war, if it ever comes, to defend India." He hoped that the Indian States Forces and the Indian Army would train together.

"The best officer-education will be available at the proposed National War Academy," said the C.-in-C. and advised the States to select suitable candidates for admission to the Academy where, he hoped, it would be possible to reserve vacancies for them provided they had the necessary qualifications. In the meanwhile, the States were able to send cadets for training at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun.

His Excellency asked the States' representatives to convey to their Rulers his most sincerest thanks for the help given by the States in the late war. "The States," he said, "never failed to respond. They were always ready and often help was forthcoming even before it was asked. I hope it will be forthcoming in the future as well."

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

THE Government of India have published the details of a Scheme under which training in 131 different trades and professions, classed under 5 occupational groups will be imparted to ex-Servicemen, to facilitate their resettlement in civil life.

The object of the scheme is twofold. It seeks to train demobilised Services personnel in useful occupations and enable them to increase their productive and earning capacity. At the same time, it aims at creating the requisite skilled manpower for the economic development of the country with special reference to agriculture and cottage and small scale industries.

In formulating the scheme Government have kept in view the fact that the majority of Services personnel belong to rural areas and a large proportion of them, before joining service, were unskilled workers with meagre earnings. During their service in the Armed Forces they acquired certain skills and grew accustomed to a higher standard of living. Furthermore, it is felt that ex-Servicemen who have become conscious of their increased productive capacity will be reluctant to reconcile themselves with their old standards of living after their demobilisation. The aim of the scheme is, therefore, to enable ex-Servicemen to retain their higher standards of living by training them in gainful occupations.

Demobilised persons who have completed six months' approved service, will be eligible for training under this Scheme. They must possess the necessary aptitude and basic qualifications required for the trade or occupation in which they apply for training. Training will be given to persons whose previous training and experience acquired during the war or before, are not sufficient for useful employment and who, therefore, need further or fresh training to equip themselves for suitable employment in civilian life.

Five Occupational Groups

It is not, however, necessary for any applicant to have already acquired a trade. Applicants will be eligible irrespective of whether they need further training in trades already known to them or fresh training in trades or occupations for which they have aptitude and which hold reasonable prospects of providing employment.

The five occupational groups in which training will be provided are: (1) agriculture and allied occupations; (2) cottage and small-scale industries; (3) commercial occupations; (4) miscellaneous, professional and semi-professional occupations; and (5) apprenticeship in large-scale and non-engineering industries.

These include the cultivation of food and fodder crops, commercial crops, vegetable and fruit-gardening, care of cattle, poultry-farming, sericulture, pisciculture, lac cultivation, cotton-ginning and spinning, wool-shearing, clearing and spinning, hand-weaving, cotton and other fabrics, power-loom weaving, calico printing, casting and turning of brass and other metals for production of domestic wares, engraving, embossing and enamelling of brass and metal wares, wood turning and carving, manufacture of foot-wear, earthenware and stoneware and porcelainware, soap-making, block-making and photo-engraving, lithography, stenography, salesmanship and accountancy, cooking and domestic service.

Apprenticeship will be arranged in cotton, wool and jute mills, cement factories, glassware and porcelain factories, etc.

Training Centres

The period of training varies from trade to trade. Training will be given in six Training Centres to be specially set up for the purpose by the Labour Department and in existing Government (Central, Provincial and Indian States) and private institutions. The six Labour Department Training Centres will be located at Delhi, Patna, Cocanada, Bilaspur, Sialkot and Almora with a training capacity of 250 each.

Sanction has already been accorded by the Central Government to the vocational training of ex-Servicemen in five existing establishments in the U.P. with a total of 265 seats; three in the Punjab with a total of 90 seats and 11 in Bengal with a total of 95 seats. Ex Servicemen are now being admitted to these Training Centres. Recommendations are being received from other provinces in regard to the opening of Training Centres and it is expected that vocational training will be started in these provinces in the near future.

The trainee will be given travelling allowance both when they join the Training Centres and when they return home after their training is completed. They will be given free board and lodging and a stipend of Rs. 10/- each per month besides workshop clothing, medical treatment and recreational facilities. They will also be entitled to a bonus out of the sale proceeds of the goods produced by them.

The scheme, as at present approved by the Government of India, will be worked for three years.

This scheme and the scheme for providing technical training for demobilised Services personnel are the two major ones initiated by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment. Besides these, there are schemes for the training of disabled Services personnel as well as ex-Servicewomen.

In order to ensure proper co-ordination avoid overlapping and reduce expenditure, Government have decided that all training schemes sanctioned for the Directorate-General should be placed under the unified control of one Director of Training and that unification should extend to the inspectional and office staff in the regions.

Over 900,000 Demobilised from the Services

MORE than 900,000 personnel of all ranks were demobilised from the three Services up to the end of August, this year. In that month, 471 were released by the Royal Indian Navy, 79,585 by the Indian Army and 2,989 by the Royal Indian Air Force.

The Navy figure includes 344 ratings, 87 officers and 40 W.R.I.N.S. The total decrease in the strength of the Navy since demobilisation started and up to August 31, 1946, amounts to 1,558 officers, 16,367 ratings and 567 W.R.I.N.S.

Since V.-J. Day and up to the end of August, 882,011 men and women were released from the Indian Army. Of these 5,016 were W.A.C.(I) personnel. In August, 4,067 officers were demobilised, 55,210 Indian ranks, 16,306 non-combatants (enrolled), 653 members of the W.A.C.(I), 1,556 British other ranks attached to the Indian Army and 2,446 civilians.

Net decrease of officers serving in the Indian Army in all theatres is now 16,431. A total of 853,164 Indian ranks, including 30,375 civilians, have also been demobilised.

In August, 398 units were disbanded and one Indian States Forces unit was returned to its State, making a total of 4,452 Indian Army units disbanded and 54 I.S.F. units returned to their States up to the end of August. The total number of I.S.F. personnel returned now amounts to 32,607. Nepalese returned to Nepal amount to 147 officers and 9,031 other ranks.

The Royal Indian Air Force, in August, released 14 officers, 1,019 airmen and 1,956 enrolled followers. Total releases from the R.I.A.F. amount to 142 officers, 6,902 airmen, 6,885 enrolled followers and 51 non-combatant technicians.

INDIA AND I.L.O.

(Continued from Page 277.)

problems that stared the Asiatic countries in the face. He added, "I may here emphasise the fact that the I.L.O. has decided to hold this Asiatic Regional Conference very late in the day. Mr. N.M. Joshi, the Indian Labour leader, has been agitating for such a conference since 1930. In my view, this should have been done long ago. But now at least the belated decision should be enforced punctually."



GENERAL SIR GEOFFRY SCOONES, G. O. C.-IN-C., CENTRAL COMMAND, CHATTING TO AN OFFICER AT A FAREWELL PARADE HELD IN AGRA.

CENTRAL COMMAND CLOSES DOWN

RESPONSIBLE for the training of about a million troops during the late war, Central Command ceased to exist on October 1, this year. The United Provinces Area and the Nagpur Area, administered by Central Command, have been transferred to Eastern and Southern Commands respectively.

Central Command was set up during the fateful days of May 1942, when the Japanese were at the gates of India. In its charge were more than 40 training centres, including two very large ones at Jubbulpore—the Ordnance and the Signals training centres.

Military Installations

Central Command was also responsible for many main military installations and for the initial movements of stores from these installations to ports and field areas. This, combined with the movements of reinforcements, made the Command one of the most important components of the India base.

First G.O.C.-in-C. of Central Command was Lt.-Gen. Sir Henry Willcox. He was succeeded by Gen. Sir Geoffry Scoones to whom fell the task of winding up the formation.

"Thank You for What You Have Done"

"Now that Central Command has ceased to exist, I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of and deep gratitude for the work that you and all those under you have done during the past years of war and of change from war to peace," says Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, in a message to Lt.-Gen. Sir Geoffry Scoones, who was G.O.C.-in-C., Central Command.

"Formed in great haste at a time of great national danger and emergency, Central Command under Lieut.-General Sir Henry Willcox at once plunged into the great task of taking over a vast amount of the administrative work from the three existing commands, Northern, Southern, and Eastern, which to a greater or less extent, had all to bear important operational responsibilities thrust upon them by the Japanese advance towards India.

"In Central Command were concentrated a very large proportion of the training centres and establishments of the Army as well as a great number of the maintenance repair and storage depots by whose efforts our Armies in the South East Asia Command were kept in the field.

Contribution to Victory

"The results of the efforts of those responsible in Central Command for the processing of these manifold essential activities are evident from the final Victory achieved by the Supreme Allied Commander.

"In particular the standard of training reached by the formations and centres in the Command can hardly ever have been surpassed elsewhere. The Japanese Army could bear incontestable evidence to the truth of this statement, and those responsible for achieving this result have earned the gratitude of the Nation and the Commonwealth.

"On behalf of the Army in India I wish you all good luck and good fortune in the future, and thank you for what you have done."

USE OF TROOPS IN CIVIL DISORDER

It has been stated in certain newspapers that only non-Muslim troops have been employed to deal with civil disorder and it is suggested that this is in accordance with a policy laid down by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief.

Both the statement and the suggestion are entirely unfounded, says a Press Note from G.H.Q.

In the Calcutta riots, apart from the 1/3 and the 3/8 Gurkha Rifles, the 5th Jat Regiment and the 4th Rajput Regiment were used. The composition of the two latter battalions is 50 per cent Hindu and 50 per cent Muslim.

In Bombay

In Bombay the only Indian troops employed were the 1/2 Gurkha Rifles and the 2nd Sikh Regiment because they were at Santa Cruz, whereas the nearest battalion containing Muslims, the 3rd Frontier Force Rifles, was at Kalyan, 30 miles away.

Neither the location nor the movement of troops is governed by communal considerations, which have no place in the Army. For the purpose of quelling civil disorder, notoriously the most unpleasant and unpopular duty that troops can be called upon to perform, those nearest to hand are employed, irrespective of their class composition.

DIRECTOR, SELECTION OF PERSONNEL



Brigadier Nathu Singh

BRIGADIER Nathu Singh, whose appointment as Director, Selection of Personnel, has recently been announced, comes from the well-known Rathore Rajput family of Dungarpur State in Rajputana. A warrior family, after many vicissitudes they came under the service of Maharawal Ram Singh Ji of Dungarpur, where the family was granted a *jagir* for services to the State.

Born in 1902, Brigadier Nathu Singh was educated at the Mayo College, Ajmer, where he had a distinguished career. Commissioned at Sandhurst in 1922, he did a year's attachment with the South Lancashire Regiment. On his return to India in 1924 he joined the 1st Rajput Regiment. For most of the time he was the battalion machine gun officer and his platoon and company won the All India Mother Country Cup in 1925 and 1931. In 1933, he was appointed Adjutant and took part in the Mohmand operations of that year and was mentioned in despatches.

After graduating from the Staff College, Quetta, in 1938, he was appointed Staff Captain and later Brigade Major of the Nowshera Brigade, which during the late war moved to the eastern front in an operational role. In the middle of 1942 he was appointed G.S. O. II of 4 Corps in Imphal. He was later posted as 2nd-in-Command to the 2 Rajput Regiment. In October of the next year he was given command of the 9th Rajput Regiment (jungle training unit).

After the Japanese surrender, he took his old battalion, the 1st, to the Andamans and the Nicobar Islands and received the formal Jap surrender at Nancowry.

In May, this year, Brigadier Nathu Singh was appointed Deputy Director, Selection of Personnel, with the rank of Colonel and was promoted Director in October.

Tempests and Dakotas for R.I.A.F.

TWO Spitfire squadrons of the R.I.A.F. are being re-equipped with Tempest II aircraft, the first batch of which arrived recently from England.

The squadrons concerned are No. 3, commanded by S/Ldr. R. Atmaram, and No. 8, commanded by S/Ldr. M. M. Engineer, D.F.C. Both squadrons, entirely composed of Indian personnel, are stationed at Kolar, near Bangalore.

The Tempest is a fighter aircraft especially designed for work in tropical climates. It has a cruising speed of over 300 m.p.h., a range of approximately 600 miles and can carry two 500 lb. bombs.

No. 12 Fighter Squadron entirely composed of Indian personnel, is being re-equipped with twin-engined Dakota transport aircraft.

This squadron, which is the first Indian squadron to be equipped with aircraft of this type, is commanded by Wing Commander P.C. Lal. Its conversion from Spitfires to Dakotas, the standard type extensively used by the R.A.F., will shortly be completed.

The Dakota, flying at a cruising speed of 160 m.p.h., has a range of approximately 1,500 miles. It can carry a freight load of 6,500 lbs. or 22 passengers and baggage. A multi-purpose aircraft, the Dakota is used for towing gliders, dropping supplies, paratroops and for other airborne tasks.

BOMBAY PREMIER VISITS MILITARY FARMS

Accompanied by Dr. M. D. Gilder the Hon'ble Mr. B.G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, recently visited the Military Farms at Pimpri and Kirkee. They were shown round by Mr. J.T. Cox, M.B.E., Deputy Assistant Director of Military Farms, Southern Command.

Mr. Kher expressed great satisfaction with what he saw. He wrote in the visitors' book: "We visited this farm—myself and Dr. Gilder—and saw the Dairy very fine. We found everything efficiently kept and were pleased with what we saw."

Established in 1906, the Military Farm at Kirkee has a total acreage of nearly 500 and a milking herd of 742. During August 1946, this farm produced over 350,000 lbs. of milk. 7,220 lbs. of butter and 2,217 lbs. of cream.

The Pimpri Farm was started in 1943 to help meet the demands of the greatly reinforced Indian Army. It has a milking herd of 1,927 and during August, this year, produced over 410,000 lbs. of milk, 5,735 lbs. of butter and 3,644 lbs. of cream.

I.A.M.C. OFFICER GETS POLISH DECORATION



Major A. Haq

IN recognition of the services with the Polish medical authorities in Persia, Maj. A. Haq, I.A.M.C. has been awarded the Polish Silver Cross of Merit.

Maj. Haq was in charge of a field hygiene section engaged in the evacuation of over 110,000 Polish refugees from South-East Russia, through the Persian port of Pehlavi on the Caspian Coast, from April to November, 1942.

On the conclusion of the evacuation he was appointed Medical Liaison Officer with the Polish medical authorities in Teheran. In this capacity he helped towards the continuance of cordial relations between the medical services of the Indian Army and the Polish medical authorities.

FIRST INDIAN COMMANDER OF "HIMALAYA"

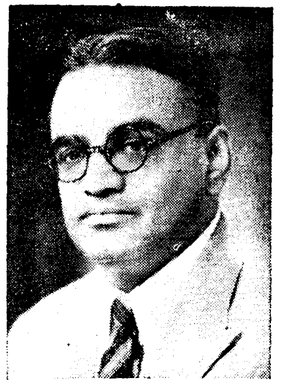
Commander A. Chakravarty, R.I.N. has assumed command of H.M.I.S. *Himalaya*, a shore establishment in Karachi.

H.M.I.S. *Himalaya*, which was commissioned during the late war, is the largest gunnery school in Asia and Commander Chakravarty is the first Indian to be appointed its Commanding Officer.

Commander Chakravarty specialised in gunnery in H.M.S. *Excellent*, Royal Navy Gunnery Establishment in Whale Island. Very recently, he underwent a Staff Course in England. He also led the Indian Naval Contingent during the Victory Parade in London, last June.

Telegrams are now accepted for the following additional places in the Philippine Islands, namely, Agoo, Libmanan and Lipa-Luzon in Luzon Island.

MR. M. K. VELLODI ON WORKING OF COTTON TEXTILE CONTROLS IN INDIA



MR. M. K. VELLODI, DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN LONDON.

"WHEN Japan entered the war in 1941, India was faced with the task of supplying almost alone more than half the world with its cotton cloth. Defence Forces in Egypt, Near and Middle East, in India and Australasia demanded from 800 to 1,200 million yards of cloth each year. At the same time, civilian needs in the same areas had to be met—and these amounted 1942, for example, to a further 1,000 million yards. India met all these demands from her own resources an almost heroic effort and one about which more should be known." These facts were mentioned by Mr. M. K. Vellodi, Deputy High Commissioner for India in London, in an address delivered on October 1 to the East India Association at Caxton Hall. Sir John Greaves was in the chair.

Textile Control

"In such circumstances," Mr. Vellodi continued, "prices rocketted until in the spring of 1943, levels for piecegoods were 500 per cent. up. Much more grievous an inflation might have ensued had not the Government of India taken steps to control the industry.

"The establishment of the Standard Cloth Commission in February 1943, was followed in May of the same year by the creation of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies and on June 17, by the promulgation of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order which prescribed that all cotton goods should be branded, with the date of manufacture and sold within six months of that date. Following the setting up of the Textile Control Board on June 28, the next step was the fixation of prices of cotton manufactures and on October 4, this was accomplished.

Increased Production

"Measures for increased production had next to be devised, for, as a result of increased exports, only 5,000 million yards of cloth was left for distribution in India—or just over 12 yards annually per head. This end was attained by reducing the number of varieties of cloth from 5,000 to 500. A 'standard' cloth was devised, of which over 2,000 million yards was sold for about Rs. 100,00,00,000. As everywhere scarcity produced black-market in cloth, so distribution had next to be canalised by licensing certain dealers. Finally, in the face of considerable opposition, supply was regulated by regionalisation and with this step, the back of the problem was broken.

"There were setbacks. Bengal suffered from a cloth famine and transport had to be specially regulated to meet the situation. Questions of dyestuffs, chemicals, machinery—all supplied almost entirely by Great Britain—had to be dealt with on priority basis, which necessitated the establishment of a Priority Advisory Committee. Coal became a problem and so did raw cotton, of which large quantities had to be imported from Egypt and South Africa. Yet, all these difficulties were overcome and, as we know, India successfully fulfilled all her obligations in this as in other matters."

Co-operation of Trade

"It was the first time," concluded the speaker, "that the Government of India had undertaken a control of such dimensions, spread over the land and comprising within its range the largest single industry and trade in the Country. Over 400 textile mills came within its jurisdiction, not to speak of a very large number of small factories which produced comparatively small quantities of cloth. There was no blueprint of such



THE INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS AND RECEIVED ADDED STIMULUS FROM THE WAR. PICTURE SHOWS A SECTION OF THE WOOLLEN MILL AT DHARIWAL, FAMOUS FOR ITS WOOL PRODUCTS.

control, ready for adoption. Problems were tackled as they arose and there was no precedent to fall back upon.

"It was truly a co-operative effort between the Government and industry and trade and so far as the Government was concerned, it is worth recording that the heads of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Sir Azizul Haque and Sir Akbar Hydari were Muslims, the Textile Commissioner a Hindu, his assistants Englishmen and the Textile Control Board itself comprised Christians, Hindus and Muslims, Englishmen and Indians."

A feature of discussion which followed was the large amount of supplementary information supplied by various speakers. Sir Arthur Waugh of Industries and Supplies Department, New Delhi, was able for instance, to bring Mr. Vellodi's story right up-to-date. He said that there were still difficulties but bore testimony to the continued co-operation on the part of the trade interests concerned.

Mr. J. Thomson of the India Office Economies Department, who has had recent first hand experience on the subject, concurred and said that this co-operation augured well for the future.

The Chairman paid a tribute to the lecturer for his work as Textile Commissioner and Secretary of the Textile Control Board and a vote of thanks brought the proceedings to a close.

WITHDRAWAL OF CONTROLS ON CONSUMER GOODS

THE Hoarding and Profiteering (Prevention) Ordinance, 1943 and the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944 lapsed on September 30, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Industrial and Supplies, Department, Government of India, on October 4.

The Government of India will therefore no longer fix ceiling prices or margins of profits under the former Ordinance or issue instructions with regard to the distribution of articles covered by the latter Order. Correspondence pending on all matters covered by the controls under these two Laws will be treated as closed.

Representations have been made from time to time by Associations representing manufacturers, importers and the retail and wholesale trade, that with the return to peacetime conditions, these controls are no longer necessary and that their relaxation will, besides obviating a large amount of irksome routine, serve the interests of the consumer.

In allowing these particular controls to lapse, the Government of India hope that the conditions which necessitated their imposition will not recur, and that there will be no recrudescence of hoarding and profiteering. The Government of India will watch the results of this withdrawal of profiteering and hoarding controls.

A Warning

Provincial Governments are, however, free under their own powers of legislation to judge and introduce laws to control prices and distribution as necessitated by local conditions. The Government of India, too, are prepared to consider the re-imposition of these laws from the Centre, if it is found on consultation with Provincial Governments that there is any tendency to exploit the consumer once again either by way of unconscionable margins of profit or holding or distribution of goods for the purpose of exploitation.

With larger supplies and greater freedom in import and distribution there should be a distinct tendency for prices to fall, leaving yet a fair margin for dealers, who will have the advantage of quicker turnover of business as a consequence.

DISPOSALS INQUIRY COMMITTEE

In order to review the problems of disposals and suggest expeditious and better methods, the Government of India have appointed a Disposals Enquiry Committee consisting of Sir Maurice Gwyer (Chairman), Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya and Mr. S. Bhoothalingam (Secretary). The Committee began their enquiry on October 21, 1946 and are expected to finish their work within about a month.

As the whole matter of disposals is difficult and involved, the Government have felt that it would be in the interests of the public and of the Department alike, if persons outside the Department, commanding undoubted public confidence, could at this stage make a study of the whole disposals field and give the Government their impressions and conclusions.

The terms and references of the Committee are: (1) to review the problems of the Department and to advise whether the organisation, personnel and class of officer and staff are adequate and suitable for handling these problems; (2) to advise whether the methods of disposal in themselves are suited to producing results which are: *(a)* in the interests of the public; and *(b)* expeditious; (3) to advise whether, in their view, there are definite indications of corruption; (4) and, in general, to suggest methods of improving the performance and standards.

NEWSPRINT CONTROL SHOULD GO

IT would be desirable for controls on newsprint to be lifted by Government by March 31, 1947. Newspapers, particularly the smaller ones, should organise themselves in such a way that there will be no need for Government control of distribution of newsprint beyond that date. If a control should be necessary, it should preferably be left to an organisation of the newspapers, against whose decision an appeal may perhaps lie to the Government.

These conclusions were reached at a meeting of the Newsprint Advisory Committee held on October 12 in New Delhi with the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Industries and Supplies, as the Chairman.

As regards manufacturing newsprint in India, the unanimous opinion of the Committee was that the possibilities should be investigated within the course of the next one year. It was explained on behalf of the Government, that they would be prepared to send experts round the country to find out the suitability of the available resources. Both the representative associations of newspapers agreed to contribute towards the expenses of such investigations.

Besides officials, the meeting was attended by representatives of newspapers and dealers in newsprint.

PRICES OF IMPORTED PAPER

The revised ceiling prices of different varieties of imported paper published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated July 13, and August 8, were to come into force on August 15, but their operation was postponed first to September 15, and then to October 15, as certain representations which had been received in this connection required detailed examination.

For this purpose some further information was called for from the principal importing firms, but as complete particulars have not yet been furnished by them, the Government of India have decided to further postpone the operation of the revised ceiling prices by one month, *i.e.*, from October 15 to November 15, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on October 13.

The Railway have sanctioned a traffic survey being carried out by the Agency of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administrations for a line of railway on the Broad Gauge from Ahmadnagar to Sheogaon, a district of about 45 miles.

The Survey will be known as "Ahmadnagar Sheogaon Railway Survey".



COCONUTS.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL IMPORTS

Assistance to Soap Industry

THE Government of India have for some time been considering the question of instituting a control over the price of Indian copra and coconut oil in consultation with the Government of Madras, Travancore, Cochin and Mysore. Such a control will become necessary if prices do not fall substantially with the arrival of the new crop, which is expected to be good both in India and Ceylon, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies, Government of India, on October 15.

Ceylon Copra

Prior to the outbreak of war, India used to import 200,000 tons of copra per annum. Internal production largely confined to Madras Province and Travancore and Cochin States is in the region of 200,000 tons. There is no supply at present from Far Eastern sources because of dislocation in production caused by the war and the demands made on the limited quantities available as a consequence of general shortage all over the world in oils and fats. The Ministry of Food, H.M.G., have purchased the entire output of Ceylon copra and coconut oil for the five years ending December, 1950. Of the total Ceylon production, a quota of 65,000 tons in terms of copra has been allocated to India for the year 1946. It has not been possible to obtain a larger quota for this year, but there is reason to hope that the quota will be larger in succeeding years.

Of the 65,000 tons allotted to India for 1946, only a small quantity has arrived so far, on account of a short fall in the Ceylon crop for 1945-46. But it is hoped that the bulk of the quota will be received by the end of the year. Indian copra would also arrive in large quantities by then, and internal prices should fall substantially.

Since the entire Ceylon crop has been purchased by H.M.G., it will not be possible for some time to import Ceylon coconut oil over and above the quota obtained as a direct 'Government to Government' transaction. Should any importer, however, find it possible to import the oil from other sources, any reasonable assistance to secure it will be given. Copra and coconut oil are now on the Open General Licence.

Indian demands for coconut oil as a raw material for industry have increased largely on account of the expansion of the Soap Industry which developed considerably during the war. The only alternative to coconut oil in the manufacture of soap is hydrogenated oil, of which only small quantities are available at present. Provision has been made for such supplies in the prospective expansion of the hydrogenated oil industry.

Quotas for Soap Manufacturers

Numerous applications are being made to the Government of India for assistance in the matter of supplies. The only oil which the Government are in a position to distribute is the imported oil, which is at present very limited in quantity. The Government of India have already allotted the meagre supplies of Ceylon coconut oil for industrial purposes, particularly to the Soap Industry, which is largely dependent on coconut oil and is, therefore, likely to be at a disadvantage compared with the foreign soap industry, which is able to get coconut oil at lower prices than those prevailing in India to-day. With the exception of a few special cases, direct quotas have been granted only to soap manufacturers whose average production of soap over the last few years has been over 30 tons per month.

The Government of India have placed substantial portions of the imports at the disposal of the Governments of Bengal, Bombay, Sind, the Punjab and Bihar for purposes of distribution, at their discretion, for domestic consumption and small-scale industry. Applicants in these areas who have not been allotted any oil quota should, therefore, approach the Provincial Governments. They should take note of the fact that the bulk of the available coconut oil is of Indian origin and that the distribution of this is not controlled.

PRIVATE TRADE WITH HUNGARY

Facilities for private trade with Hungary have now been restored, according to a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated October 12, 1946. Persons and concerns in India can, therefore, resume business with persons and concerns in Hungary, subject to the export, import and financial regulations at present in force.

Money and property derived from future trading transactions with Hungary is also exempted from the control of the British Indian Custodian, but this exemption does not apply to Hungarian money and property already subject to such control.

DECLINE IN INDIA'S COTTON TEXTILE EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA

Indian Trade Commissioner's Report

THE urgent need for a serious effort by Indian manufacturers to retain the markets in manufactured goods, particularly textiles, developed during war years in Australia, is emphasised by Mr. R. R. Saxena, Indian Trade Commissioner in Australia, in a report presented to the Government of India. Mr. Saxena, who is now in India for consultations with the Government of India sounds a note of warning that there is a real danger of India losing the valuable trade she had built up in the finer qualities of cotton textiles unless production is stepped up in India, and Indian manufacturers improve the quality and attractiveness of their goods and effect economies in order to reduce cost of production and prices.

The Trade Commissioner points out that before the war Indo-Australian trade was of unimportant dimensions. India's important article of export was jute and she received in return from Australia principally wool and processed foods. The war brought about an almost revolutionary change in the character of this trade. Jute was dethroned from its position of pre-eminence in India's export trade by cotton textiles and Australia shipped to India a variety of goods including machinery, war materials and chemicals which in normal times we would have obtained from other sources.

Competition

As a result of these changes, India rose from an obscure position to third place in the overseas trade of Australia. The shortage of supplies in the United Kingdom, the dollar stringency, the necessity to reduce haulage to a minimum and elimination of Japan were factors which contributed to these results. But with the cessation of hostilities and the gradual disappearance of these causes, there was a danger of India sinking back so far as this market was concerned to the position from which she had so triumphantly emerged.

"This process," Mr. Saxena points out, "appears to have begun, specially in so far as exports of cotton piecegoods are concerned. While the war was on, the Australian buyer snapped up anything and everything he could get by way of cotton textiles in India regardless of quality and price. This is no longer the case. Cotton goods are now entering the Australian market in increasing quantities from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada and our exports have contracted.

"It is indeed unfortunate that at the very time when we should have concentrated on maintaining and, if possible, on increasing our hold on this newly acquired market, the shortage of supplies in India should have forced us to curtail the export quota to Australia. Had this not happened, we might conceivably have done better, though it is open to doubt if it could have had any appreciable effect on imports from the United Kingdom. The extremely favourable Tariff treatment accorded to these imports, the quality of British products and the traditional trade connections between the two countries make it extremely unlikely that these imports could in any case be held in check. We could, however, have perhaps succeeded in preventing entry of textiles from the United States and Canada.

Japan's Textile Industry

"The probability now is that we shall lose our trade in the finer qualities of cotton textiles and will be reduced to the position which Japan occupied before the war. Even this may prove to be only a temporary phase. The decision has been reached that the textile industry in Japan should be rehabilitated as quickly as possible in order not only to satisfy minimum domestic requirements but also to provide an export surplus to be exchanged for food. Japan has the inestimable advantage which India does not possess of being able to manufacture the bulk of the textile machinery she needs. The process of rehabilitation of the textile industry in Japan is, therefore, likely to be easy and rapid. Japanese textiles may be expected to make their appearance in the overseas markets in the very near future and as in Australia they pay the same duty as textiles from India, the competition will be on even terms.

"The conditions in which competition is offered in the overseas markets will, however, be somewhat more favourable to the Indian manufacturer than was the case before the war in as much as labour standards in Japan have been improved, monopoly controls have been abolished and Government encouragement of exports by way of subsidies, etc., has been eliminated. The depreciation of the yen should further help to raise prices, but this is a very uncertain factor as it is not known what international exchange value the yen will eventually have nor is it certain that sales will be made on a yen basis.

"Apart from these factors there is also a certain degree of prejudice at present against trading with an ex-enemy country which will react in favour of imports from India. We must not, however, forget the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the Japanese manufacturer who will do everything possible to regain the markets she has lost.

"For these reasons the outlook for exports of Indian textiles is not as rosy as might otherwise appear to be the case. In order to safeguard this trade it is essential that Indian manufacturers should -

(i) engage in research to increase the range of their products and improve the quality and attractiveness of their goods,



MR. R. R. SAXENA, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S TRADE COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA.

(ii) undertake intensive study of overseas market requirements,

(iii) effect economies to reduce cost of production and prices to a competitive level, and

(iv) adopt improved marketing methods.

"These recommendations, of course, pre-suppose that India will have an increasing surplus of textiles to export. If production cannot be stepped up and a much larger margin provided for exports, we might as well give up thinking in terms of export trade in cotton textiles."

Referring to India's traditional exports to Australia, namely, jute, hides and skins, nuts, oilseeds, spices, shellac mica, etc., the Trade Commissioner anticipates no substantial changes except such as are dictated by conditions of supply in India.

Other Commodities

As regards other commodities, Australian consumers, reports Mr. Saxena, prefer Ceylonese to Indian tea and the offtake of the latter has in consequence been relatively small. India has also suffered a setback in exports of coffee due to competition from East Africa and large imports of cheap coffee from the Belgian Congo. Carpets and floor coverings which remained on the prohibited list for a time during the war are now allowed to be imported under a licensing system, but the duty of 30 per cent. for Indian as against 15 per cent. of U.K. goods, discriminates heavily in favour of the British product and makes it unlikely that India shall be able to have the major share of exports of this article.

The Trade Commissioner also urges the great need for a serious effort to be made to find in Australia a market for the goods manufactured in India which are in demand in that country. As examples of such goods he mentions sports requisites, buttons, cutlery and hardware, artware and jewellery and manufactures of silk.

India's exports of cotton textiles to Australia.

The following table illustrates the sharp rise and decline in exports of Indian cotton textiles to Australia (All figures in £):—

	1938-39	1943-44	1944-45
Canvas and Duck	8,000	612,000	208,000
Grey Unbleached	3,000	1,035,000	771,000
White bleached	18,000	756,000	289,000
Dyed, Coloured and Woven	Nil	1,604,000	612,000
Printed	2,000	1,271,000	1,382,000
Total	31,000	5,378,000	3,262,000

Stressing the extreme care which should be exercised in packing goods for export to foreign markets, the Trade Commissioner mentions an incident relating to Indian export of talc to New Zealand. He says this product is utilised for the manufacture of talcum powder and the Indian article has been in favour in both Australia and New Zealand on account of its superior quality.

Recently a few deaths of children were reported from tetanus in New Zealand and it was suspected that the germs had been carried in the Indian talc. A hue and cry was raised in the Press of both countries against the use of Indian talc. One firm took the opportunity to advertise widely that in the manufacture of their powders they did not use the Indian product. As a result of further investigation it transpired that the germs were probably carried in the gunny bags in which talc was shipped and that the manufacturers of the powder had not taken adequate precautions as they should have done to disinfect the talcum before use. The case received wide publicity and some degree of harm was done.

Australian Exports

Continuing, the Trade Commissioner points out that as against the decline in the exports from India during the last two years accounted for principally by reduction in the exports of cotton textiles, exports from Australia to India have shown a very substantial increase due principally to exports of wheat.

Exports of other important items like wool and dairy products have remained subject to Australia's contractual obligations to the United Kingdom. The wartime prohibition for export of wool continues in force and questions relating to exports would be dealt with by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in collaboration with the Wool Realisation Commission. Before any wool is allowed to be exported, the condition precedent is that it should have been purchased at auction in or under the Wool Disposals Plan.

Regarding the possibilities of India procuring capital goods from Australia, Mr. Saxena points out that the progress of conversion of wartime industries has been hampered on account of acute shortage of coal and general industrial unrest. Whatever is produced, mostly goes into domestic consumption and the small surplus left over has to be apportioned among the large number of buyers.

"Another difficulty in obtaining certain types of manufactured products from Australia," the Trade Commissioner points out, "arises from the fact that frequently the Australian manufacturer is only an offshoot of the parent company situated either in the United Kingdom or in the United States of America. He is debarred from selling outside a certain geographical zone and India is in most cases outside the prescribed marketing zone for Australia. A number of Australian manufacturers are now seeking a revision of their contracts with the parent companies with a view to be able to sell to India, but it is not certain that these efforts will be successful in all cases.

During recent months a steady stream of Indian merchants has gone to Australia on buying missions. Most of them have returned disappointed because Australian sellers are not at present greatly interested in overseas buyers for the reason that they have so little to sell. Indian merchants are, therefore advised to make enquiries regarding availability of goods they wish to buy before proceeding to Australia.

EXPORTS OF STORES TO BURMA

According to the procedure announced by the Government of India, on May 21, 1946, any individual or firm returning to Burma and requiring to export *bona fide* office equipment sufficient for three months has to apply to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi, through the Government of Burma Representative in Calcutta producing as evidence the relevant letter from the Government of Burma permitting the entry into Burma.

This procedure has now been changed. It has now been decided that applications of the nature referred to above should be made to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi, through the Secretary to the Government of India, Commonwealth Relations Department, New Delhi, and not through the Government of Burma Representative in Calcutta.

HOW TO INCREASE COTTON YIELDS

As a result of investigations made at the Agricultural Research Station at Koilpatti it has been estimated that there is an increase in cotton yields by about 16 per cent if the Irungu Sorghum crop, which is rotated with cotton, is mixed with indigo.

Cumbu and Irungu are two types of Sorghum crops that are commonly rotated with cotton in the "Tinnies" tract comprising the three districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly in the Madras Presidency. Irungu is mostly grown as fodder for cattle.

The yield of cotton following Irungu is less by about 16 per cent on an average compared to the crop following Cumbu. The difference is due, among other reasons, to the increased sodium content in Irungu resulting in the alkalisation of soil, particularly during the later stages of growth.

To remove these ill-effects correctives like sulphur, gypsum and magnesite were tried but were found unsuited for rainfed conditions. Among several legumes experimented, indigo was found to be the best. Indigo seeds can be mixed up to 12 lbs. per acre while sowing Irungu.

REVALIDATION OF IMPORT LICENCES

Licences for import of goods other than foodstuffs from countries outside the sterling area at present stand automatically revalidated to cover shipment up to December 31, 1946 only if initially granted during July-December, 1945 or January-June, 1946, said a Press Note, issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on October 17.

Consistent with the present policy of liberalisation of import control regulations it has now been decided to revalidate automatically to cover shipment up to December 31, 1946, all licences issued initially for the January-June, 1945 shipping period for all classes of imports from non-sterling area countries except licences for machine tools, vegetable seeds and foodstuffs subject to allocation by the International Emergency Food Council. Importers need not therefore apply for formal revalidation of such licences to the licensing authority.

The Indian Historical Records Commission has been invited by Holkar Government to hold its 23rd meeting at Indore and the dates of the meetings have been fixed from December 20 to December 22, 1946.

RAIL RECEIPTS STEP UP TO RS. 231 CRORES DURING 1945-46

Accounts of Central Departments Examined

THE Public Accounts Committee commenced its sittings on September 30, and examined the Appropriation Accounts of Railways for 1944-45.

During the year under review the gross receipts amounted to Rs. 221 crores and working expenses, including interest and depreciation, to Rs. 171 crores leaving a surplus of Rs. 50 crores of which Rs. 32 crores was paid to General Revenues and the balance transferred to the Railway Reserve Fund which closed with a balance of Rs. 37 crores. During 1945-46 the receipts touched a further high level of Rs. 231 crores but working expenses were also higher at Rs. 191 crores. Of the net surplus of Rs. 40 crores, Rs. 32 crores will accrue to General Revenues and the balance to the Railway Reserve Fund.

Control of Expenditure

The Committee reviewed the financial results of the year and the future prospects on the existing trends. It also reviewed the results of the working of Grain shops and approved of certain proposals for the rearrangement of Railway demands designed to secure better Parliamentary control of expenditure.

The Committee concluded examination of the Appropriation Accounts of the Railways for 1944-45 at its meeting on October 1, 1946.

The Committee examined the accuracy of budgeting and the control of expenditure during the year under review. It also dealt with the more serious irregularities mentioned in the Audit Report and reviewed the measures taken to eradicate corruption on the Railways.

Finance Department

The Committee at its meeting on October 2, examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1944-45 for which the Finance Department is responsible.

During the year under review, the demand for silver coin continued unabated and the documents placed before the Committee revealed that during that year 22¼ crore tolas of silver were used for coinage. The Mints were kept working to capacity but the demand on the Currency Note was on a somewhat reduced scale as compared with the previous year.

The Appropriation Accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for 1944-45, were examined by the Committee on October 7.

The Department had another record year, the receipts amounting to Rs. 29.38 crores against Rs. 25.17 crores in 1943-44. The Working expenses were Rs. 3 crores higher at Rs. 19.14 crores and the entire surplus of the Department amounting to Rs. 10.24 crores was contributed to general revenues. The accumulated surplus of the Department at the end of 1944-45 stood at Rs. 7.32 crores.

It has been decided to acquire at a cost of Rs. 4 crores the War Department share of the main net-work of the Tele-communications system of which the total cost is over Rs. 15 crores. The acquisition of the regional portion of the system at a suitable price is under consideration.

The Committee reviewed the steps taken to improve the purchasing and accounting of stores in the Department. A Special Committee under the chairmanship of Sir George Thomas, Retired Chief Judge of the Oudh Chief Court, set up recently to enquire into past irregularities and suggest measures for the proper planning, provisioning, stocking and issuing of stores, in the Department commenced its work from August 1, 1946.

P.W.D.

At its meeting on October 8, the Committee examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1944-45 for which the Labour Department and the Department of Works, Mines and Power are responsible.

The demands on the Central Public Works Department during 1944-45 continued to be as heavy as in the previous year and the total cost of the works carried out by the Department touched the record figure of Rs 27½ crores against Rs. 26 crores in 1943-44. At the end of the year the Department had 11 circles and sixty-nine divisions.

The Committee reviewed the control of expenditure of the various Civil Works grants and emphasised the need for a reversion to the normal procedure as early as possible.

The total expenditure on New Delhi inclusive of expenditure debited to Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and Defence Services amounted to Rs. 28 crores up to the end of 1944-45.

Assistance to Burma Evacuees

The Committee examined on October 9 the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1944-45 for which the Departments of Commonwealth Relations, Education, Health and Agriculture are responsible.

The Committee reviewed the expenditure on the provision of assistance to evacuees from Burma on which Rs. 218 lakhs were spent during the year. The number of families to whom assistance was given was estimated at 68,000.

During 1944-45, 820 million tablets of quinine substitutes were obtained from abroad at a cost of Rs. 123 lakhs to meet the wartime shortage of quinine in the country.

The following day the Committee examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1944-45 for which the Central Board of Revenue and the Commerce Departments are responsible.

The revenue from income-tax continued to be the mainstay of Central finance during the year, the receipts, exclusive of the share paid to the Provinces, touching the record figure of Rs. 165 crores. The receipts from Customs duties were about Rs. 11 crores better than the previous year's figure of Rs. 26½ crores while Central excises yielded another Rs. 38 crores.

The Committee reviewed the accounts of the Light Houses and Lightships and the general reserves built up for their development.

The balances in the two War Risks Insurance Funds at the end of 1944-45 amounted to Rs. 30¾ crores.

All India Radio

The Appropriation Accounts concerning the Departments of War, External Affairs, Communications and Information and Broadcasting were considered by the Committee on October 11.

The Committee reviewed the growth of expenditure in the Meteorological Department which had to be considerably expanded during the war to meet the requirements of Defence Services. The expenditure during 1944-45 amounted to Rs. 84 lakhs of which Rs. 57 lakhs was recovered from Defence Services.

The Committee also discussed at some length the financial results of the working of All India Radio.

Foodgrains Imports

The Committee concluded its examination of the Appropriation Accounts for 1944-45 on October 16. It will meet again early in November to consider and sign its report.

The Appropriation Accounts concerning the Industries and Supplies, Home, Transport, Food, Information and Broadcasting and Legislative Departments were examined.

The Committee reviewed the various capital schemes started during the war for facilitating the production of war supplies. It also discussed the future prospects of the Vizagapatam Port which had been taken over by the Railways from the War Department with effect from April 1, 1946.

During 1944-45 over 725,000 tons of foodgrains were imported into the country at a cost of over Rs. 13 crores to meet the food shortage.

The Government of India are pleased to nominate Dr. S. N. Sen, M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt. (Oxon), Director of Archives, Government of India, as one of their representatives to attend the 9th session of the Indian History Congress to be held at Patna in December 1946.



NEW NICKEL COINS IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNTERFEIT

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 and 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 Australia and 29 countries have now adopted nickel coins as part of their currency.

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.

New Features

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 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 Devanagri 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.

Commerce Member on Profession of Accountants

SOME important points bearing on the profession of accountants were touched upon by the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Commerce Member in the Interim Government at the 14th meeting of the Members of the Indian Accountancy Board which was held in New Delhi on October 7, 1946.

Mr. Bhabha was sympathetic towards the proposal of creating an autonomous body of accountants and was in favour of evolving a workable scheme with the help not only of members of the profession but also of the commercial community who utilise their services.

On the question of the training of articled clerks, the Hon'ble Member expressed the opinion that he was prepared to give a trial to the proposal of the Board to allow Registered Accountants to take on articled clerks for training after a certain number of years' practice. He also expressed the hope that in training students to become Accountants, the Board would aim at quality alone and in order to attract the best brains to the profession, senior members would consider whether it would not be desirable to offer articles free of charge or at a very much reduced rates to really brilliant students who pass out from Universities.

Partnership

Referring to the question of partnership, Mr. Bhabha said they were common in other countries but were *almost non-existent in India*. He stressed the need for forming more partnerships because they would lead to reduction of unhealthy competition, and an increase in efficiency as individual partners would be enabled to concentrate on the type of work for which they had special aptitude.

Partnerships would also provide a good opportunity for articled clerks to learn their work and imbibe the virtues of dignity and honesty by studying the seniors, their methods of work and their dealings both inside and outside the profession.

The disposal of German assets in Allied countries, it has been decided, will be settled by the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency at Brussels on which India is represented.

As there are large German assets in India, amounting to about 3½ crores, the Government of India are sending Mr. E. Radbone, Custodian of Enemy Property in India to watch India's interests when the Agency meets at Brussels on November 6, 1946.

The Government of India have made a new bid for three German plants among those now available as part of the reparations due to India from Germany.

Among them is a diesel engine plant and an optical instruments plant.

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 Post-War Dollar Fund, Government consider it desirable to explain the main facts in this regard to the public, said a Press Note, issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on October 7:

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.

Empire Dollar Pool

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.

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 March 31, 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. 51 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 drawal 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, up to 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 purchase 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 up to $28 million.

Import Policy

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.

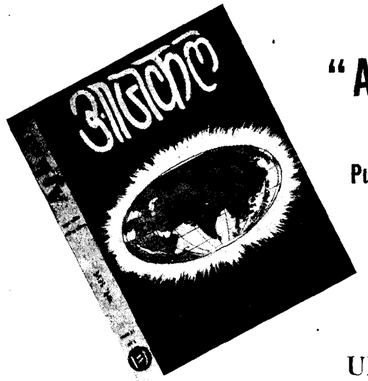
With the altered conditions brought about by the termination of war, the Government of India have recently made a number of changes in the administration of Import Control with the result, they hope, that the procedure for obtaining import licences has been very considerably simplified and shortened.

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.

Exchange Control

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 of 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 inquiries 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 currencies of the world have been graded in 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.



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Selection of contents in the November issue:

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Hindu-Muslim Relations in Astronomy *by Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi*	Dr. Zakir Hussain—A word-portrait.
I am President (Story) *by Maulana Zahur Baksh*	Jamia Millia Islamia
Indo-Afghan Cultural Relations *by Ahmad Ali Kohzad*	The People of Soviet Asia
Ahdi-Kab-aur-Kun. (Article) *by Chandra Bali Pandey*	U N E S C O.
Soviet Agriculture & Chemical Industry *by Maurice Dobb*	Nadir Shah's Last Self-respecting Soldier.
	Bhai-bahan (Story).

INDIAN INFORMATION Regd. No. L-5060

100,000 PEDESTRIANS USE HOWRAH BRIDGE DAILY

Traffic Survey

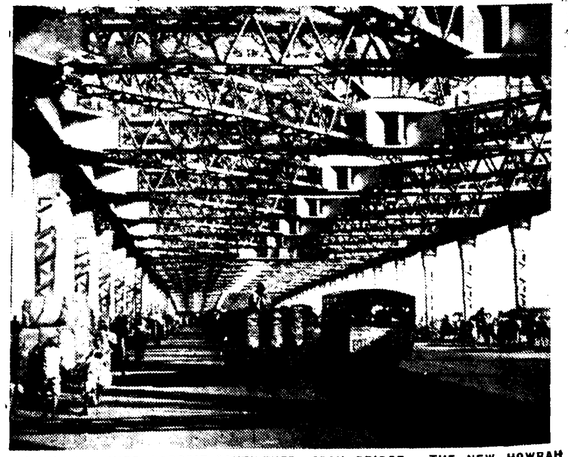
ON the suggestion of two American experts lent by the President of U.S.A., a traffic survey has been carried out of the new Howrah Bridge, Calcutta, the third largest bridge of its kind in the world.

The American experts were Major-General Philip B. Fleming, Head of the Federal Public Works Administration, and Mr. Thomas Harris MacDonald, Head of the Federal Bureau of Public Roads. They toured India in March-April, 1946, at the invitation of the Government of India, to advise generally on India's programme of road development. The survey was financed by the Government of India and was carried out by the Indian Statistical Institute under the guidance of an officer of the Transport Department of the Central Government.

This was the most intensive and thorough survey of its kind known to have been undertaken in India up to date. Methods and technique were developed which will be of use in the execution of similar traffic surveys in the future.

The census scheme envisaged the counting of vehicles of all types, of animals and of pedestrians, that crossed the Bridge in each direction, in each hour of the 24-hour day over a period of 14 days, (May 15 to 28, 1946). It also aimed at estimating what portion of the traffic emanated from, or was directed to, places in the environs of the Bridge, and what portion had its source or destination clear of those environs.

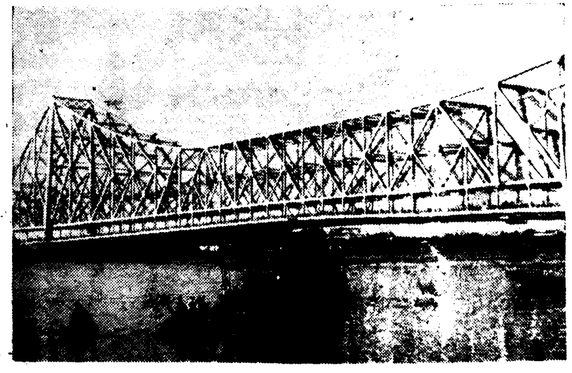
A further object was to discover by an analysis of the results, whether there was any method and, if so, what that method was, by which reasonably accurate figures of the daily and weekly traffic could be derived from the results of traffic counts made over a limited number of hours per day, or better still, over a particular time period on a particular day of the week.



THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST CANTILEVER SPAN BRIDGE. THE NEW HOWRAH BRIDGE ACROSS THE HOOGHLY AT CALCUTTA, TOOK JUST OVER 5 YEARS TO COMPLETE AND WAS OPEN TO TRAFFIC IN FEBRUARY, 1943. THE BRIDGE COST OVER RS. 3,00,00,000. PICTURE SHOWS TRAFFIC BETWEEN HOWRAH AND CALCUTTA CROSSING THE BRIDGE.

The Howrah Bridge across the river Hooghly, links the heart of the city of Calcutta with Howrah and other suburbs lying on the west side of the river. The Bridge was opened to traffic in 1943. It has a steel superstructure of an overall length of 2,150 ft. supported on two piers at 1,500 feet centres, and with cantilever shore arms 325 feet in length.

The roadway, 71 feet wide between curbs, and flanked on each side by a pedestrian footpath 15 feet wide, provides accommodation for one electric tramway track (central), two fast-traffic lanes and one slow-traffic lane, for the traffic moving in each direction. The tram route terminates at the Howrah end of the bridge, where a system of roundabouts has been provided.



A VIEW OF THE BRIDGE FROM THE RIVER.

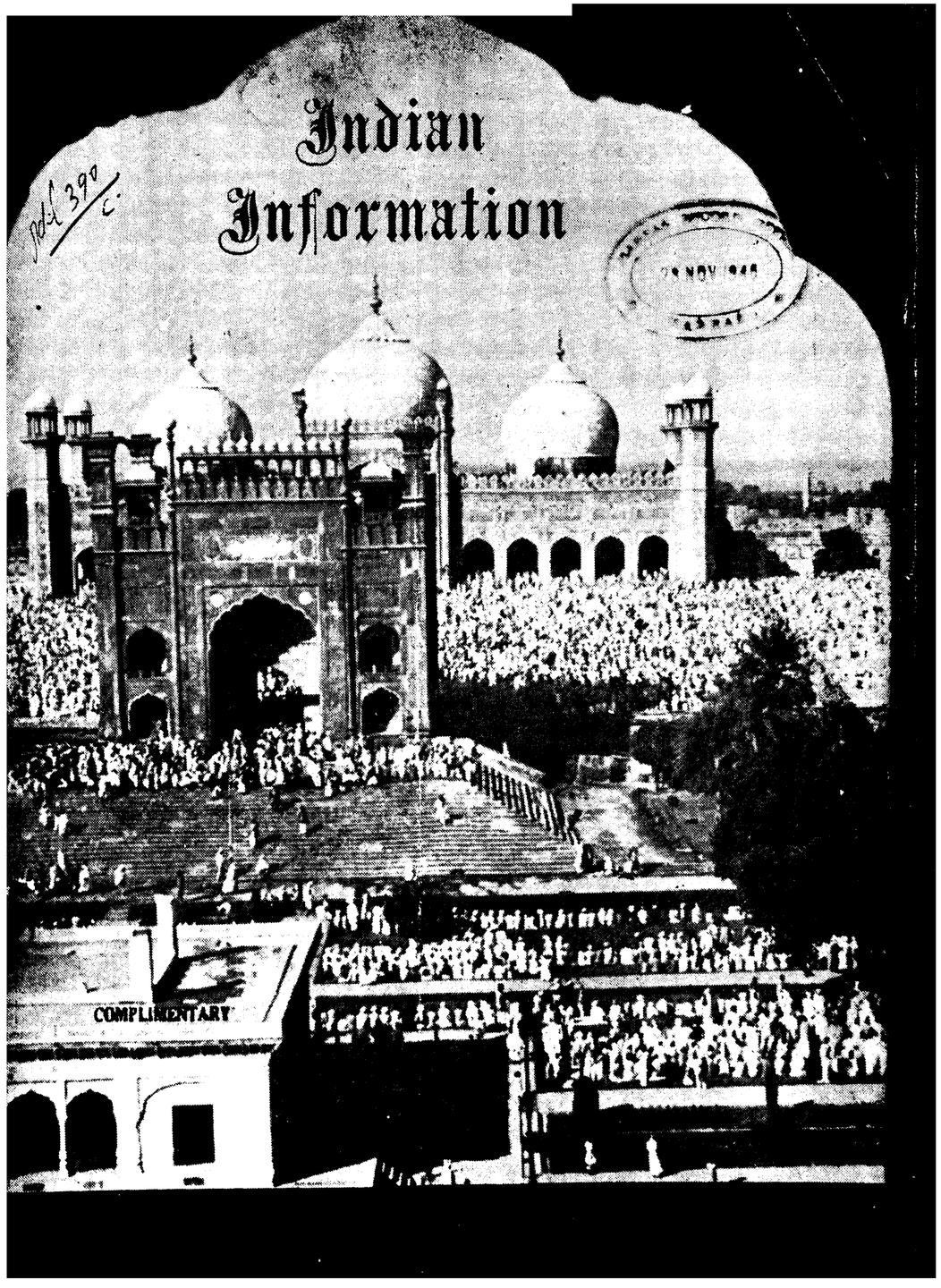
The survey shows that the daily average movement on the Bridge in both directions and the estimated corresponding tonnage are: Vehicles (all kinds), 27,000 (tonnage 89,000); pedestrians, 100,000 (tonnage 6,400); and cattle 1,570 (tonnage 300). The average percentages by numbers are: Motor vehicles, 46.29; electric trams, 4.51; animal drawn, 11.59; human traction including cycles, 37.10; and others 0.51.

About 51 per cent of the vehicles are driven by power, petrol or electricity, 12 per cent. by animal labour and 37 per cent. drawn or propelled by human agencies. About 60 per cent. of the vehicles are mainly for the transport of passengers and 40 per cent. mainly for the transport of goods. The total average daily traffic load on the bridge is estimated at 95,400 tons.

It is found that during the hour of maximum traffic density there may be on the bridge at a single moment 124 vehicles estimated to weigh 302 tons. The peak hour intensities are: 16,900 pedestrians; 1,190 mechanical vehicles; 321 animal drawn vehicles; and 996 vehicles propelled by human agency.

In regard to the origin and destination of wheeled traffic, it was noticed that out of the 13,500 vehicles using the bridge in each direction, about 7,500 started from, and an equal number returned to, places beyond the Howrah railway station. Among these were included 3,500 motor vehicles, and 1,200 bicycles. Most of this traffic probably emanates from, or terminates at, the industrial suburbs of Sibpur, Howrah, Belur, and Lillooah. Of the whole number of motor vehicles only about 200 pertained to areas lying beyond the suburban limits.

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LORD WAVELL (THIRD FROM RIGHT) VISITED RELIEF CENTRES DURING HIS TOUR OF THE AFFECTED AREAS. PICTURE SHOWS THE VICEROY AT THE CHANDPUR RELIEF CENTRE, WHICH HOUSES 3,800 HINDUS.

the Viceregal and Gubernatorial party alighted.

Lord Wavell and the Governor lunched at the Commissioner's house, where the Viceroy granted interviews to Mr. F. O. Bell, District Magistrate, Mr. E. Hodson, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Dacca, Lt.-Col. T. I. Bowers, Commandant, Eastern Frontier Rifles, Mr. E. H. Le Brocq, Superintendent of Police, Mr. Zakir Hussain, Additional Superintendent of Police, and Mr. E. W. Holland, Commissioner, Dacca.

At 1 p.m., six non-official Hindus waited on the Viceroy. The delegation consisted of Rai Bahadur K. N. Mitra, Assistant Public Prosecutor, Rai Bahadur S. K. Das, Member, Council of State, Mr. R. N. Dasgupta, Municipal Chairman, Dacca, Mr. P. K. Ghosh, Government Pleader, Mr. Srish Chatterji, Secretary, District Congress Committee and Mr. G. C. Das, Pleader and Secretary, Hindu Mahasabha.

Thirty minutes later, Muslim non-officials were given an opportunity of stating their case—also within half an hour. The members of the delegation were Khwaja Nasrullah, Parliamentary Secretary, Maulvi Kafiluddin Chaudhuri, Pleader, Mr. Ataur Rahman, Pleader and Muslim Leaguer, Mr. Kamaruddin Ahmed, City Organiser, Muslim League, and Hakim Habibur Rahman, Municipal Commissioner, Dacca.

Dacca gave the Viceroy and the Governor a great send-off on the evening of November 1, the entire route through the city up to Narayanganj jetty being thronged by smiling Hindus and Muslims. The Viceroy and the Governor embarked on the special steamer "Kiwi" which anchored in midstream for the night.

At 7-30 a.m. on November 2, the "Kiwi" heaved anchor and an hour later Lord Wavell with Sir Frederick



THE VICEROY INSPECTING COOKING ARRANGEMENTS AT A REFUGEE RELIEF CENTRE AT CHANDPUR, ORGANISED BY THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE HELP OF THE MARWARI RELIEF SOCIETY.



LORD WAVELL WAS RECEIVED BY MR. SRI KRISHNA SINHA, PREMIER OF BIHAR, WHEN HIS EXCELLENCY ARRIVED AT THE BIHTA AERODROME, 25 MILES FROM PATNA.

Burrows disembarked at Chandpur. Here they were received by Major-General R. P. L. Ranking, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Area Commander, Brigadier P. N. Thapar, Brigade Commander, Mr. G. E. T. H. Evans, M.C., I.P., Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Mr. W. A. B. Price, I.P., Superintendent of Police, Tippera, Mr. M. O. Carter, C.I.E., M.C., I.C.S., Commissioner, Chittagong Division, and Mr. E. F. McInerny, M.B.E., I.C.S., District Magistrate, Tippera.

Lord Wavell gave the Military, Police and Magistracy an hour's hearing in the bungalow office of Mr. A. A. Khan, I.C.S., Sub-Divisional Officer, while the Governor had informal conversations in an adjoining room with Hindu and Muslim non-officials, who then saw the Viceroy.

The Hindu delegation, led by Mr. Kamini Kumar Dutt, Leader of the Congress Party in the Bengal Legislative Council, consisted of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Dutt, M.L.A. (Tippera-General Constituency), Deputy Leader of the Congress Party in the Bengal Assembly, Mr. Jogendra Chandra Das, who represents the Tippera Scheduled Castes Constituency in the Bengal Assembly, Mr. Mankumar Nag, Member of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, and Mr. Haradhan Chakravarty, a Tippera Lawyer.

The Muslim delegation, led by Mr. Fariduddin Ahmed, a former Member of the Bengal Legislative Council and now Chairman of the Tippera District Board, comprised Mr. Abdus Salaam, who represents the Tippera District Rural Muslim Constituency in the Bengal Assembly, Mr. Abdul Karim, a



AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE NOAKHALI-TIPPERA AREA.

lawyer of Chandpur, Mr. Siraj-ul-Islam, lawyer, Chandpur, and Mr. Azimuddin, lecturer, Chandpur College.

Both non-official parties eagerly discussed an All India Radio announcement regarding the arrival in Calcutta that day of Pandit JawaharLal Nehru, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel and Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar, four Members of the Interim Government, in the wake of the visit of the Viceroy and Mr. M. K. Gandhi.

Visit to Relief Centre

After the interviews, Lord Wavell, accompanied by the Governor, visited a relief centre, where 3,800 Hindu evacuees were being cared for by Government organisation with valuable assistance from the Marwari Relief Society.

Lord Wavell inspected the sleeping, cooking and sanitary arrangements. He examined the rice supplied to the evacuees. It appeared to be of good quality. The Bengal Government have recognised the Indian Red Cross as the co-ordinating body for non-official relief organisations distributing foodstuffs, milk for children and medicines. Mr. A. A. Khan, I.C.S., is Chairman of the Relief Co-ordination Committee which obtains volunteers from the Marwari Relief Society, the Ramakrishna Mission, People's Relief Committee and other non-official bodies to assist officials in conducting the evacuee relief camps.

Chandpur has 20,905 Hindu evacuees 14,405 being in 13 Government camps and the remainder guests of private individuals. Faridganj has 7,000 evacuees. Chandpur's 13 Government camps are conducted by 16 officers, 25 clerks and 33 menials, the officers being assisted by non-official voluntary workers. The Bengal Government, assisted by the military when necessary, provide transport to the Red Cross Society. The Government are also considering a scheme for harvesting the *aman* crop in the event of evacuees not returning; also, the grant of agricultural loans. Evacuees are getting first priority for food. Besides planning large-scale relief operation, the Bengal Government are considering the allied problem of resettlement of demobilised personnel.

Mr. A. E. Simpson, I.C.S., Senior Sessions Judge, has been appointed to inquire into the Tippera casualties and Mr. R. Gupta, I.C.S., former Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, to inquire into the Noakhali casualties.

Return to Calcutta

Returning to Narayanganj on the "Kiwi" November 2, the Viceroy motored from the jetty to the Tezgaon airfield, Dacca, where he and the Governor emplaned in the Viceroy's Dakota for Calcutta. From Dum Dum aerodrome, the Viceroy and the Governor motored to Government House where they had a long discussion on what they had seen. At 7 p.m., Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar called at Government House where they had a brief talk with the Viceroy.

Lord Wavell left Calcutta on November 3, for Delhi with a brief halt *en route* at Patna.

Over a million lbs. of foodstuffs (*atta*, *dal* and rice) and medical supplies have been delivered by Dakotas in airborne supply landings to Tezgaon (Dacca), Comilla, Feni, Agartala and Sandwip Island from October 10 to 31, in 193 sorties. Of these, 174,000 lbs. of rice were dropped at Sandwip. In addition, 16,000 lbs. of gunny bags were delivered to Chittagong in preparation for free dropping of rice. The Dakotas have also taken the Bengal Governor on an aerial survey and in yet another trip conveyed journalists and cameramen over the affected areas.

Jubbal Ruler Abdicates in Favour of Son

A Communique issued by the Political Department, Government of India, on October 11 stated:

H.E. the Crown Representative has been pleased to consent to the abdication of Rana Sir Bhagat Chandra, K.C.S.I., Raja of Jubbal, with effect from October 12, 1946, in favour of his son and heir, Tikka Digvijai Chandra.

"The Tikka is 33 years of age and has received full training and considerable practice in administration.

"Rana Sir Bhagat Chandra has been on the *Gaddi* for over 36 years. Owing, *however, to serious* ill-health combined with advancing years he feels no longer equal to discharging to his own satisfaction the onerous duties of his position. The Crown Representative has with reluctance acceded to the Raja's wish to abdicate."

Jubbal State

Jubbal lies east of Simla between Sirmur and Rampur. This State which ranks 9th in order of precedence among the Punjab Hill States, has an area of 274 sq. miles and a population of over 30,000. The capital of the State is Deorha.

Rana Sir Bhagat Chandra, K.C.S.I., was born in 1888 and succeeded his half-brother, the late Rana Gyan Chandra in 1910. He was present at the Imperial Coronation Durbar at Delhi in December, 1911. He made a world tour in 1932 and was twice elected representative member of the Simla Hill States to the Chamber of Princes.

Tikka Digvijaya Chandra, the new Raja, was educated at Aitchison College, Lahore, and assisted his father in the administration of the State for some years.

Mr. B. K. Nehru, Joint Secretary, and Prof. B. P. Adarkar, Officer on Special Duty, of the Finance Department, have been deputed to study the system by which the Australian Federal Government apportions financial grants to its several Federal units.

The Mission left Delhi on October 18 and will be in Australia for about two *months. It* was originally intended that the deputation should be headed by Mr. V. Nararari Rao, Finance Secretary to the Government of India, but he could not be spared at present for this purpose.

The mission is the outcome of a decision taken some time ago and it will be remembered that the last Finance Member in his budget speech in the Central Assembly said: "I do not myself regard population as an altogether appropriate basis of distribution and would prefer a scheme more on the lines of the Australian grants system, under which grants to States are made on the recommendation of an independent and impartial body such as the Australian Federal Grants Commission."

Indian Troops in Calcutta: Defence Secretary's Statement in Central Assembly

"IT is the military opinion that the number of Indian troops at present in the Calcutta area is sufficient", said Mr. G. S. Bhalja, Defence Secretary, in reply to a starred question by Mr. Debendra Lal Khan, in the Legislative Assembly, on October 30.

Mr. Bhalja revealed that on and after August 16, last there were 3,729 British and 23,383 Indian soldiers in Calcutta. Reinforcements despatched to Calcutta subsequent to August 16, consisted of 1,768 British soldiers (reduced to 459 on August 25) and 2,231 Indian soldiers (reduced to 629 on August 22, 1946).

"The responsibility for quelling communal disturbances rests with the Civil Administration," added Mr. Bhalja. "The number of troops who might be required to aid the civil power can only be a matter of opinion; it is the military opinion that the number of Indian troops at present in the Calcutta area is sufficient."

To the suggestion that if the number of Indian troops in Calcutta was sufficient, steps should be taken to remove British soldiers from Calcutta to some other place in view of an allegation made by the Earl of Winterton, ex-Secretary of State for India, in the Conservative Party's meeting at Blackpool, alleging "the use of British troops in India as hired mercenaries for quelling communal conflicts," Mr. Bhalja replied:

"No, Sir. Government are not concerned with the utterances of individual members of the British Parliament, who have no responsibility in the matter."



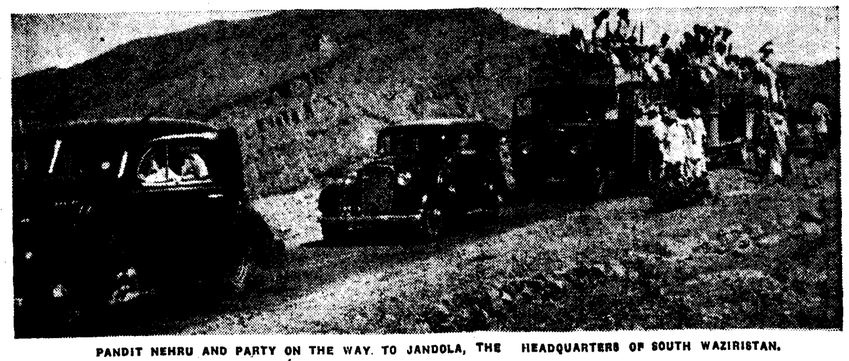
PANDIT NEHRU'S VISIT TO FRONTIER: AT RAZMAK PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, ADDRESSED A JIRGA OF TRIBESMEN. PICTURE SHOWS PANDIT NEHRU GREETING A TRIBAL LEADER.

INQUIRY INTO FRONTIER INCIDENTS

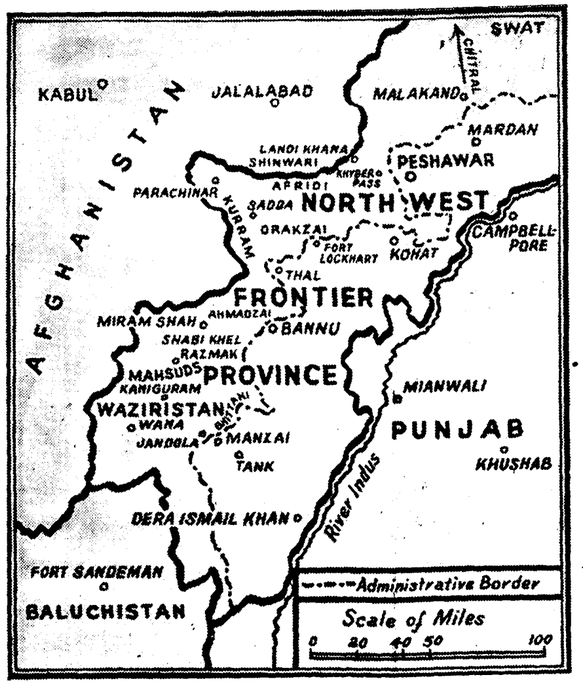
Pandit Nehru's Statement in Central Assembly

"AS to who was behind this organised violence, various inferences drawn. It would not be right to apportion blame fully without more knowledge. The matter is being enquired into."

This statement was made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Member for External Affairs, Government of India, in the Central Assembly on October 29 in reply to a short notice question put by Lala Deshbandhu Gupta in the Central Assembly on Pandit Nehru's recent visit to the tribal areas and the N.W.F.P. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta asked whether the Honourable Member's attention "has been drawn to the serious allegations made by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Rai Bahadur Mehr Chand Khanna, (Information Minister, N.-W.F.P.) in their Press statements, against the Political Department in connection with the hooliganism indulged in by a section of the Muslims during the Honourable Member's recent visit to the tribal areas in the N.-W.F.P." Lala Deshbandhu Gupta



PANDIT NEHRU AND PARTY ON THE WAY TO JANDOLA, THE HEADQUARTERS OF SOUTH WAZIRISTAN.



wanted to know whether the allegations were true, and if Government proposed to set up an enquiry.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru replied: "The statements referred to contain chiefly expressions of opinion and some facts. There is no doubt that there was a great deal of violence during the course of the visit to the N.-W. F. Province and the Tribal Areas. This violence resulted in injury and damage. It was fortunate that this injury and damage were not much greater than they actually were. As to who was behind this organised violence various opinions can be formed and inferences drawn. It would not be right to apportion blame fully without more knowledge. The matter is being enquired into.

"It is evident that the references to the Political Department are not accurate. Probably what is meant is that some officials of the local Administration both in the Frontier Province and the Tribal Areas are concerned. This is a matter again for further enquiry.

"In view of the confusion that prevails regarding the Political Department, it is desirable to clarify the

At Jandola Pandit Nehru was accorded a great welcome by Mahsud and Bhittani Tribesmen. Here is a part of the crowd which gathered to welcome Pandit Nehru. Tribesmen in the foreground are dancing and singing customary songs of welcome.



constitutional position. The Political Department as such deals with the Indian States only through Residents and Political Agents accredited to States and groups of States. The External Affairs Department is something separate from the Political Department and is *inter alia* responsible for Frontier affairs and Tribal Areas. This Department is an integral part of the Central Government under the control of the Governor-General in Council. The Political Department on the other hand is the Secretariat of the Crown Representative and is controlled by the Political Adviser to the Crown Representative. This is not under the Central Government. The only constitutional link between the Political and External Affairs Departments is provided by the Viceroy in his dual capacity as Governor-General and Crown Representative.

"The confusion regarding the Political Department has apparently arisen from the fact that till now there has been a common Indian Political

The Khan of Jandola welcomed Pandit Nehru by presenting to him the customary gift of three white rams. Pandit Nehru touched one of the rams in acceptance of the gift and immediately set them free. (Below) At Landi Kotal, Pandit Nehru inspected a detachment of the Khyber Rifles.





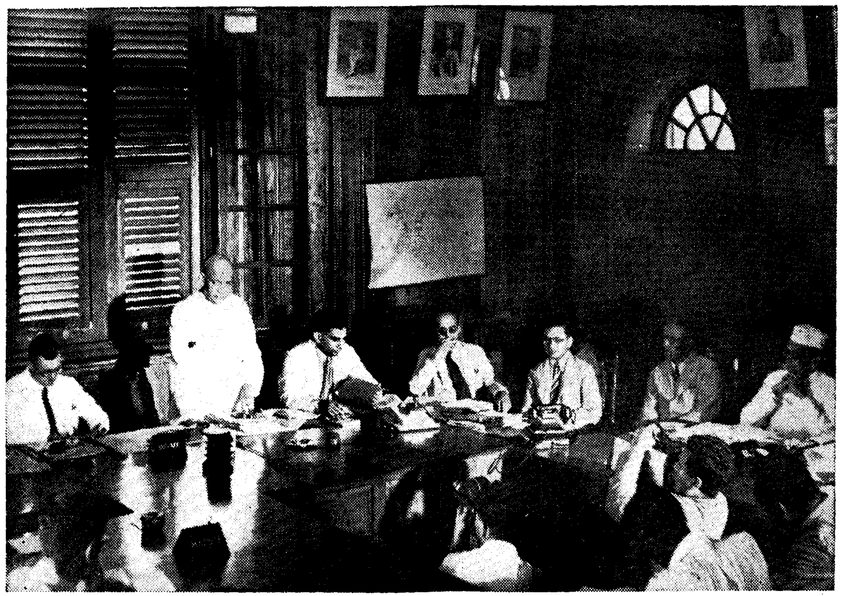




Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan Addresses Pressmen

(Above) The Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member in the Interim Government, addressing his first Press Conference after assuming office on October 26.

(Left) Three Muslim League Members of the Interim Government who were sworn in on October 26 at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, photographed with the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai. Picture shows (L. to R.) the Hon'ble Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. I. I. Chundrigar, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, and the Hon'ble Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar.



SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL, HOME MEMBER IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, ADDRESSING THE PROVINCIAL PREMIERS' CONFERENCE WHICH MET IN NEW DELHI ON OCTOBER 21.

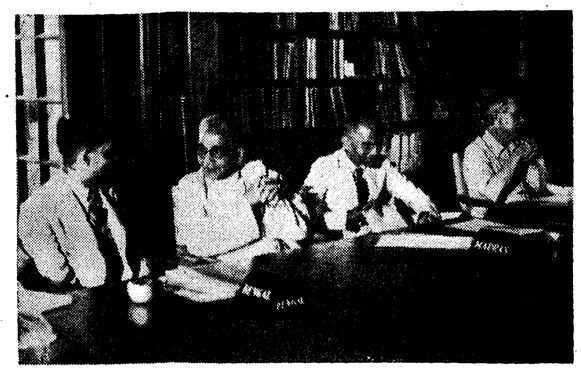
ALL-INDIA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

Premiers' Conference Discussions

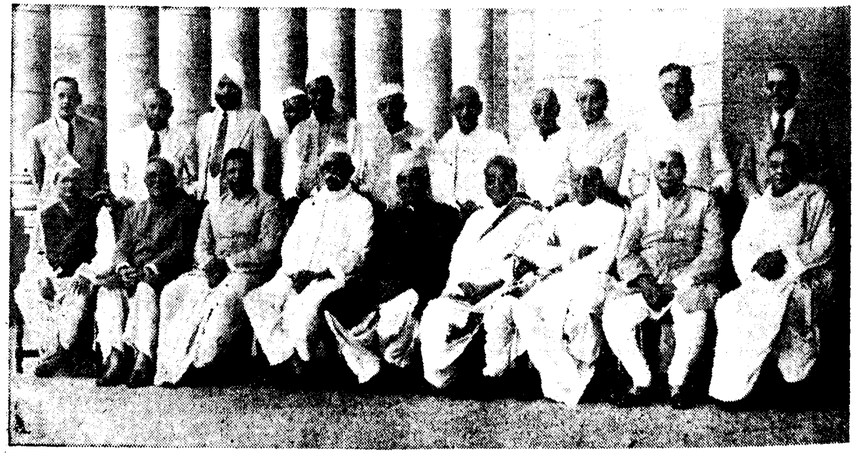
THE Premiers' Conference convened by the Hon'ble Home Member on behalf of the Interim Government to consider the question of replacement of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service by a suitable Central or Provincial Service met on October 21 under the Presidentship of the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In his introductory speech the Hon'ble Home Member referred to the situation created by the decision of the Secretary of State to stop further recruitment to the I.C.S. and I.P. in view of the impending constitutional changes and also to the vacancies that will result from the retirement of the existing members of the I.C.S. and the I.P. after the expected announcement by the Secretary of State of the terms on which he would terminate their services.

The Hon'ble Home Member emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest possible standard of efficiency, of giving the Services a sense of contentment and security and of introducing both in the Provinces and in the Centre a progressive and wide outlook and freshness and vigour of administration. He commended these points of view in favour of the formation of an All-India Administrative Service. As regards the existing personnel of the I.C.S. and I.P., he preferred that the sooner the control of the Secretary of State was terminated the better and the present structure liquidated. He also expressed



MR. B. N. CHAKRAVARTY (LEFT) ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, BENGAL GOVERNMENT AND MR. T. PRAKASAM (SECOND FROM LEFT) MADRAS PREMIER, PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE CONFERENCE.



PROVINCIAL PREMIERS AND REPRESENTATIVES PHOTOGRAPHED WITH MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. SITTING (L. TO R.): MR. SRI KRISHNA SINHA (BIHAR); DR. KHAN SAHIB (N.W.F.P.); MR. HARE KRISHNA MAHTAB (ORISSA); PANDIT RAVI SHANKAR SHUKLA (C.P.); NAWAB SIR MUZAFFARALI QAZILBASH (HOME MINISTER, PUNJAB); MR. T. PRAKASAM (MADRAS); MR. B. G. KHER (BOMBAY); PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT (U.P.) AND MR. GOPINATH BARDOLOI (ASSAM). STANDING (L. TO R.): SIR SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN; DR. JOHN MATTHAI, SARDAR BALDEV SINGH, MR. K. B. SAHAI (REVENUE MINISTER, BIHAR); DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD; PANDIT NEHRU, SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL, MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI, MR. ASAF ALI, SYED ALI ZAHEER AND MR. C. H. BHABHA.

the view that the Central and Provincial Governments would be able to take suitable measures to replace those officers who might retire.

During the discussion that followed, the Provincial representatives were generally in favour of the formation of an All-India Administrative Service. Some Provinces, however, preferred to have a superior service of their own though the possibility was expressed of an agreement to Central recruitment if control over the service was rested in Provincial Governments.

The Conference was strongly and unanimously of the view that the existing I.C.S. and I.P. with the ultimate control vesting in the Secretary of State should be wound up without delay. Other consequential matters, such as conditions of service, including pay, leave and pension rules, recruitment, etc., were discussed and a substantial measure of agreement was reached, particularly, to begin with the scale of Rs. 350-400-450-450-500 for the first five years for the Administrative Service was accepted.

The Conference re-assembled on October 22 to discuss further points arising out of the decision to form an All-India Administrative Service. The main questions considered were: (i) control and discipline; (ii) the strength of the cadre; (iii) the formation of an All-India Police Service and incidental questions; and (iv) the problem of making up deficiencies that have resulted from the suspension of recruitment during war-time and might result from the retirement of existing personnel of the I.C.S. and I.P.

There was general unanimity over the conclusions reached. It was generally recognised that in the matter of control and discipline, there should be a concession to provincial susceptibilities for retention of a degree of control over their own servants.

On the question of Indian Police Service the consensus of opinion was in favour of Central recruitment, training and prescription of conditions of service but of provincial control over discipline. The scale of the service for the first five years was approved at Rs. 300—300—325—350—350.

The Conference devoted considerable attention to the question of replacement of existing personnel and of making up war-time deficiencies in the cadre and the provincial representatives agreed to draw up plans promptly and urgently in respect of their respective provinces.

After the Chairman's closing speech and a vote of thanks to the Chair moved by Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant and supported by Mr. B. G. Kher, Premiers of U.P. and Bombay, respectively, the proceedings of the Conference terminated.

Those present included the Hon'ble Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier, Madras;

(Continued on Page 346)



MR. R.S. SHUKLA (LEFT) PREMIER OF C.P., AND NAWAB SIR MUZAFFARALI QAZILBASH (CENTRE) HOME MINISTER, PUNJAB GOVERNMENT, WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE.

TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit's Speech at Plenary Session of U.N.O.

PUNCTUATED with cheers at various points and with prolonged cheers at its conclusion, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit's speech on October 25 at the Plenary Session of the United Nations Organisation was generally regarded in New York as the outstanding speech hitherto of the session.

American Press reports carried a detailed account of the clarity and composure of the speaker and of her picturesque 'sari'. When Mrs. Pandit resumed her seat at the end of her speech, which lasted for about half an hour, delegates of the leading nations led by Mr. Phillip Noel-Baker (Britain) walked up to her and congratulated her warmly.

Here is the full text of Mrs. Pandit's speech:

I stand before this great Assembly, unique in the annals of human history, where representatives of freedom-loving countries of the world are gathered together, not only to proclaim the adherence of my country to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Organisation embodied in its Charter but the determination of our people to help to make it a reality. We, in India, have pursued steadfastly, often at great cost, the goal of freedom of the peoples to which this great Organisation is dedicated.

National Government

We have yet to achieve our independence but we have travelled so far along the road of freedom that to-day, for the first time, India's delegation to an International Assembly is briefed and accredited by a National Government and speaks with full sense of responsibility and the authority vested in that Government by the confidence and sanctions of our people. (*Cheers*).

The Head of our National Government and our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has proclaimed our stand in relation to the United Nations Organisation in these words:

"Towards the United Nations Organisation, India's attitude is whole-hearted co-operation and unreserved adherence in both spirit and letter to the Charter governing it. To that end India will participate fully in its varied activities and endeavour and assume that role in its councils to which her geographical position, population and contribution towards peaceful progress entitle her. In particular, the Indian delegation will make it clear that India stands for the independence of all colonial and dependent peoples and their full right to self-determination."

India does not yet play a sufficiently effective part in this Assembly. She desires and intends to do so. As a major country geographically in a strategic position in the Indian Ocean with significant relations and cultural ties with her neighbours in Asia, the contribution she has made in resistance to aggression and the cause of human freedom and her role in world economy entitle her to a place in important organs of the United Nations Organisation. I could mention the Security and Trusteeship Councils and an adequate share in the administration of the Organisation.

Independent Foreign Policy

We are confident that this Assembly will readily recognise and respond adequately to these desires. Hitherto, as a dependent country, our relations with the rest of the world were perforce not of our choice or making. To-day the Government of India has announced the outlines of an independent foreign policy. We believe, that peace and freedom are indivisible and that denial of freedom anywhere must lead to conflict and war.

We repudiate utterly the Nazi doctrine of racialism wheresoever and in whatever form it may be practised. We seek no domination over others. We claim no privileged position over other peoples but we do claim equal and honourable treatment for our people, wherever they may go, and we cannot accept any discrimination against them.

South African Issue

We have, for this reason and as a demonstration that we look to the United Nations to implement in practice the principles and basis of civilised life which have been embodied in the Charter, brought before this Assembly the treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa, a member State and a signatory to the Charter.

The issue is one where we have appealed to world public opinion and to this tribunal of the United Nations. We could do no better and we could do no less. The way this Assembly treats and disposes of this issue is open to the gaze not only of those gathered here but to millions in the world—progressive peoples of all countries, more particularly the non-European peoples of the world, who, let it not be forgotten, are an overwhelming section of the human race.

The issue we have brought before you is by no means a narrow or local one, nor can we accept any contention that a gross and continuing outrage of this kind against fundamental principles of the Charter can be claimed by anyone, and least of all by a member State, to be a matter of no concern to this Assembly of world peoples. Bitter memories of racial doctrines in practice of States and Governments are still fresh in the minds of all of us. Their evil and tragic consequences are part of the problems with which we are called upon to deal with on our agenda.



MRS. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT, MINISTER FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH, U.P., AND LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE U.N.O.

Imperialism

India firmly believes that imperialism, political, economic or social, and in whatever part of the world it may exist and by whosoever it may be established and perpetuated, is totally inconsistent with the objects and purposes of the United Nations and of its Charter. Suffering, frustration, violation of human dignity and the challenge to world peace, freedom and security that Empire represents must be one of the prime concerns of this parliament of the world's peoples. Millions look to us to resist and end Imperialism in all its forms, even as they rely upon us to crush the last vestiges of Fascism and Nazism. (*Cheers*).

India holds that the independence of all colonial peoples is a vital concern of freedom-loving peoples everywhere. She looks with confidence to the United Nations to give to the exploited millions of the world faith and

hope and the promise that their liberation is at hand.

India is concerned about the use of armed power of member States for purposes other than preventing aggression on behalf of the United Nations. The use of troops against the national aspirations of people, for the protection of imperial vested interests and virtually as armies of occupation, threatening both weaker peoples and world peace as a whole, call for unreserved condemnation by the United Nations and for the demand that all such troops shall be withdrawn. (*Cheers*).

This Assembly is no doubt aware of the strength and unity of feeling in India on the use of Indian troops in Indonesia and elsewhere. It is time to end these lesser wars waged for Empire.

Unity of Great Powers

Another question on which India will place its considered views before this Assembly is the much discussed question of what is called the veto. No one will lay at India's door the charge that she is oblivious or unconcerned about the rights of weaker and smaller nations. No one can say of her that she would willingly accept the dictation of stronger powers, just because they are strong; but we are here as a country first and foremost to help the United Nations Organisation to establish itself in strength, so that it might implement purposes which we all have at heart. Unity of the Great Powers is imperative for this purpose.

We approach this question of the veto with earnest anxiety to help to maintain and strengthen the machinery of collective organisation of peace and security for all. We could protest as sharply as anyone at the abuse of the veto as of any other power. I would myself prefer to look upon the so-called veto in a positive way and as a necessary device for securing that vital decisions by the Great Powers rest on unanimity and not in disregard of total opposition to any proposal by one of them.

The Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organisation proclaims the enormity of the tasks which face us. We feel bound to express our regret that none of the major political issues examined by the Security Council, with the exception of the Syrian and Lebanese questions, has been satisfactorily or conclusively disposed of. We equally express our regret that not all Mandatory Powers have offered to place the territories for which they hold mandates under the United Nations trusteeship. We are gravely concerned that the Union of South Africa has proposed that the Mandated Territory of South-West Africa should be incorporated with it.

I am sure this Assembly will permit me to say a word expressing my own hopes and those of my country about the greater participation of women. Indian women are now taking part in all nation-building activities. We do not recognise caste, creed or sex as a barrier to progress and our women have equality of opportunity with men. Two of our leading women have already taken a worthy part in committees connected with the United Nations Organisation. Believing, as we do, that in building for the future, effort and responsibility must be shared jointly by men and women, we earnestly hope that women of all countries will have occasion to participate more fully with men in all departments of life, including the work of this Assembly, thus helping to create a better and more balanced world. (*Cheers*).

We move, in spite of difficulties, towards closer co-operation and the building of a world Commonwealth. Let us do this with more deliberation and speed. The peoples of the world are well aware of our sentiments and look with expectation to their fulfilment. Let us recognise that human emotions and needs of the world will not wait for an indefinite period. To this end let us direct our energies and remind ourselves that in our unity of purpose and action lies the hope of the world. (*Prolonged cheers*).

Pandit Nehru's Congratulations

On October 24, the General committee (the Steering Committee) of the U.N.O. rejected General Smuts' proposal to eliminate from the final agenda the South African Indian question. On receiving this information, the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, sent the following message to the Indian delegation to the U.N.O.:

"Congratulate delegation on their preliminary success. All India watching with anxious interest this fight for India's honour and protection of interests of Indians abroad. Grateful for support of Soviet, Ukraine, China, U.S.A., France and Syria."

Pandit Nehru also sent the following personal message to Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit:

"Rejoice at your success and Chagla's able advocacy. Your fine speech reproduced fully here and greatly appreciated."

AFRICAN DELEGATION'S GREETINGS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT

"The establishment of a Provisional Government of India consisting of Indians is an outstanding event in the struggle of the Indian people towards economic, social and political independence. It represents an epoch-making stage in the long and bitter struggle of the subject peoples towards national liberation and self-determination."

These are the opening words of a message of greetings conveyed to the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru by a special delegation of Africans, from London. The delegation consists of three members, Mr. Wallace Johnson, representing the West African Youth League and Sierra Leone, Federation of Trade Unions, Mr. Desmond Buckle, a representative of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions and another member representing the West African National Secretariat.

Tribute to Indian Leaders

The message continues: "It is an event which must be welcomed by all freedom-loving people the world over, most of all by the oppressed colonial peoples.

"We Africans have watched with deep concern the steadfast march of the Indian people towards the goal of a free and prosperous India.

"We admire the heroism and the unrelenting vigour of her national leaders in the struggle.

"In our own continent, (in East Africa and in the Union of South Africa) the struggle of our Indian brothers merges with that of the African peoples to raise the standards of millions of people of non-European race, the victims of Imperialist oppression.

"We are confident that the establishment of an Indian Government will provide a source of inspiration and encouragement to us in our effort to achieve our own freedom.

"We request you, therefore, to convey to Pandit Nehru and his Government our respectful greetings. Through them, we salute the great and fraternal Indian peoples standing in the forefront of the struggle for the liberation of mankind."

In view of the insufficient supplies of newsprint imported from North America and the urgent need of securing additional quantities from European countries where the prices are comparatively high, the Government of India have, by a notification in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated October 23, 1946, increased the ceiling prices of newsprint imported from any of the European countries by 1 anna per lb. The Canadian prices will remain the same as before.

SOUTH AFRICA'S "DISCRIMINATORY POLICY"

Government of India's Memorandum to U.N.O.

"THE Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act marks the culmination of the discriminatory policy of the Union of South Africa against Indians, which has been practised over the last half a century or so. It gives permanent recognition to the principles of segregation of Asiatics, which has been opposed by the Indian community and by the Indian Government over the last 25 years."

This is an extract from a Memorandum submitted by the Government of India to the United Nations Organisation.

On June 20, 1946, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (now Prime Minister, Mysore) who, as Government of India delegate, was at that time leader of the Indian Delegation, sent a letter to the United Nations' Secretary-General, M. Trygve Lie, requesting that the question of the treatment of Indians in the Unions of South Africa be included in the provisional agenda for the second part of the first session of the General Assembly, which met on October 23.

Government's Responsibility

Sir Rawmaswami Mudaliar wrote:

"The Government of India, being a party to the arrangements which resulted in Indian emigration to South Africa, have felt continuing responsibility and have from time to time intervened on behalf of Indians with the South African Government. The latter have frequently sought the Government of India's comment and advice on proposals affecting Indians in South Africa. On two occasions, namely in 1926 and 1932, there were formal round table conferences between the two Governments. In the former year over the question of segregation of Indians, an agreement known as the Cape Town Agreement was concluded between the two Governments and in 1932 a joint statement was issued to the effect that the Cape Town Agreement was to continue and that there should be continued co-operation between the two Governments.

Reactions in India

"The principle of segregation was, however, again embodied in the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill, but the suggestion of the Government of India for another round table conference to explore means of amicable settlement of outstanding questions was rejected by the South African Government. Passage of this bill into law constitutes unilateral repudiation of the Cape Town Agreement and of the joint statement of 1932.

"Reactions to these measures have been so serious in India that the Government of India have had to give notice of termination of the trade agreement between the two countries and have recalled their High Commissioner for consultation.

"A situation has thus arisen which is likely to impair friendly relations between India and South Africa and, under Articles 10 and 14 of the Charter, is submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly.

"A detailed factual Memorandum dealing with this subject is being sent to you by my Government."

The Memorandum deals with the history of Indian immigration into South Africa from 1860 to the present day and the "discriminatory measures and disabilities to which Indians are subject in the Union."

Part III of the Memorandum details the disabilities. It says:

Political

Natal.—Indians were prevented from acquiring Parliamentary Franchise by Act No. 8 of 1896 which disqualified from being registered as voters all persons who, not being of European origin, were natives of descendants in the male line of natives of countries which had not, at the date of passing of the Act, possessed elective representative franchise, unless an order from the Governor-in-Council exempting them from the operation of the Act was obtained. Indians whose names were already on the voters rolls at the time (1896) were excluded from the operation of this restriction, but their number dwindled down gradually so much so that in 1929 it was only 16. (Conditions in India have since changed).

Under the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, 1946, Indians will be represented in the Natal Provincial Council by two members. Indian voters are to be registered against the declared wishes of the Indian community on a communal roll and not on the common roll. The right of franchise is based on education and income or property qualifications, and is extended only to males. The European community, whose population is about equal to the Indian community, have 25 members in the Natal Provincial Council and in their case franchise is enjoyed both by men and women and is based on adult suffrage.

Cape Colony.—The only discrimination against coloured races, including Indians, is that while franchise for Europeans is based on adult suffrage and is enjoyed by both men and women, it is based on education and property or income qualifications in the case of Indians and is enjoyed only by males possessing requisite qualifications.

The Transvaal.—All Asiatic races, including Indians, were deprived of citizenship rights under Law III of 1885. Consequently, Indians have no franchise. Also under the Transvaal Constitution Letters Patent, 1907, persons who are entitled to vote for the elected Legislative Assembly must be Europeans.

Orange Free State.—Settlement of Indians is practically prohibited under the Statute Law of the Orange Free State; hence the question of franchise does not arise.

Union of South Africa.—Under the South Africa Act, 1909, no person who is not a British subject of European descent is eligible to become a member either of the Senate or of the House of Assembly. The Act provides that the qualifications of parliamentary voters, as existing in the several Colonies at the establishment of the Union, shall be the qualifications necessary to entitle persons in the provinces to vote for the election of members of the House of Assembly. As Indians do not enjoy the parliamentary franchise in any colony except Cape Colony, they are not entitled to vote for election of members of the House of Assembly except those residing in Cape Province.

Under the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, the Indian community in Natal and the Transvaal will be represented by three members in the House of Assembly and two in the Senate. These members must be of European descent. Indian voters will be registered on a communal role and not on the common roll and their right of franchise is based upon education and income or property qualifications. The European community is represented by 150 members in the House of Assembly and about 40 Senators and in their case franchise is enjoyed both by men and women and is based upon adult suffrage.

Municipal

Natal.—Indians were deprived of municipal franchise by the Boroughs Ordinance of 1924 (No. 19 of 1924) and Township Ordinance of 1925 (No. 3 of 1925) (superseded by No. 11 of 1926) which limited municipal franchise to persons registered as parliamentary voters. The above two Ordinances have been superseded by the Local Government Ordinance of 1942 (No. 21 of 1942) which retains the same position.

The Transvaal.—Under Section 8 (a) of the Municipal Elections Ordinance of 1927 (No. 4 of 1927), none but a white person is eligible to be registered as a voter.

Orange Free State.—Settlement of Asiatics is prohibited and those few who are already settled are not qualified to vote by reason of their race.

Immigration

Immigration into the Union or any Province thereof is governed by the Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913 (No. 22 of 1913). It does not specifically prohibit the entry of Indians into the Union but provides, *inter alia*, that 'any person or class of persons deemed by the Minister (of the Interior) on economic grounds or on account of standard or habits of life to be unsuited to the requirements of the Union' shall be a prohibited immigrant. By an executive order issued by the Minister (General

Smuts at the time) declaring all Indians to be unsuitable on the prescribed grounds, Indians are treated as prohibited immigrants under this clause.

The Act also provides for a literacy test in any European Language and those who fail in the test are described as prohibited immigrants. This is, in fact, an effective weapon which can be applied to anybody whose entry into the Union is not considered desirable.

As regards the resident Indian community in the Union, the Act restricts their movement from one province to another of the Union. In the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, no Indians who are not already lawfully settled there, are permitted to enter for permanent residence. The Law pertaining to the Orange Free State is the Statute Law of the State (Chapter xxxiii) which prevents any Asiatic from remaining in the Colony for more than two months. As regards the Transvaal, the laws detailed below restrict entry of Asiatics into the Colony and those who are already lawfully resident in the Colony till 1908 are required to register themselves.

1. Section 19 of the Indemnity and Peace Preservation Ordinance, 1902 (No. 38 of 1902).

2. Asiatic Land Amendment Act, 1907 (No. 2 of 1907).

3. Asiatic Registration Amendment Act, 1908 (No. 36 of 1902).

Occupation of Land

Natal.—Under the Boroughs Ordinance 1942 (No. 19 of 1924) and the Townships Ordinance of 1926 (No. 11 of 1926), respectively, the Provincial Government were empowered to insert in the conditions of sale of any available land a clause prohibiting and restricting the ownership or occupation thereof to persons of any particular race. This power has been used to the disadvantage of Indians and the Municipalities and Townships have, under the powers, inserted an anti-Asiatic clause in their sale deeds executed subsequent to 1924. The clause usually reads as follows:

"This transfer is passed subject to the condition that the transferee, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns shall not sell, lease or allow an occupation of the aforesaid property to any Asiatic or person of Asiatic descent."

The Pegging Act

The Borough Ordinance of 1924 and the Township Ordinance of 1926 have been superseded by the Local Government Ordinance of 1942 (No 21 of 1942) which retains the same position.

Until 1943 there was no statutory disability with regard to acquisition and ownership of landed property by Indians in Natal. Under the Trading and Occupation of Land (Transvaal and Natal) Restriction Act, commonly known as the Pegging Act, in Durban Indians could not purchase and occupy property that was not occupied by Asiatics on March 22, 1943, without a permit from the Minister.

The Pegging Act was superseded by the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act of 1946, which places similar restrictions on the acquisition and occupation of land by Asiatics in Natal, except in exempted areas, which have been so proclaimed in the schedule to the Act, or are proclaimed by the Governor-General-in-Council on the advice of the Land Tenure Advisory Board, or after a period of five years, resolution of Parliament.

In non-exempted areas the terms of the restriction under this Act are that no Asiatics can, except under the authority of a permit, enter into any agreement with a non-Asiatic to acquire fixed property in the province of Natal, and no Asiatic can occupy and no person can allow any Asiatic to occupy any such land or premises in Natal which was not lawfully occupied on January 21, 1946, by an Asiatic except under the authority of a permit.

The Transvaal.—The first law that discriminated against Indians was law 3 of 1885 which provided *inter alia* that Asiatics may not be owners of fixed property except in localities assigned to them for purposes of residence. It also empowered Government to assign special localities for this purpose.

The Municipal Amending Ordinance of 1905 is another segregatory measure which permits the alienation to Asiatics of land in areas to be set aside for their exclusive occupation by Municipalities.

Gold Law

The next legislation in this connection which affected Indians was Act No. 35 of 1908, commonly known as the Gold Law. This Act as amended up to date provides that coloured persons (this term includes Indians) may not acquire any right under the Act (which relates to prospecting and mining rights) or to reside on or otherwise occupy any land or ground in respect whereof any other person holds any right, and forbids transfers of any such rights to coloured persons. It also prohibits Coloured persons from residing on or occupying any proclaimed land in any mining district.

In 1919, the Gold Law of 1908 was amended to prohibit Asiatic Companies from holding any fixed property by the Asiatics (Land and Trading) Amendment Act, 1919, (No. 37 of 1919). It also prohibited foreign companies (companies registered or incorporated in a foreign country under the laws of that country) from acquiring any fixed property.

Various Acts noted below have subsequently been passed which amend the Gold Law of 1908 and further restrict the rights of Indians.

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, 1932 (No. 35 of 1932):

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act 1935 (No. 35 of 1935).

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act 1936 (No. 30 of 1936).

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act 1937 (No. 32 of 1937).

The Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act of 1939, which was renewed in 1941 and again in 1943, placed further restrictions in the way of trading licences of Asiatics by compelling an Asiatic to obtain a permit from the Minister of the Interior before applying for a licence to carry on a business or trade or removing his business to other premises. A permit was also required to be obtained before land or premises not in Asiatic occupation on April 30, 1939 could be let to or occupied by an Asiatic.

The Act has now been repealed by the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, 1946, which retains the position so far as occupation of land is concerned.

Orange Free State.—Under Section 7 of Statute Law of the State Chapter XXXIII), Asiatics are prohibited from owning any fixed property.

Trade

Natal.—In this Provincee the issue of trade licences in municipal areas is governed by Act No. 18 of 1897, which provides for the appointment of a licensing official by the Town Council or Town Board to issue annual licenses in the Borough or Township, as the case may be, to wholesale or retail dealers. A licensing Officer has absolute discretion to issue or refuse licences applied for; and his decision is not liable to review, reversal or alteration by any Court of Law, except in the case of applications for renewal of licences which according to Act 22 of 1909, are appealable to the Supreme Court or Circuit Court.

This Act was further supplemented by the Boroughs Ordinance of 1924 and the Township Ordinance of 1926 under which Town Councils have full powers with regard to regulating, inspecting and supervising the carrying on of trades, etc. Under the by-laws framed by the Councils for this purpose trading licences can be refused if the licensing officer is not satisfied

(i) that the locality of the premises is one in which it is desirable that the trade or business contemplated should be carried on by the applicant or at all;

(ii) that the premises are in every respect suitable for the purpose of such trade or business whether as to structure, size, character, sanitation, ventilation, safety from fire, adequacy of fire appliances or emergency exits;

(iii) that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence or carry on such a business.

Similarly, in rural areas under Ordinance 4 of 1923 as amended by Ordinance 14 of 1935, Rural Licensing

Boards (whose members must be Parliamentary voters), consider applications for licences to trade. The Board may attach conditions to the licence and may refuse it on the ground that to grant it would depreciate surrounding property.

It is a notorious fact that licensing laws have been operated so as to refuse the grant for renewal of licences to Indians.

Mining Areas

The Transvaal.—Outside the proclaimed mining areas there is no legal racial discrimination against Indians except under the Asiatic Land and Trading Act (28 of 1939), the provisions of which are referred to under III above. But the Licences Control Ordinance, 1931, gives complete discretion to Municipalities to grant or refuse a certificate of fitness which it is necessary to obtain before a trading licence is issued. As the European community of which the Municipalities are composed (Indians have no franchise) is hostile towards the Indian community, the latter is generally made to suffer and no new licences are granted.

As regards the proclaimed mining areas the Gold Law of 1908 does not permit a coloured person to acquire any rights under that Law or to reside or otherwise occupy any land or ground except in a bazaar, location, mining compound or any such other place as the Mining Commissioner may permit. Also Act No. 37 of 1919 practically prohibits the issue to Asiatics of certificates which are necessary to be obtained before trading licences are granted. The Act, however, safeguards the interests of those who occupied any land for business purposes or carried on business upto May 1, 1930.

Orange Free State.—Asiatics are prohibited by law to settle in the State for the purpose of carrying any commercial business or farming, either directly or indirectly.

Education

A policy of segregation is followed in the matter of education and Indian and other non-white races are not allowed to be admitted to schools and colleges intended for white children. There is also racial differentiation in the allotment of the rate of subsidy granted by the Union Government. For European pupils the rate is £16-7-6, subject to certain conditions and for Indian and coloured pupils, it is only £5-5 per pupil.

In Natal, non-European teachers in Government employ are subject to racial discrimination in the matter of pension benefits. Till 1930 all the teachers in Government employ were governed by Ordinance No. 7 of 1913 which did not discriminate between European and non-European but in 1930 and 1932 two sets of Ordinances were passed by the Provincial Council, one for non-European teachers, which apart from being a discriminatory legislation, provided higher benefits for European teachers.

In the Transvaal, Law 3 of 1897 prohibits marriages between white and coloured persons.

Indian upper class passengers are required to travel in separate compartments reserved for Asiatics and Coloured people. In certain towns in Natal and the Transvaal Indians are only allowed to occupy certain seats on public transport vehicles reserved for non-Europeans.

The Mines and Works Amendment Act (25 of 1926) known as the Colour Bar Act empowers the Governor-General to make regulations about the grant of certificates of competency to certain classes of skilled workers, *(e.g.,* mechanical engineers and engine drivers) only to Europeans, Cape Coloureds, Cape Malayas and Mauritius Creoles. Indians have been excluded.

The Apprenticeship Act of 1944 (37 of 1944) sets up a National Apprenticeship Board and Apprenticeship Committees to advise the Minister regarding apprenticeship. The Minister may prescribe whatever qualification he considers necessary for apprentices which varies from trade to trade in which unapprenticed minors may not be employed without the consent of the Registrar of Apprenticeship, in consultation with the Apprenticeship Committees. This Act in practice excludes all non-Europeans from apprenticeship.

Owing to the prevalent colour bar attitude of European clientable Indians are deterred from seeking apprenticeship with solicitors, chemists, architects, accountants and surveyors.

The Marketing Act of 1937 (26 of 1937) provides for meeting of producers in any area to which it is proposed to apply a 'scheme' for the marketing of produce. No person other than European shall be entitled to vote on the resolutions approving the scheme. This deprives the Indian market gardeners of Natal of any say in the method of disposing of their produce.

Till recently Indians were excluded from the benefits of the Old Age Pensions Act of 1928 (22 of 1928) and the Blind Persons Act of 1936 (11 of 1936) which applied only to Europeans and Coloured persons. In 1944 these Acts were made applicable to Indians also. But Europeans are provided higher benefits than Indians under these Acts.

Although there is no statutory bar to the employment of Indians in public services, in actual practice Indians are almost completely debarred from employment except in a menial or subordinate service capacity. There are, however, Indian teachers in schools, etc., exclusively intended for Indians. Indian interpreters are also employed in some law courts.

Natal:—The Durban Corporation Extended Powers Ordinance of 1924 (14 of 1924) empowers the Town Council of Durban to prohibit the use by Europeans for dwelling purposes of places or premises similarly used by Asiatics or Natives.

The Durban Extended Powers Ordinance of 1940 (16 of 1940) empowers the municipality of Durban, *inter alia*, to set aside tea and eating rooms for the sole use of Europeans, Asiatics or Natives.

The Transvaal:—The Johannesburg Municipal Ordinance of 1906 (II (Private) 1906) constitutes Johannesburg Municipality and empowers it, *inter alia*, to establish bazaars for the exclusive occupation of Asiatics, in which plots may be leased for any term, not exceeding 33 years. It may make by-laws for licensing and regulating Asiatic tea rooms and eating houses, and may refuse to license certain premises for this purpose, on grounds of public interest, etc.

Arms and Ammunition

The Union:—The Arms and Ammunition Act, 1937 (28 of 1937) provides that no licence to possess or deal in arms may be issued to any person other than a European or a European Company, and no arms may be supplied to a dealer who is not licensed to possess them.

Land bank loans available to Europeans farmers are not available to Indians. This is not a statutory discrimination but in actual practice this is the position.

In some places there are separate hospitals for Indians and Africans. In Government offices such as Posts and Telegraph offices and Railway Booking offices there are separate counters for non-Europeans. Indians are not admitted to certain public libraries.

PANDIT NEHRU ON SATYAGRAHA IN SOUTH AFRICA

"The whole activity of the Government of India ever since this movement started has been one of giving moral support for this movement," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Member for External Affairs Department, in the Central Legislative Asembly on November 1, when replying to a question regarding the Government of India's assistance to the passive resistance movement of South African Indians.

Pandit Nehru declared earlier, "The Government of India are not sending any direct material help to the passive resistance movement but, as my Hon'ble friend knows, we have taken up the whole case of our countrymen in South Africa to the United Nations Assembly".

Replying to another question he said, "Many complaints were made of the bad treatment given in prison, but subsequently it was stated that the treatment has improved."

Women's Part

A telegram received from the Passive Resistance Council on October 24, said Pandit Nehru, revealed that the total number of convictions up to October 23 was 1,269. At a mass demonstration on that day, which was the opening date of the United Nations Organisation Assembly session, a batch of 323 passive resisters courted imprisonment.

Pandit Nehru told the House that women were playing a prominent part in the movement.

OBSERVANCE OF FIRST U.N.E.S.C.O. MONTH



M. ROGER SEYDOUX (LEFT) FRANCE, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEGOTIATING DELEGATION OF THE U.N.E.S.C.O., SIGNING THE "DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION" IN THE PRESENCE OF SIR A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR (INDIA), PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIALISED AGENCIES.

India Participates in Paris Celebrations

"THAT since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed;

"That ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause throughout the history of mankind of the suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war."

These two sentences, which crystallise so many volumes written on wars—one of the most terrible heritages of mankind—head the preamble of the constitution of the U.N.E.S.C.O.—the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. One of the youngest offsprings of the United Nations, the U.N.E.S.C.O. has a very ambitious programme—a programme which so far has been beyond controversy.

The General Conference of the Organisation met recently in Paris, and a series of educational, scientific and cultural exhibitions, demonstrations and discussions were held. The delegates, visitors and the citizens of Paris listened to lectures and discussions on world problems; concerts of music, drama festivals, international exhibitions of paintings, exhibitions of technical discoveries, displays on the development of architecture since 1939 and publications and lectures on the progress of education and methods of teaching since 1939.

India, as one of the sponsoring nations of the U.N.E.S.C.O. and the heir to a vast treasure house of knowledge and culture, was represented by Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and three other delegates. A representative collection of modern Indian paintings, numbering about 50, and 20 films

The period between October 28 to the end of November is being celebrated among United Nations as the "UNESCO-MONTH". This article is a short resume of the origin, objectives and scope of the UNESCO, which is an offshoot of the United Nations Organisation.

depicting Indian life and culture were on exhibition along with contributions of other nations.

Concurrently with the Conference, it is the hope of U.N.E.S.C.O. that the period from October 28 to the end of November, during which the annual sessions of the U.N.E.S.C.O. are taking place, will be known as the 'U.N.E.S.C.O.-Month' when the peoples of the world can turn their minds to the more lasting things of life—to educational, scientific and cultural matters. Every year following the current U.N.E.S.C.O.-month in Paris, similar cultural celebrations will be arranged in one of the great cities of the world—wherever the General Conference chooses to sit—and thus would serve to illustrate and register from year to year the progress in the educational, scientific and cultural fields of life in the world.

The U.N.E.S.C.O. was born just 11 months ago. It was recognised from the first when the United Nations met that the principle of organised international co-operation in cultural matters was the chief basis of peace and therefore the principle was included in the Charter of the United Nations—the first Article of which defines it as one of the purposes of the United Nations, *viz.*, "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect in human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, class, language or religion."

Mutual Understanding

The lessons of two devastating world wars, the second more terrible than the first, emphasised that Peace could only be founded on comprehension and mutual understanding. It was felt that it should be one of the duties of the United Nations to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about national and cultural activities, so that culture is made accessible to all men.

Following these general propositions, formulated at the San Francisco Conference, the British Government, in association with the French Government, extended on behalf of the Council of Allied Ministers of Education, an invitation to all member-states of the United Nations to be represented at a Conference in London beginning November 1, 1945, for taking steps to establish a United Nations Organisation in the Educational and Cultural fields. Forty-four countries, including India, sent representatives and there were six observers from international organisations. The project for organised international co-operation in the cultural field was thus carried one step further.

The Conference, which lasted 16 days, discussed a draft constitution prepared by the Council of Allied Ministers of Education, and a draft submitted by the French Government, as well as certain other suggestions received from other Governments and from national and international bodies and drew up a constitution establishing an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Thus was born the U.N.E.S.C.O.—supposed by all the peace-loving nations of the world, and promising to become the most comprehensive international organisation ever to be established for cultural understanding and co-operation.

Last June, a draft agreement was initialled by representatives of the Economic and Social Council and by U.N.E.S.C.O. which, when approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, will make U.N.E.S.C.O. a specialised agency of the United Nations. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, President of the Economic and Social Council, and M. Roger Seydoux, Chairman of the Negotiating Delegation of the U.N.E.S.C.O., signed on behalf of their respective Organisations.

The objects of the U.N.E.S.C.O. are summarised in the Preamble to its constitution which is as follows:

"The Governments of the States parties to this Constitution on behalf of their peoples declare:

"That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed;

"That ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war;

"That the great and terrible war which has now ended was a war made possible by the denial of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of men, and by the propagation, in their place, through ignorance and prejudice, of the doctrine of the inequality of men and races; that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern.

"That a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind:

"For these reasons, the States parties to this Constitution, believing in full and equal opportunities for education for all, in the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth and in the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, are agreed and determined to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other's lives;

"In consequence whereof they do herby create the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Culture Organisation for the purpose of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organisation was established and which its Charter proclaims".

INDIAN EMBASSIES IN CHINA AND U.S.A.

A Press Communique issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on October 21 stated:

Being desirous of maintaining and further strengthening friendly relations existing between India and China, the Government of India and the Government of China have decided to raise the status of their respective Diplomatic Missions to the rank of Embassies.

Another Press Communique issued on October 23 said:

Being desirous of maintaining and further strengthening friendly relations existing between India and the United States of America, the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America have decided to raise the status of their respective Diplomatic Missions to the rank of Embassies.



PILGRIM 'PLANE FOR HEDJAZ: THE FIRST PLANE TO BE CHARTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR TAKING PILGRIMS TO THE HEDJAZ LEFT WILLINGDON AERODROME ON OCTOBER 13, CARRYING 17 PILGRIMS. THEY REACHED THE HEDJAZ ON OCTOBER 15.

(By courtesy of the United Nations Organisation).

INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL BANK AND FUND

Finance Member's Speech in Central Assembly

MOVING the following motion in the Central Assembly on October 28,

"That this Assembly, having considered the third report of the Committee on Bretton Woods Agreements, do hereby approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development",

the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, said:

As you are aware, Sir, I took over charge of this Department only about 50 hours ago. In ordinary circumstances I would have requested this House to postpone discussion of this motion; but as I had the privilege of sitting on the other side—and I am not yet quite sure which side is better—and listening to the debates that have taken place in the past on this very subject, I felt that it would be wrong of me to allow this House to waste any time and not consider this matter which is indeed of very great importance. Hon'ble Members of this House are aware of all the arguments that have been advanced in favour of this and against it, and it is not my intention on this occassion to traverse the same ground. I will, as briefly as possible, place before the House the case for the acceptance of the motion which I have the honour to move on this occasion.

Payments

Sir, you will remember that on a previous occasion this Assembly adopted a motion accepting the recommendation contained in the second report of the Committee which was to this effect:

"That Government should take advantage of every possible provision in the Articles to postpone payment of the subscriptions due to the Fund and the Bank till the last moment; but if after consultation with these institutions it became necessary to take a final decision before the Assembly meets again Government should summon the Committee and a decision should be taken in consultation with them, the Committee being specially summoned for this purpose."

Sir, the Committee was summoned and Government found that there was no provision in the Articles of the Bank or the Fund whereby the postponement could take place without India being disqualified. At that time the demand was for payment of 2 per cent. of the contribution on or before August 24 if India was to continue to possess the qualification which was required. The Committee recommended that that amount should be paid, and therefore this 2 per cent. of the subscription which came to eight million less 40,000 dollars which had already been paid in U.S. dollars was paid before August 24, 1946. On June 19, Government were informed by the International



MR. LIAQUAT ALI KHAN.

Bank that it would start operations on June 25 and were asked to make the following payments:

One payment I have already referred to. The other payment which Government were asked to make was 3 per cent. of the subscription in rupees on or before November 25, 1946, and a further 5 per cent. in rupees on or before November 25, 1946, formal demand for which would follow later.

It will be seen from the Report of the Committee that the Committee decided that they would not feel justified in sanctioning this further demand without the matter being placed before the Assembly, and the Committee recommended that a special session of the Assembly, irrespective of the political conditions that may prevail in the country, should be summoned before November 10.

I am glad that it was possible to summon a session of this Assembly long before the time which was specified by this Committee; and now in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee Government have taken the first opportunity of coming before the House and seeking its sanction and approval to the continuation of the membership of Government in these organisations.

Need for a Final Decision

I stated in the beginning that the object of this motion is to obtain, as was suggested by the Committee, the sanction of this House; but the motion has been so worded that we are asking the approval of this House not only to the immediate requirements of 8 per cent. which we have to make, but for a declaration of its policy with regard to these international organisations.

I personally feel that it is not very nice that we should keep this matter in suspense and every time when a demand is made we should come forward and say that we should pay so much, and postpone the final decision to some future date. It is really a matter which should be decided once and for all by this House, whether or not India is to continue as a member of these international organisations. And here I want Hon'ble Members to look at this problem only from the point of view of India's interests and of no other interests.

India's Interest

Those of the Hon'ble Members who had occasion to listen to the debates in the past would recollect that it was suggested that we should not commit ourselves unless the question of sterling balances was settled. Now, Sir, this argument would imply that really speaking it was in the interest of the United Kingdom that India should join these international organisations. I want the House to divorce that idea from their minds whether it is in the interest of U.K. or whether it is not. That should not be our consideration when we are discussing this motion.

Our consideration should be whether it is in the interest of India or whether it is not in the interest of India. Much as we have sympathy for U.K. and all other countries of the world, because India's hospitality is well known, yet I believe in the proverb that charity begins at home, and I must look to the interest of my own country first and to the interest of the rest of the world thereafter.

Sterling Balances

Therefore, Sir, I think my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has been the greatest advocate of this proposition that we must settle this question of sterling balances with the United Kingdom before we take any final decision in this respect. I think he is right to a certain extent. But at the same time as I have stated just now, we should not really adhere to this position unless it can be shown that by our not joining this Fund and the Bank we could put a lever on the United Kingdom.

I am afraid from the little examination that I have been able to make of this matter, I do not see any connection between the two. I know that Hon'ble Members of this House feel very strongly with regard to our sterling balances. I can assure them that the Government of India to-day feel as strongly about these sterling balances, if not more than Hon'ble Members of this House.

We know that these sterling balances have been accumulated through the sacrifices, through the trials, sweat and tears that the peoples of this country have gone through, and we cannot be unmindful of the interests of these millions of people who have been responsible for making the position of this country as a creditor country.

With regard to this matter, I would like to tell Hon'ble Members of this House, and I am sure they will be glad to know that the Government of India have been pursuing this matter with great vigour and I am able to relate to-day that His Majesty's Government are as anxious as we are that this matter of sterling balances should be settled, that negotiations should be started as soon as possible. I am not using this expression 'as soon as possible', as a bureaucrat and this expression has not the same meaning as it had in the past. When I say 'as soon as possible', I mean not the meaning of the bureaucratic language, but I mean the straightforward meaning which you can place on these words. I am unable at this stage to indicate any definite date.

But Hon'ble Members may rest assured that not a moment will be lost by the Government of India in starting negotiations with regard to this matter of sterling balances, and here, I would like to repeat once again that we are sensible, we know how these sterling balances have been accumulated and we shall see that India's interests are safeguarded and justice is done to India.

Fears and Apprehensions

I think, with your permission, Sir, I would like to quote the points which were raised from the speeches and the note of my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, because that in fact is the fear, and that in fact is the position of those who are opposed to our joining this International Fund and this Bank.

Sir, the apprehensions that were expressed in the previous debates and as I have said just now particularly by Mr. Manu Subedar who has in his Note of Dissent in the Third Report of the Committee clarified his position are really in respect of membership of the Bank more than in respect of membership of the Fund. But even here after weighing the *pros* and *cons*, we consider that we should continue our membership.

I would not like to waste the time of the House by reading out in detail the extracts from the Report or the Minute of Dissent. I can briefly put the point of view of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Manu Subedar, firstly his objection is that he feels rather uncertain about the future of these organisations. His fear is based on our past experience of these international organisations. He fears that the position of these organisations may be like U.N.R.R.A. or the League of Nations and we may suffer loss and these organisations may not be able to achieve all that is claimed for them.

In this respect I would like to say that if we are interested and I hope we are, in the rehabilitation and the prosperity of the world at large, because I am sure no Hon'ble Member of this House would deny that our prosperity will depend on the prosperity of the rest of the world, if he believes that it is necessary to help in the rehabilitation of these countries which have been devastated on account of the last war, that it is necessary in the interest of economic advancement of all the countries including India that those countries which are to-day in a deplorable condition should be brought up, then I submit, Mr. President, we should be prepared to take that risk.

Objects of the Bank

I am of the opinion that India cannot keep itself aloof from the economic repercussions in other parts of the world.

If economically the other countries are bankrupt, we cannot hope to prosper. It is absolutely essential that our trade should be on a very large scale with other countries and we cannot hope to achieve that unless those other countries are economically in a position to carry on trade with us.

The second fear that was expressed by my Hon'ble friend was that this money will be spent on rehabilitation of European countries only. I hope my Hon'ble friend will correct me if anywhere I put a wrong interpretation on what he has said. On that point, Mr. President, the object of this Bank is two-fold: Firstly, to help in the rehabilitation of those countries which have been devastated on account of the war, and, secondly, to assist those countries which are industrially backward. So it is not a question that will concern only those countries which were affected during the war. I believe, and I think I am right, that even those countries which are economically backward will be entitled to receive help and loans from this Bank.

India and Loans

The third point which was raised on previous occasions was that as we have got such large sterling balances —I think the value of which to-day is something like 1,700 crores—as far as India is concerned we shall not need any loans. I would not agree with my Hon'ble friend if he thinks that it is possible for India to get this money either in lump sum or in a very short time. I think with the greatest amount of optimism it would be wrong to presume that.

I feel that with the industrial expansion of India which is absolutely necessary, the settlement which may be arrived at with regard to these sterling balances, the repayment will have to be done in instalments and I feel that the instalments which may be fixed may not give us sufficient money to meet all our requirements of industrialisation. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that we will be justified in assuming that India will not receive or will not require any help from the Bank for future industrialisation.

Now, Sir, there is another point which was raised with regard to the Fund. It is suggested that by joining this Fund and because the Fund refers to exchanges, we shall be losing our sovereignty as far as the monetary exchanges are concerned. On that point I think my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has got greater experience and knowledge than I have. He would agree with me that it would be in the interest of economic development of all the countries if there was some machinery by means of which exchanges of the currencies of various countries could be stabilised. I think it would be in the interest of every country, and when you are thinking of the good of every country in this world including yourself you will have to give up some of that sovereignty.

It will not in fact be a question of giving up that sovereignty because every country that comes into this Organisation will have come after giving up that certain amount of sovereignty, and therefore it will be really like independent people joining in a free partnership, and therefore, Sir, seriously speaking I do not think that that is an argument which should deter us from entering this Bank.

There is another fear which has been expressed: that this Bank may go into liquidation because of the shady transactions that may be carried on by its executive, and I think when we put forward that argument what looms large before us is the example of some of the very small banks which have gone into liquidation in this country and have not been able to meet their obligations. But, Sir, I think the Hon'ble Members of this House will agree that the same argument cannot apply to an organisation like the one which we are discussing to-day.

It will be in the hands of responsible people representing responsible Governments and we are one of those who will be represented on the Board of this Bank. And, therefore, I do not think that this fear that thoughtless transactions may land this Bank into trouble should deter us from following a line if it is the right line on other grounds. And apart from that, Mr. President, the conditions for advancing loans have been laid down and they are very stringent, and I feel that on that point we should really not have unnecessary fear.

A Justifiable Case

Taking everything into consideration and keeping in view the importance of the question of settlement of the sterling balances, I feel that there is a good case, a justifiable case for India remaining a member of this Organisation.

On this occasion, Mr. President, I want the House to consider this question very carefully, and I want this House to give its verdict on this matter not only with regard to the immediate payments which have got to be made, but with regard to the whole policy—whether we should continue to remain a member or whether we should not; whether we should contribute and in future incur all the

Finance Member's Reply to Bretton Woods Debate

Replying to the debate on the motion requesting the House to approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and Bank, the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, declared in the Central Assembly on October 29 that as long as he held charge of the portfolio of Finance, his earnest endeavour would be to see that the finances of the country were used in the interest of the peoples of the country.

Referring to sterling balances, the Finance Member said, that since the complexion of the Government of India had changed, the attitude of His Majesty's Government had also undergone a change and they were today anxious to start negotiations. He made it clear that whatever agreement may have been arrived at between the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. India was not bound by it. Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan also assured the House that before any decision was taken in fixing the par value of the rupee, every effort would be made to get the opinions and views of all those interests and persons qualified to express an opinion on the subject. The motion was passed unanimously.

Replying to the debate on October 29 on the motion requesting the House to approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and Bank, the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Khan, Finance Member, said:

I am indeed grateful to the House for the friendly reception which they have given to the motion which I had the honour to move yesterday as a member of this Government. I am also grateful to my friends for the kind things which they have been good enough to say about me and I hope and trust that the friendliness shown during the course of this debate will continue. On my part, I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members of this House that as long as I hold charge of the Department my earnest endeavour will be to see that the finances of the country are used in the interest of the peoples of India.

My Hon'ble friend and colleague, Dr. Matthai, in a very able speech yesterday, if I may be permitted to say so, put forward the case for the acceptance of the motion which I had moved yesterday. I would not like to traverse the same ground but there are certain points which have arisen in the course of the debate on which I would like to reassure the Hon'ble Members of this House. My friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, whose friendly criticism I value and my friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, whose discordant note I heard with a muscial mind, have referred to this question of sterling balances. Mr. Siddiqi said that yesterday I used the expression 'as soon as possible'. May I remind him that I did not use that expression in connection with the payment of the debt. I used that expression in connection with the opening of the negotiations and arriving at a settlement and therefore that expression 'as soon as possible' stands.

H.M.G.'s Attitude

Sir, my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Subedar, said that His Majesty's Government, leave alone the question of coming to a settlement, are not even willing to start negotiations. I cannot say what has been the attitude of His Majesty's Government in the past but I can tell him, and my knowledge is based on certain correspondence that has passed between the Government here and His Majesty's Government, that since the complexion of the Government of India has changed, the attitude of His Majesty's Government has also undergone a change and they are to-day anxious to start these negotiations with regard to our sterling balance.

My Hon'ble colleague, Dr. Matthai, yesterday stated the policy of the Government in very explicit terms with regard to the sterling balances. I endorse every word of that and I want to make it absolutely clear that whatever agreement may have been arrived at between the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom in connection with the Anglo-American loan, we are not bound by it.

We were not a party to it and if it is mentioned as one of the terms that there shall be a scaling down of the sterling balances, well, India is certainly not bound by it and we do not accept that proposition. Mr. Manu Subedar and Mr. Siddiqi also, who, if I might be permitted to say so, amplified the remarks that Mr. Manu Subedar had made, stated that England had not paid its debts after the first Great War. May I tell them that it is wrong tactics to remind a debtor that he can commit default with impunity. We should have belief in this that England as an honourable nation will stand by this debt which it has incurred and I hope and trust that U.K. will honour the debt which they owe to this country.

Third Interim Report

Now, Sir, there is another point in the speech of Mr. Siddiqi. He referred to the third interim report and said that the members in their report had not really definitely stated their opinion about it and therefore he felt that the members of this Committee were not quite clear whether we should agree to go in and remain in these International organisations or we should not.

Four out of the five members who have signed the report have supported the motion which I have placed before the House more vehemently than even what I have done. Therefore, it is quite clear that these Hon'ble friends, who had certainly greater knowledge and information with regard to this mattter, are convinced that it is in the interests of this country to join these International organisations.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi stated that if I had come forward with a proposal to give all this amount of money which is involved in the present motion and said that if I wanted to give this as a gift to the war-ravaged countries, he would have supported me and said: "Yes, go and regain your soul." His complaint against me is that it is not only that I want to regain my soul but I also want to protect my body. Therefore, really speaking, I do not think there is any strong argument that has been advanced by my Hon'ble friend in opposition to this except his distrust based on past experience. My friend lives in the past: I want to live in the future.

Sir, there is one question that has been referred to by Mr. Tyson and other Hon'ble friends and it is the question with regard to this par value of money. I can assure my friends that before any decision is taken, every effort will be made to get the opinions and the views of all those interests and persons that are qualified to express opinion on this subject.

Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar suggested that we should either continue the present Committee or have another Standing Committee to give advice and whom we may consult from time to time with regard to this matter. All that I can say at this moment is that this proposal will certainly receive my very careful consideration. I do want and it is my desire and I am sure it is the desire of all the members of the present Government that whatever action we take and whatever policy we adopt it should be done with the co-operation and the support of the Hon'ble Members of this House. Therefore, I can assure him that I will certainly give my very careful consideration to his proposal.

Sir, there is just one more point that I would like to mention. During the course of the debate a number of points have been raised and I may assure those Hon'ble Members whose speeches I have not been able to refer to that I shall have every point examined by the Department and shall consider it myself personally. I hope that in a matter of this kind I can always count upon not only the support and co-operation but also the advice of the Members of this House. Sir, I command my motion to the acceptance of this House.

The motion was passed unanimously by the House.

THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS

THE Third Interim Report of the Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly on the Bretton Woods agreements which was signed on July 29, 1946, reads as follows:

"We were given an account by the Hon'ble the Finance Member, Sir Eric Coates, of the developments which had taken place since we presented our second report on April 17, 1946. In accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 4 of that report, which was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on April 18, 1946, the Government of India, having been informed that the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development was likely to start making calls on the share capital towards the end of June, instructed its Executive Director to ask the Bank for the longest possible postponement of the date of payment in order that the final decision to continue membership of the Bank might be taken by the new Government in consultation with the Legislative Assembly. The Executive Director, after informal consultations, reported that no postponement was permissable under the Articles, and that non-payment by the due date would inevitably be interpreted by the Bank as a default on the Government of India's obligations.

Subscriptions to the Bank

"On June 19, 1946, the Bank informed the Government of India that it would start operations on June 25, 1946 and asked for the payment of the following sums:

(*i*) 2 per cent. of the subscription, (*i.e.*, 8 million less, 40,000 already paid) in gold or U.S. dollars on or before August 24, 1946.

(*ii*) 3 per cent. of the subscription in rupees on or before November 25, and

(*iii*) further 5 per cent. in rupees on or before November 25, 1946, a formal demand for which would, however, follow later.

"We were assured by the Finance Member that the dollars required for this purpose would be made available from the Empire Dollar Pool, the effect of which would be a corresponding reduction in the sterling balances. He also informed us that His Majesty's Government had indicated that they believed that in the interests of a satisfactory and lasting settlement of the problem the negotiations on the sterling balances should be carried on with as representative an Indian Government as possible and that they would be ready to issue an invitation as soon as a representative Government was formed.

"The alternatives before this Committee now are either:

(*a*) to authorise the payment of that portion of the subscription for which demand has been made, or

(*b*) to instruct Government to withdraw from the membership of the Bank, or

(*c*) to continue membership but default in payment, thereby making India liable to suspension under Art. VI, Section 2 of the Articles of Agreement.

"In the consideration of these alternatives we had the benefit of the advice of Sir Chintaman Deshmukh, India's Governor of the International Bank. The last named course we unhesitatingly reject for the reason that we are not prepared to recommend any course of action which is not in conformity with the dignity of India and might well affect her credit. As for the second alternative, we are not sure that we would be correctly interpreting the wishes of the Assembly in recommending withdrawal. In any case, we do not think it proper to take so important a decision ourselves.

"The only decision we can, therefore, possibly take is to recommend to Government to pay that portion of the subscription without the payment of which India would be committing a default, namely, the $7,960,000 which have to be paid on or before August 24, 1946 and this we accordingly do. We do not wish, however, to take upon ourselves the responsibility of authorising payment of the remaining 8 per cent. of the subscription which has to be paid by November 25. We strongly recommend, therefore, that, irrespective of the political situation at the time, a session of the Legislative Assembly should be called on or about November 10, 1946 at the latest, in order to allow the Assembly to make up its mind finally whether it wishes to continue India's membership of the Bank or whether it wishes India to withdraw from that institution.

Mr. Manu Subedar's Report

"As the Assembly is not in session and it is necessary for the advice of this Committee to be made available to Government in terms of paragraph 4 of the Second Interim Report as adopted by the Assembly in time enough for them to take action on it before the due date of payment of the subscription, we suggest that a copy of the Report should be sent to Government by the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly even before it is presented to the House.

"Our colleague, Mr. Manu Subedar, does not agree with us and is submitting a separate Report."

The Report is signed by four out of the five members of the Committee, namely, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad and Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Mr. Manu Subedar, who did not agree with the majority Report, submitted the following separate Report, also signed on July 29, 1946:

"The question put for the consideration of the Committee was:

1. Whether India should pay the subscription as demanded, or

2. Whether India should withdraw from the membership of the Bank.

"I have no hesitation in saying that India should withdraw from the membership of the Bank at this stage. I support this conclusion on the following grounds:

1. "His Majesty's Government were not willing to negotiate the repayment of sterling balances earlier, because they were awaiting the outcome of the Anglo-American loan. In a message three days ago, they have expressed their unwillingness to open negotiations until a representative Government is installed at New Delhi. In the Second Interim Report the whole Commitee had agreed that:

> "If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."

India Should Withdraw

"I think that the moment has come for India to withdraw because of the delay in these negotiations, as India will be called upon to undertake commitments, which she would be unable to shoulder in the absence of a 'satisfactory solution of sterling credits.'

(2) "The creditor status has been forced on India. In five years Rs. 1,800 crores worth of commodities were taken at controlled prices for Allied purposes without consent. Even after the war Rs. 300 crores have been added to the sterling balances, and even during the current period Government balances are being converted into sterling. With her own needs unsatisfied and with famines and privations and want, India is being invited to join an institution for *lending out* to various countries which have suffered from enemy occupation and hostilities.

"This international experiment might fail, as other experiments like the League of Nations (to which India contributed heavily) have failed. Having regard to her own needs, India is in no position to assume further creditor obligations towards any part of the world until her position with regard to the repayment of sterling balances has been definitely and finally made clear.

(3) "India's own need to borrow dollars for capital equipment from U.S.A. was mentioned more than once as an argument for continued adherence to the Bank at any cost. The normal channels for loans to India are open, but no negotiation on behalf of India has been started. India, not having any foreign debt and having considerable assets in sterling, is more eligible for such loans than the countries, who have succeeded in getting money from

U.S.A. But it would be very strange to suggest that, if India wishes to borrow, she should start with being a lender on a scale, which involves an ultimate liability of Rs. 132 crores! Besides, the dollar requirement, in so far as it is merely an exchange conversion problem, is only temporary accommodation, for which the Fund and not the Bank is the proper channel. It will be noticed from the figures below that full use has not yet been made of dollars, which have accrued to India. Further, during recent months India's balance with U.S.A. has been favourable."

Dollar Pool

Mr. Subedar goes on to point out that the payment of two per cent. of 400 million dollars, *i.e.*, 8 million dollars was to be made out of the Dollar Pool and continues:

"The following particulars (see table below) were elicited by me with regard to India's position in connection with the Dollar Pool and hard currencies:

"The contention that Rs. 57 crores worth of gold at London price that was sold at a profit in India by U.K., should be deducted from the balance of Rs. 114 crores, is untenable, as goods were taken away from India of the full India value of this gold.

"The following rough particulars were elicited by me with regard to the 20 million dollars per year for capital goods from U.S.A. agreed to be given to India by H.M.G. from the Dollar Pool (*vide* para 35 of the Budget Speech for 1945-46 at page 873 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of February 28, 1945).

Accrued to India for calendar years 1944, 1945 and 1946.—60 million dollars.

Licences issued up to May 1946.—15.00 million dollars.

Further releases offered for purchase of ships—6.00 million dollars—21 million dollars.

Balance.—39.00 million dollars.

"The credits used against the licences issued up to April 1946 were only 2.5 million dollars!

Position Risky

"The advantage of recovering eight million dollars from the Pool, being two per cent of the subscription of the Bank, is more than outweighed by the ultimate liability, which India incurs, *viz.*, Rs. 132 crores. Eighty per cent. of this liability, which will not be collected at present, would be payable in dollars or in gold. About Rs. 100 crores worth of gold for this purpose would be wanted at the world price, i.e., at between Rs. 42 and Rs. 45 per tola. The Reserve Banks own gold, even if revalued, would not be less than Rs. 90 crores. The balance would have to be acquired from the market at double the value and surrendered at half the value. India would be giving back to the international field gold, for which she has paid Rs. 73.84 and 90 at roughly half the price paid.

"This is a position, which I cannot contemplate without grave anxiety, for the costly membership of an institution which has no direct bearing on India's life, however high and laudable the object may be. The Bank is for giving long period loans, mostly to war-torn countries, including late enemy countries, for reconstruction. India is in no position to assume this responsibility. The fact, that the financing of these loans through guarantees or debentures or otherwise will not involve all this liability at once, and that India would be in a position to withdraw if loans are given on a basis, which is regarded as risky, was mentioned in the Committee. It is much better for India not to participate in this institution with any mental reservation. I therefore advocate the withdrawal now on purely financial and economic grounds.

(4) "On political grounds, the Interim Government, when they are installed, may take a decision to join, making their own terms with the Board. India's status in the international field will not be enhanced by any action under the Caretaker Government and it is my firm belief that a Committee of the Assembly ought not to take the responsibility for eventual losses of big magnitude beyond India's capacity to bear. Such a decision must be taken by a responsible Government after they make proper enquiry and it should be left for them.

Representative Government

(5) "India has been dragged into international organisations and tied up to the chariot wheels of U.K. After the position taken up by India's representatives' at the Bretton Woods Conference was definitely turned down in July, 1944, it would have been to India's interests to stay away from these institutions until her own affairs at home and with her debtor, the United Kingdom were properly settled. In order to gain original membership, Government joined these institutions without the Assembly's consent, and ever since then each successive step has been taken on the plea of urgency with reference to other people and not with reference to India's own convenience or interest. Both the conditions laid down by the Committee itself in their previous reports and accepted by the Assembly have remained unfulfilled, *viz.*, that the repayment of sterling balances has not taken place and also that a representative Government has not been installed.

(Figures in Rs. crores).

	U. S. A. $	Canadian $	Swiss currency	Swedish currency	Portugese currency	Grand Total
Accrued to India ..	405	40	1½	2	4½	453
Used by India ..	237	83	13½	2½	2½	339
Balance ..	+168	—43	—12	—½	+2	+114

"Under these circumstances it is better for India to come out of the Bank now, leaving no commitments behind and making it possible for the future representative Government to take a decision, which they consider proper.

(6) "My colleagues were impressed with American reaction to any action, which India took. It is important to keep good relations with the U.S.A. after India is free to act on her own. In the meanwhile some of us notice, that America drove a particularly hard bargain in the matter of Lease-Lend with India, in comparison with her treatment of other countries, and that, behind India's back, provisions were put in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, *viz.*, clauses 6 and 10, which are definitely prejudicial to the interests of this country.

Straightforward Course

"The conditions, under which the proposal for India to withdraw from the International Bank is mooted, will not be misunderstood in U.S.A. The refusal to incur finally obligations of a very large magnitude until her own position is a little more clear, is a straightforward course, dictated by financial considerations, and does not betoken any hostility to U.S.A. What the U.S.A. ought to resent and what we in India are resenting, is the exercise of import control so as to hold up hundreds of transactions fully negotiated and finalised between Americans and Indians, for which the import licence (and therefore the dollars) are refused. The canalising of trade between India and the sterling area, to the exclusion of U.S.A., is something for which U.S.A. public opinion will not hold Indians responsible.

Important Issues

(7) "The position of the Fund is different, and some of these considerations do not apply to the Fund. The political breach with England must necessarily involve an independent currency arrangement with U.K. and the rest of the world. The Fund is, however, not functioning till the first of January, though there are very important steps to be taken in the interval, such as the determination of the gold par of exchange, the suspension of the operations of Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, and a definite provision for the transition period between now and when the Fund operates fully.

"These are important issues, on which decisions cannot be left to the Caretaker Executive, and it is necessary that either the Interim Government should be installed, or the Legislature should be called to take decisions on these subjects.

"I regret that I should be obliged to write a separate Report through holding a different opinion from my colleagues on the Committee, but the compelling necessity of the interests of the country has induced me to take this step."

DEMONETISATION ORDINANCE: FINANCE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

REPLYING to a question in the Central Assembly on October 30 regarding the Demonetisation Ordinance, the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, stated that out of a total of Rs. 143,96,69,000 high denomination notes in circulation on January 11, 1946, notes to the value of Rs. 128,58,55,000 were encashed up to September 27, 1946. In addition, a certain number of claims presented to various authorities within and without India were awaiting decision. The amount involved in these claims could not be ascertained without undue expenditure of time and labour but it was understood to be small relative to the notes already encashed.

As the declarations that were filed by persons presenting notes for exchange were still under scrutiny, Government were unable to state how far the objects of the Ordinance had been achieved. The aggregate value of the notes likely to remain uncashed was not yet known.

The Finance Member added that seven prosecutions had so far been launched, all of which were as yet *sub judice*, while no prosecution had so far been started against any bank.

The following special payments were made to the Government of Bengal in connection with the famine, according to a written reply by the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, on October 30, in the Central Assembly:

	(In lakhs of rupees) 1943-44	1944-45	1945-46
(i) Subvention	3,00	7,00	8,00
(ii) Loans	—	—	—
(iii) Advances	—	—	—
Total	3,00	7,00	8,00

Grants to Provinces

The Finance Member added that no similar amount had been granted to any other Province in recent years and that no conditions were imposed on the provision of financial assistance to the Government of Bengal in this matter by way of administrative or financial control or supervision.

Replying to a question by Mr. K. C. Neogy in the Central Assembly on October 30, the Hon'ble Finance Member stated that, as was stated in the Budget speech on February 28, 1946, by the then Finance Member, a lump sum provision of Rs. 35 crores was made in the current year's budget for payments to Provincial Governments in respect of non-productive development schemes and a provision of Rs. 15 crores was made for loans to Provinces for productive development works.

Out of the provision of Rs. 35 crores the Provincial Governments would be paid the amounts actually spent during the current financial year on approved schemes. Large numbers of schemes had been approved for each Province, but the approved lists included schemes relating to all the main development subjects and were not confined to schemes intended to create employment.

The Finance Member added that no conditions had been imposed in respect of the funds to be provided during the current financial year since the schemes had been approved individually by the Government of India and payment was to be made only on the basis of the actual expenditure reported by the audit officers concerned.

REFUND OF E.P.T. DEPOSITS

THE manner in which the Central Government will repay the deposits made under the Indian Finance Act 1942 and the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943, was explained in a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 2.

An application for a refund of deposit should be made to the Excess Profits Tax Officer on the prescribed form. The amount deposited will be refunded to the person who made the deposit, provided:

(i) in the case of an individual who, at the time when the deposit is refundable, is dead, refund shall be made to the person who, under a letter of administration, probate or succession certificate, is entitled thereto;

(ii) in the case of a company which, at the time when the deposit is refundable, is in course of winding up, refund shall be made to the liquidator of the company;

(iii) in the case of a Hindu undivided family which, at the time when the deposit is refundable, has been disrupted, the refund shall be made to the person or persons to whom the deposit was assigned upon such disruption;

(iv) in the case of a firm the constitution of which, at the time when the deposit is refundable is different from the constitution during the chargeable accounting period in respect of which the deposit was made, refund shall be made to the firm as constituted when the refund is due; and

(v) in the case of a firm which at the time when the deposit is refundable, is no longer in existence refund shall be made jointly to the persons who were partners in the firm during the chargeable accounting period in respect of which the deposit was made, or to any person jointly nominated by them to receive the refund, with the substitution in the case of a deceased partner of the administrator or other legal representative.

Government's Liabilities

If the identity of the person entitled, under the provisions above, to receive a refund is in dispute or if any substantial question of title is, in the opinion of the Excess Profit Tax Officer, involved, that officer may require the production of an order of the competent Civil Court, determining the person entitled to receive the refund of any part thereof.

Any refund made in accordance with the above provisions shall be deemed to be a full and valid discharge of the liability the Central Government under the Indian Finance Act or the Ordinance and the person to whom the refund is made will be responsible for any liability arising out of a claim by any other person in respect of such refund.

Pandit Nehru's Reply to Greetings from Tibet

"My colleagues and I are most grateful for your kind message. We look forward with confidence to the continuance and strengthening of the close and cordial relations which have existed between our two countries 'since ancient times," says Pandit Jawaharlal *Nehru*, replying to a telegram conveying the Tibetan Government's "most cordial and *friendly* congratulations on the establishment of the Interim Government of India."

FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR TRAVEL

A Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on October 20 stated:

The Government of India have decided that, with effect from October 25, all applications for foreign exchange for travel abroad for purposes connected with trade, commerce and industry, health, education (university, college or school), technical training, cultural pursuits and pleasure will be addressed to the local branch or office of the Reserve Bank either direct or through the applicant's bankers, and not to the Government of India. The Reserve Bank have been delegated full powers to deal with such applications within the framework of the policy laid down by Government.

Applications for such travel, received by the Government of India on or after October 15, will be returned to the applicant for resubmission to the branch or office of the Reserve Bank of the area where he resides.

HOW TO DEAL WITH FOODGRAINS OFFERS



DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Statement

IN connection with the large number of offers received from persons willing to forego part of their food rations, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member in the Interim Government, has issued the following statement to the Press:

One of the most heartening aspects of the acute phase of the food crisis which our country is passing through to-day, 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 agreed to make available over 45,000 tons of foodgrains for 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 the Government.

Donation of Foodgrains

After careful consideration of the problem from the administrative point of view, my advice to those in rationed areas is that they should contribute to the 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 result of their self-denial will be reflected in lower offtakes from the ration shops, and the savings thus effected will be utilised elsewhere to the best advantage.

In the 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 some one from their own number commanding wide respect, to collect all quantities of grain from 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 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 Government procurement agencies. No one will be penalised for so far withholding grain, but the Government are not prepared to sanction a rise in grain prices above the levels at present in force.

Non-official voluntary organisations in 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.

CROP PROSPECTS

Reports received so far from various parts of the country indicate that the all-India total outturn of the ensuing *Kharif* crops will be up to the average. The average for the five year period ending 1941-42 was 36.4 million tons.

So far as rice is concerned, South India which suffered from unprecedented drought last year, is expected to have an average crop which would mean an increase of 1 million tons over last year's figure in Madras alone. The rice crop in Assam is reported to have suffered damage to an appreciable extent due to recent floods, but the total extent of the damage is not yet known.

In the Punjab, drought has affected the rice crop but the loss in yield is reported to have been largely offset by an increase in acreage. Reports of drought have also been received from Sind, but no estimate is yet available of the acreage or loss in yield.

Jowar and *bajra* crops are reported to be normal in all parts of the country, but the maize crop of Bihar which was expected to be better than last year's has suffered considerable damage by floods in the Ganges.

In response to the Food Member's appeal to spare all surplus grain for meeting the food situation during the next two difficult months, the Punjab and Sind have each offered for export to deficit areas in November, 10,000 tons of rice, and C.P., Orissa, and the Eastern States 15,000, 8,000 and 3,000 tons respectively.

Random Sampling Method of Crop Statistics

A scheme for estimating the production of rice in the rice-growing provinces by the application of the random sampling method has been prepared by Dr. P. V. Sukhatme, Statistical Adviser, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in consultation with the Provincial Governments. The object is to have accurate estimates of total production of rice in different provinces, to train the local departmental staff and to put the existing method of collecting yield statistics on a scientific basis.

The scheme, which has been accepted by the Government of India, is based on the results of extensive research in the application of the random sampling method by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research since 1943. In 1944, pilot surveys were carried out with wheat and paddy, and later on, extended to the entire wheat belt of India in 1945. In the current season, arrangements have been completed to repeat the surveys in the U.P., C.P., Bihar, Orissa, Bombay, Madras and Coorg.

The entire expenditure on the surveys so far has been borne by the Government of India and amounts to nearly Rs. 8 lakhs.

The results of the experiments on wheat and paddy crops conducted in the different provinces have shown that the random sampling method can be depended upon to give reliable results with a margin of error approaching 2 per cent only. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is training provincial staff in order to standardise the method on a uniform basis for getting reliable information on yield statistics throughout the country.

CONTROL OVER OILS AND OILSEEDS

After careful consideration of the recommendation of the All-India Oilseeds Conference held in September, the Government of India have decided to continue the policy of co-ordinated control over prices and movement of edible oils and oilseeds in conformity with an all-India Basic Plan. Provincial and State Governments have been advised to take immediate action to implement this policy, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on October 30.

As regards exports of oils and oilseeds, there will be no change in the present policy of the Government to permit exports of only such quantities which are in excess of the needs of the country, and to allow exports of oil in preference to oilseeds. Details regarding export prices, the method of export and the quantities to be exported are engaging the attention of the Government.

SIR ROBERT HUTCHINGS ON IMPORTANCE OF FOODGRAINS INSPECTION

"TO lay a sound foundation for quality standards in foodgrains is important, not only with a view to eliminating the administrative complications, which we experience in inter-Provincial movement, it is even more important with an eye to future marketing operations. Our present task of distribution would be greatly simplified and speeded up, if Provinces and States could accept each other's certificates of quality, issued in accordance with known and accepted all-India standards", said Sir Robert Hutchings, Food Secretary, Government of India, on October 23 in his address to Inspection Officers from Provinces and States, who were attending a refresher course in foodgrains inspection at the Pusa Insti-Institute, Delhi.

Sir Robert Hutchings said:

The immediate reason for the formation and training of an Inspection Staff was, of course, the unavoidable intervention of Government in the large-scale distribution of grain. The reasons for this are well-known, and I need not discuss them here; they have been dealt with in the Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, and further discussed by the Famine Enquiry Commission. When circumstances made it impossible for the Grain Trade in India to continue to perform adequately its normal task of distribution, Government had to assume that responsibility. One of the major complaints against Government control and distribution has been low quality. This is not, when you come to think of it, unnatural, because Government intervention introduced a fundamental change in the normal relations of buyers and sellers. In normal conditions, producer, merchant and consumer all had business relations with each other, which depended on mutual recognition of the necessity for the seller to give the buyer value for money. Sellers knew that clients were willing to pay prices according to quality, and their business reputation, indeed their livelihood, depended on supplying the customer with the quality which he desired, and would accept, at a competitive price.

Inspection and Storage

As soon as Government had under difficult supply conditions, to assume the role of an increasingly monopolistic buyer, the incentive to supply high quality at a competitive price was partly, indeed largely, lost. Your function, as Inspectors of the grain supplied to Government, is therefore doubly important, because not only do you become the protectors of the taxpayers money, and of the health and welfare of consumers, but you are also, to some extent, the guardians of sound business practice in commerce in grains.

There are, of course, other aspects of your present work of great importance. For instance, it will have been obvious to you, especially to those who have been attending the Storage Course, that the inspection side must be closely linked with the storage side. The importance of bringing grain into storage in as good and clean a condition as possible has been emphasised as one of the means of preventing subsequent infection, deterioration and loss.

Insistence upon high standards of cleanliness and quality at the inspection stage, before the grain is accepted, is obviously a matter of great concern to the officers responsible for storage. You can also assist the storage side by keeping a watch on the conditions of grain in storage, or issued from storage, with a view to re-conditioning and thereby minimising loss, which might otherwise occur.

Central Grain Reserve

Turning our eyes to the future, you must be aware that the Government of India have, for some time past, been considering the implications of a proposal to set up a Central Reserve of grain in India. The objects of this Reserve would be not only to provide some insurance against periodical shortages of supplies, but also to operate as a buffer stock to be utilised for the maintenance of producers' prices at, or about, a pre-determined level, and prevent an undue rise in consumers' prices, should conditions of shortage develop. This idea has since been brought prominently forward on a world basis at the recent Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Copenhagen, and is about to be examined in detail by a Preparatory Commission summoned for the purpose in Washington.

I cannot say to-day whether the proposals will be found practicable on a world basis, or to what extent the proposed World Food Board can relieve us of the necessity of developing our own scheme, but in any case, it appears to be likely that Government in this country will be involved as a large stockholder of grain, and of grain purchased in India, as well as imported from abroad. In this connection, the work which is now being done in studying the problems of inspection and standards of quality, as well as in the training of staff for inspection work, can hardly fail to be of value.

This question of establishing for India greater uniformity in recognised standards of quality is an important aspect of inspection work. To lay a sound foundation for quality standards now is important, not only with a view to eliminating the administrative complications, which we experience in inter-Provincial movement, it is even more important with an eye to future marketing operations. Our present task of distribution would be greatly simplified and speeded up, if Provinces and States could accept each other's certificates of quality, issued in accordance with known and accepted all-India standards.



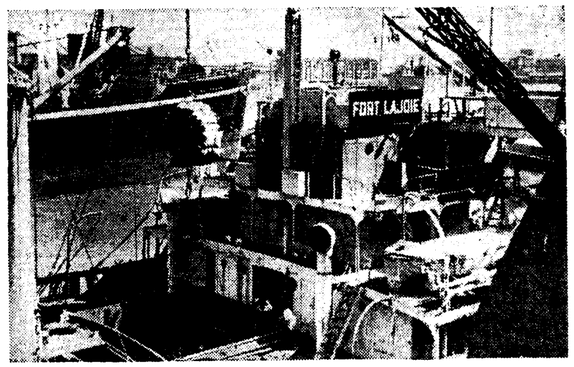
SIR ROBERT HUTCHINGS, SECRETARY, FOOD DEPARTMENT.

When the world supply situation again makes it possible for the Trade to operate with confidence and safety, the establishment of recognised standards of quality will be of an immense advantage and protection to both merchants and producers. The establishments on a satisfactory basis of such standards in an agricultural production unit, of the size and diversity of India, is not a simple matter, nor one that can be brought about in a moment of time, and here again the work on which you are engaged, and the information and experience, which you are building up, can and will make an invaluable contribution to that end.

Important Task

I am confident that these considerations are receiving constantly wider recognition by Governments, the Trade and the Public, and that the national importance of the work on which you are engaged will be increasingly realised. This should lead to an increasing measure of assistance and co-operation from all with whom you come in contact. However that may be, I would like you to return to your work after this Course, full of determination and with the missionary spirit.

You may meet both with apathy and with active opposition. Be prepared for both, and dismayed by neither. You can take my word for it that wherever you are working, we in the Central Food Department take a personal interest in each one of you and your work. We shall always be glad to hear from you and to learn of your successes, and even of your failures or difficulties, because we, on our part, desire to do everything possible to help you.



SOON AFTER THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF INDONESIAN FOODGRAINS WHICH WAS UNLOADED RECENTLY AT COCHIN PORT, A SECOND SHIPMENT OF RICE HAS BEEN UNLOADED AT BOMBAY.

FOODGRAIN IMPORTS FROM ABROAD

IN addition to pressing India's case for imports before International bodies allocating food supplies, such as the Combined Food Board and the International Emergency Food Council, the Central Food Department has investigated the possibility of importing foodgrains from a number of other sources. The results may be briefly summarised as follows:

From Egypt 40,700 tons of millets and 7,000 tons of barley have been received in India.

From Indonesia

In Iraq, 2,000 tons of millets have been purchased and arrangements completed for a further import of 6,000 tons. In addition, the British Ministry of Food has promised to give India about 80,000 tons out of the exportable surplus of barley purchased.

The Iran Government has promised to issue export licences up to 60,000 tons of barley in favour of India.

From Indonesia about 6,000 tons of paddy have already reached India and about 24,000 tons are on the way. There have been many difficulties in the way of accelerating supplies and an officer of the Food Department is even now in Java assisting in removing these difficulties.

The Chaman Lal Mission

The Chamanlal Mission has successfully concluded an agreement with the Argentine Government under which export permits for maize and millets of over 300,000 tons are being issued. Considerable quantities of Argentine grain have already arrived in the country and more is on its way.

From purchases made by H.M.G. in Turkey, India expects to secure 80,000 tons of barley and 20,000 tons of wheat.

A purchasing agent has been appointed in Abyssinia and out of 2,000 tons of *jowar* expected from that country, 1,500 tons have already arrived.

In addition to the above quantities, trade offers of foodgrains from British and Portuguese East Africa are under investigation.

SUBSIDY ON FOODGRAINS

The landed cost of some of the foodgrains imported into India is higher than the price levels prevailing in various parts of the country. In order, therefore, to protect the consumer against a further rise in grain prices, and in order not to dislocate the present price structure in different provinces built up after strenuous efforts during the last 3 years, the Government of India have decided to subsidise the sale of imported foodgrains to the necessary extent. It is understood that the amount of the subsidy during 1946 would amount to Rs. 15,50,00,000.

A drastic reduction in the food demands of the Indian Army during the last few months has proportionately released the pressure of Army demands on the available foodstuffs in the country.

As against the original demands in 1946-47 of *atta, dals, ghee,* vegetable product and hydrogenated cooking oil, of 1,38,700, 23,500, 11,800 and 18,150 tons respectively the reduced demands for the same period are 84,250, 15,800, 8,000 and 11,700 tons respectively.

Proposals to Increase Sugar Production

Matters relating to agricultural and technological research with special reference to the acceleration of production of sugar, *gur* and khandsari, and schemes for ascertaining better storage methods for *gur* were discussed at the fifth Meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee held at New Delhi on October 31 under the Chairmanship of Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The Agricultural Research, the Technological, the Gur and Khandsari and the Finance Sub-Committees met earlier from October 28 to 30, and considered various schemes of sugarcane research for increasing the production of sugar and of issuing popular pamphlets containing up-to-date information on improved varieties of sugarcane evolved at the Sugarcane Breeding Station, Coimbatore.

The question of attracting larger supplies of sugarcane to Sugar Mills, particularly in the deficit areas, engaged the attention of the Committee. A suggestion that certain quantities of sugar should be allowed to the producer for each cart-load of stripped cane sold to the factory has been made to the Sugar Controller for India for his consideration. Another matter that came up for discussion was the permanent location, at a more suitable centre, of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology linked with a Sugarcane Research Station and with increased technical staff both for teaching and research.

Several five-year schemes of agricultural research to enhance the output of sugar in Madras, C.P., and the North-West Frontier Province were sanctioned by the Committee. A scheme for fostering industries subsidiary to the sugar industry such as candy and confectionery manufacture was also sanctioned.

Enquiries made in the Central Food Department show that Indonesia has already received from India 11,000 bales of jute bags, over 5 million yards of textiles and 3,000 cycle tyres and tubes. Other consumer goods consigned to Indonesia by a ship which left India recently, included 700,000 yards of textiles, 24,000 agricultural implements and 7,000 cycle tyres and tubes.

In addition 200 three-ton trucks are being made available for transporting paddy from mills and producing areas in the interior to railheads.

By the end of the current year, Indonesia's demands for rice mill stores and spare parts and the balance of the 20 million 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.

STATUTORY RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS

Mr. Jagjivan Ram's Speech in Central Assembly

"WE have come to the conclusion that the time has come for a statutory provision by which Trade Unions fulfilling certain conditions should be entitled to be recognised by the employers," said the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, in the Central Legislative Assembly on October 29, when he moved that the Bill for amending the Trade Unions Act, 1926, be referred to a Select Committee.

He continued: "The Bill provides for such statutory recognition by the appropriate Government which in the case of Unions in the Central sphere will be the Central Government and the Provincial Government concerned in regard to Trade Unions in the Provincial sphere.

"The principal object of the Bill is that a Trade Union fulfilling the conditions provided (in clause 28D) will be entitled to recognition by the employer and one of the important conditions is that the Union should be a representative Trade Union. Another important condition is that the Union seeking recognition must have been registered under the Indian Trade Union Act for at least 12 months prior to the date of its application for recognition. This salutary provision will prevent too many Trade Unions being formed hastily and applying for recognition straightaway.

Representative Trade Union

"Opinions have been expressed that a Trade Union seeking recognition must contain not less than a prescribed percentage of workers in the undertaking or industry, as the case may be. In a Central Act which should meet requirements both of the Central and Provincial Governments, when conditions may be different in different areas, some elasticity is most desirable. For instance, where the Union is of workers of one single factory, it may well be desirable to provide for a membership of a larger proportion of the workers than in an industry scattered in different areas. For this purpose, a provision has been made that a Trade Union shall be deemed to be a representative Trade Union only if it satisfies such conditions as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government, *i.e.*, the Central or the Provincial Government as the case may be.

The ultimate ideal to be aimed at is to have one strong single Union, truly representative. But it may not be practicable to achieve this end immediately and for sometime to come there might be more than one recognised Unions. But provision has been made (in clause 28G) in the Bill by which, among others, the Industrial Court set up for the purpose will have the power to withdraw recognition of a Trade Union if satisfied that it has ceased to be representative trade union. This provision, along with that of clause 28D, will give power to the appropriate Government to impose suitable conditions so as to ensure that a large number of rival Trade Unions do not spring up and thereby damage the cause of the workers instead of furthering it.

Unfair Practices

"If statutory provision is made for recognition of Trade Unions and for giving such recognised Unions certain rights and privileges, it is equally essential that such Unions should also realise certain fundamental obligations. Therefore, certain practices by the Trade Unions have been defined as 'unfair practices' and any recognised Trade Union guilty of an 'unfair practice' will be liable to have its recognition withdrawn.

"The unfair practices will be for a majority of the members of the Union to take part in an irregular strike, or for the executive of the Union to advise or actively to support or to instigate an irregular strike. It is not, of course, the intention to forbid declaration of strikes in a regular way in conformity with rules made by the Union laying down the procedure for declaring a strike. Also, it will be an unfair practice if the officer of the recognised Union submits any returns containing false statements.

"It is realised that while some responsibility and obligations are put on the members and executives of recognised Trade Unions, some essential conditions should be imposed on the employers also in regard to dealing with such Unions. Therefore, interference with the rights of workmen to organise, form, join or assist a Trade Union, interference with the formation or administration of any Trade Union, encouraging or discouraging membership of any Trade Union by discrimination against the employee concerned, penalising workmen for making allegations or giving evidence in enquires or proceedings relating to matters connected with dealings of recognised Trade Unions or any failure to comply with the mandatory provisions relating to rights of recognised Trade Unions have been declared as 'unfair practices' by employers.

"Provision has been made for punishing with fine an employer who is guilty of an unfair practice. Punishment should fit the crime and a provision has been made that a Union whose recognition has been withdrawn could apply *de novo* for recognition on the expiry of not less than six months from the date of withdrawal of recognition.



MR. JAGJIVAN RAM.

"To inspire utmost confidence in both parties the Bill provides that except where there is agreement, the ultimate decision regarding recognition will be settled by the appropriate Government after receiving the recommendation of the Industrial Court to be set up for the purpose. The Industrial Court will consist only of persons who are qualified for appointment as Judges of a High Court."

Concluding his speech the Labour Member pointed that legislation for statutory recognition of Trade Unions was rendered necessary also by the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Bill, because, before applying the provisions of the latter the appropriate Government would need to ascertain whether the workers making an application really represented those employed in the industrial undertaking to which their application referred. Statutory recognition of Unions would considerably assist the Governments concerned in this matter.

LABOUR MEMBER'S REPLY TO DEBATE

Replying to the debate, arising from his motion to refer the Trade Unions Act (1926) Amendment Bill to a Select Committee in the Central Legislative Assembly on October 31, the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram said:

"There are certain points on which, if Government were to yield, it will be detrimental not only to labour but to industry as well. On these points, I am afraid I am not going to yield. The purpose of the Bill, as I conceive it, is not only to give some benefit to labour alone but to industry as

well. Labour and industry are inseparable factors, the one depending on the other."

Answering the criticism of Mr. Griffiths, the Labour Member said: I may very well urge upon him that the industrialists should mark the signs of the time; they should realise that the time has come when they cannot afford to ignore the demands of labour. The time has come when they cannot afford not to recognise the organisation of workers unless they are forced to do so. If I may say so, Sir, many of the disputes that arise between labour and industry, between employers and employees are on this basis of recognition of Unions. If one were to analyse and study the large number of strikes that have become a common feature of the day, one will admit the fact unhesitatingly that in the majority of cases, the dispute arose on this question.

Where the workers are organised sufficiently, the management is forced to recognise them, but after the relations between them have deteriorated to a very great extent. That ultimately results not only in strike, but it leads to great suffering to labour and also entails great loss to capital, and over and above it great inconvenience to the consumers at large. So, Sir, the Government of to-day cannot afford to be silent spectators of the disputes between employers and employees because it is not only these two parties who suffer but it is the public at large, the nation at large and the consumers at large who also suffer. So, Sir the Government have got to interfere in these matters. I am afraid, Sir, this measure ought to have been on the statute book long before.

Partial to Neither Side

With regard to the motion for circulation moved by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Ishaq Seth, I submit that the Bill has been before the country for the last six years, though not in this identical form, and its principles have been discussed more than once. They have been discussed by the various Provincial Governments, by employers' organisations and workers' organisations, and other bodies. On certain points, of course, opinions are divergent as they are here, but on a measure like this we cannot—at least I cannot conceive of complete unanimity. And the fact that from this measure neither the workers nor the employers are fully satisfied shows that the measure is not partial to one side or the other. The measure is one which seeks to give certain rights to labour but at the same time it also wants that industry should not be placed at a handicap.

While initiating the debate my Hon'ble friend, Dr. Ziauddin, introduced certain fundamental things. I—and, as he reminded me, the class I came from,—feel that it will be a happy day indeed when these principles would be adopted in this country and the economic set-up of the country started on these lines. He talked of nationalisation, failing which, national socialism. I do not want to express any opinion on these two principles. But I may say that if any change in the economic set-up were to be effected, the class I come from and the community I represent will not lose anything. It is this community which stands to gain by any such economic reconstruction.

But we have not got to look at these things and wait for such times as the differences between employers and workers, between capital and labour and between the exploiters and the exploited are removed. We cannot afford to wait till then and let things take their own course. And therefore we have to devise some measures, in the existing circumstances, in the four corners of the economic structure of our present society to safeguard the interests of labour and also to see that the industries prosper with a view to catering to the needs of the country. And this is a measure which seeks to improve the relations between the employers and the workers. I believe many of the differences which arise between the employers and their workers can be resolved if chances were taken for mutual negotiations, discussion and conciliation between them. And for that we have got to devise some machinery.

Need for Compulsion

A point has been made that there is a germ of compulsion in it. Of course that is one of the salient features of this Bill and it has got to be there because industrialists and employers by taking advantage of their strength and influence have tried not to recognise organisations and unions of workers serving under them. There have been occasions when employers would like to negotiate with persons at the helm of affairs in the unions unofficially rather than deal with them officially. They are afraid that if they negotiate with them as presidents or secretaries of labour organisation they will be recognising these labour unions; they therefore negotiate with the office-bearers, if they happen to be public men of influence, in their unofficial capacity because they are afraid that if they do not negotiate with them they will have to suffer badly. And ultimately when the workers are compelled to take recourse to certain steps, most of the employers are forced to recognise the unions. And this Bill intends that this initial friction between the employers and the workers may be obviated. Therefore, Sir, I feel that there should be no ground for any objection on the part of employers to this measure.

Some complaint has been made here by the representatives of the workers that the terms and conditions which have been laid down for the recognition of Union are unnecessary. I hold the contrary view because I feel that these terms and conditions are necessary in the interests of the workers' organisations themselves. I want the workers' organisations—their Trade Unions—to be efficient and above board. And for this purpose these terms and conditions are necessary.

I have some personal experience of the working of Trade Unions, not so big of course as my Hon'ble friend Mr. Joshi and other friends have worked, and I know the drawbacks and defects of those Unions. If these terms and conditions are carried out faithfully, it will make the Unions stronger and more efficient, and therefore I hold, Sir, that these conditions are necessary.

Option to Provinces

One point that has been made here with some force is that the Bill has not given any definition of a 'representative union'. That has been purposely done. In a Bill like this to which several Provincial Governments have to give effect, some elasticity is necessary. The conditions of labour movement in different provinces are not similar. Some provinces are much more industrially advanced than other provinces, and in those provinces the organisation of labour, the organisation of working classes, as well as the Government machinery which deals with them, are elaborate. In other provinces the machinery of the Provincial Governments is just in the initial stage. The organisation of workers in many provinces and in many industries has not started as yet.

I am afraid we cannot lay down any universal condition for the unions of workers to be representative in different parts of the country. They have to be different in different parts of the country and even in different industries. If I were to make this point or to develop this point a bit further, I may submit that the same percentage of workers cannot be insisted upon in the case of the workers working in the Tata's and in the case of the workers working in the coalfields. The percentage has to be fixed differently in these two cases. And similarly many examples may be given in which that percentage has to be different in different industries, and that is why no percentage has been fixed in this case.

I still hold that we should not lay down any hard and fast rule here. We should give some option to the Provincial Governments to prescribe these things in the rules which may suit the conditions obtaining in their respective areas.

One thing which has been said and which I frankly admit has got to be provided in the Bill is that the Bill has not given any definition of 'industry'. That will, I think, be rectified in the Select Committee.

Communal Unions

There are other minor points with regard to some defects in drafting or some changes in wording here and there which may very well be rectified in the Select Committee, and I do not think there is any reason for me to raise any objection on that score.

Then, Sir, there is another point which generated some heat yesterday, I do not want to enter into greater

details on that point—and that is about the non-recognition of Unions formed on communal lines. Personally, Sir, I hold very strong views on this point. Unfortunately we cannot afford to stretch this point too much. I shall request my Hon'ble friends who hold this view that communal Unions should be given recognition or communal Unions should be formed, to conceive the consequences which this step will ultimately lead to. Today, we may think of two or three communities, but the ultimate result in future is simply staggering.

I will give some examples from the Hindus themselves. There have been cries that in the Hindu Society there are the upper caste Hindus, the backward communities and the schedule castes. So far as the broad two divisions the caste Hindus and the scheduled castes are concerned, I do not want to touch them. I am taking the caste Hindus. Some cries were raised by the backward communities which are not educationally, economically and socially well-advanced as a few selected castes at the top of the Hindu society. The cry was that something should be given to them, some reservations should be made for them. Well, reservations were not made, but in giving representation in certain local bodies, or in setting-up candidates from different communities it was kept in view that some representation should be given to those castes which are called the backward communities.

Backward Communities

But the matter did not end there. Among the backward communities there are so many castes and all those castes are not equally developed or equally backward. Now the cry arose that a certain caste had got more and a certain caste had got less.

So ultimately you have to face a cry where every caste will come forward and will say, some provision has got to be made for this caste, and I do not know where this will lead to.

Similarly, if I were to give an example from the Muslim community, I may say that there is a cry from the Momins to-day, there is a cry from a number of functional castes that they are backward educationally, socially, and economically and they require protection. If we were to allow such considerations. . .

MAULANA ZAFAR ALI KHAN (Muslim League): You will have to reconsider your views as regards Muslims.

MR. PRESIDENT: Order, order. Let the Hon'ble Member proceed.

MR. JAGJIVAN RAM: . . . . I am afraid, Sir, I do not know where these things will lead us to. You may take any religion, any caste, any community. I may give examples of Christians. They have no untouchability among them. But what is there in actual practice? I know a large number of untouchable Christians. Though, among Sikhs such things are not permitted, I know a large number of untouchable Sikhs.

Everywhere this division is present. If we are to stretch it, there will be no end to it. We may have communal unions to-day. We may have Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh unions. We may be thinking of these four particular divisions to-day, but tomorrow, I am afraid, there might be a thousand divisions in each of these four divisions. Therefore, I do not feel inclined to think that in such matters, which are purely economic, we should introduce communal considerations.

Trade Unionism

I need not dilate upon the points which have been advanced by some friend or other in this House that trade unionism conceives a class organisation and repeat the same arguments. There is neither Hindu nor Muslim, neither Christian nor Sikh in Trade Unions. There are only two classes —the class of the employers and the employed, the workers and the employers, be they Hindu or Muslim, Christian or Sikh, or of any other denomination, they have their common interests.

Well, Sir, I do not want to dilate upon this point to any great extent. But this is my personal view. I hold it very strongly. In these matters where workers have got their common interests we cannot introduce communal considerations.

Then, Sir regarding the motion of my friend for circulation. As I have already submitted, the Bill has been before the country for a long time. Public opinion has been expressed upon it more than enough and there is no reason for referring it again to the public for giving their opinion upon it. I do not feel inclined to accept that motion and I rather oppose it.

I have to say nothing more than what I have said. The measure is one which is in the interests of the labourers as well as in the interests of the employers, and it has been before the country for a long time and it does not require to be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. Therefore, I commend that my motion be accepted.

I may very well appeal to my friend, the mover of the amendment, to be kind enough to withdraw his motion, because no useful purpose will be served by sending the Bill into circulation for eliciting public opinion. One word, Sir, if you will permit me. I am given to understand that my friend, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth is agreeable not to press his motion. In that case I may assure my friend and my friends in the House that I will departmentally circulate this Bill for eliciting opinion thereon and shall call a meeting of the Select Committee in January next and place those opinions before the Select Committee.

HAJI ABDUS SATTAR HAJI ISAHQ SETH (Muslim League): On that statement, I am willing to withdraw my amendment but I want to make it clear that my party's objection to that particular clause remains. Sir, I beg to leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Admission to British and American Universities

THE state of congestion at the Universities and Technical Institutions in the U.K. and the U.S.A. at the opening of the present academic year is more acute than it was last year, according to information received by the Government of India from their representatives and other authorities in these countries. This state of affairs is not likely to ease appreciably even during the next year. Educational institutions in those countries are faced with a very large demand for admission from their own students, mainly ex-servicemen, whose studies were interrupted by the war.

Limited Admissions

An officer of the Government of India recently visited the universities in the U.K. and U.S.A. in connection with the arrangements for Indian students in those countries and he found that the universities there had a far larger number of applicants than they could possibly find places for even by increasing, as they proposed to do, their enrolment by about 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, the Universities and technical colleges in the U. K. had also been asked by Government to reserve at least 90 per cent. of the available places for ex-servicemen. This meant that a large number of even British young men who were to go upto the universities during the current academic year had to be refused admission. Admissions for foreign students, including Indian students, had therefore to be very severely limited.

Indian students, who intended to go at their own expense, are therefore advised not to proceed abroad without previously securing admission to a suitable institution. A number of Indian students, who have gone abroad this year without having first secured admission to a university or institution in the hope of obtaining a place through personal effort when they get there, have been disappointed and have now to waste their time and money, apart from the difficulties which they are experiencing in regard to accommodation.

The position in regard to accommodation in British provincial towns as well as in London is now desperate and is proving even more troublesome for Indian students than the difficulty of admissions.

DOCKYARD LABOUR MOSTLY EMPLOYED ON TEMPORARY BASIS



SHIPBUILDING IN INDIA: WORKERS IN AN INDIAN SHIPYARD SHIFT BLOCKS TO RIVET THE KEEL PLATE OF A TRAWLER.

IN the Bombay dockyards over 95 per cent. of the workers are temporary. In Calcutta, however, nearly all the workers directly employed are considered permanent. In Karachi, all are, in fact, temporary except in the Port Trust where 50 per cent of the workshop labour is permanent. In the Vizagapatam Port dockyard about 45 per cent of the workers are considered permanent. In Cochin all workers are temporary. Eighty-two per cent of the workers in Bombay and 61 per cent in Calcutta have below 5 years' service.

Labour Conditions

These facts are brought out in the Rege Committee's Report on conditions of Labour in dockyards in India. (The Report was published recently.)

[The Labour Investigation Committee consisting of Mr. D.V. Rege, Chairman, and Mr. S.R. Deshpande, Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar and Prof. B.P. Adarkar, members, was appointed by the Government of India in February, 1944, to collect factual data on labour conditions in various Indian industries. The Committee has prepared 35 reports on working conditions in 38 industries.]

Rege Committee Report

The shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry, at present, is one of the essentially war-expanded industries and employs, apart from contract labour, about 45,000 persons, whereas the pre-war employment figure was only about 17,000. Bombay dockyards account for the largest expansion in employment—from 7,266 persons in 1939 to 26,861 in 1944. This is on account of the fact that after the fall of Hong Kong and Singapore, Bombay became the major dockyard centre in the East. The dockyards in Calcutta employ over 10,000 workers and those in Karachi and South India over 4,000 and 3,000 respectively. Besides, Bombay and Calcutta dockyards employ a large body of contract labour.

It is significant that the employment of women and children is practically nil in dockyards on account of the arduous nature of the work involved. Most of the workers remain on a temporary basis mainly because of the intermittent character of the work.

Dockyards in India are chiefly engineering workshops engaged in repairing and overhauling ships, manufacture of spare parts, and, in some cases, building of small ships and launches. The important dockyard centres in India are Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Cochin and Vizagapatam.

Bombay has six important dockyards. Calcutta has ten, and Karachi eight. Cochin and Vizagapatam are comparatively smaller centres with one and two dockyards respectively.

It is more than likely, says the Report, that the dockyard industry will assume national importance in the near future. India is geographically well situated to become a maritime power. With more than 2,000 miles of coast line she bids fair to become the nerve centre of the sea-borne trade in the East.

Wages

A large proportion of workers in dockyards is skilled. There is, however, no standardisation of wages and occupations in the industry. Nearly all the workers in dockyards are time-rated. Wages are daily reckoned at daily rates except in the Vizagapatam Port dockyard, where skilled workers are given monthly pay. The supervisory staff are in all cases paid on a monthly basis.

In Bombay dockyards according to the results of an enquiry made, 51 per cent of the workers earn between Rs. 2 and Rs. 3; 31 per cent between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 and 18 per cent between Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 per day. In Calcutta dockyards earnings range between Rs. 1-8 and Rs. 3-0-6 per day, in Karachi, between Re. 1 and Rs. 4. In Cochin dockyard 30.5 per cent of the workers receive less than Re. 1 per day, 68 per cent between Re. 1 and Rs. 2 and only 1.5 per cent from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8. Eighty-two per cent of the workers in the Scindia dockyard and 69 per cent in the Vizagapatam Port dockyard earn less than Re. 1 per day.

All the dockyards give dearness allowance to their workers. Some give on a daily basis, while others give at a monthly rate. The dearness allowance given in all cases is not commensurate with the rise in the cost of living.

Housing Conditions

In Bombay, except the Port Trust, none of the dockyards have provided any housing for its workers other than gate sepoys and watchmen. The dockyard labour generally lives in chawls in Mazagon and other areas. Most of the chawls are deplorable and there is considerable congestion.

In Calcutta housing is provided by three dockyards for a small proportion of their labour force. Housing provided is generally not satisfactory. Most of the workers live in *bustees* where living conditions are worse.

Only the Port Trust workshop provides housing in Karachi and that too for a part of its labour. About 150 houses on the Manora island are allotted to the workshop employees. Most of the dockyard labour in Karachi live in Lyari and in other slums which are a slur on the authorities responsible for their existence.

The Scindia shipyard in Vizagapatam has constructed about 340 quarters for its labour in a colony where it proposes to build more quarters after the war.

Recommendations

Housing conditions of dockyard labour being deplorable, the Report suggests that free and proper housing must be provided as they have been provided for dockyard workers in Singapore. The Report makes six other suggestions to improve dockyard labour. It recommends that at least the complement of labour required normally should be made permanent. Even though the character of the work in the dockyards is intermittent, the casual nature of employment at present prevailing can be minimised by forming a pool of mobile labour as in England, which can be moved from place to place.

Wages and occupations have to be standardised and trade tests must be introduced for determining promotion to higher grades. The Report recommends also the introduction of compulsory Provident Fund schemes. The Report suggests that arrangements for giving cheap cooked meals to the labourers will help them greatly. It also stresses the need of giving recognition to the trade unions of dockyard workers.



A CIGARETTE FACTORY IN HYDERABAD STATE WHERE MODERN MACHINERY IS USED TO EXTRACT IMPURITIES FROM TOBACCO BEFORE IT GOES INTO CIGARETTES.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN 'BIDI' AND CIGAR INDUSTRIES

"IN spite of the Employment of Children (Amendment) Act of 1939, many children of tender years were found working in *bidi* and cigar factories in South India, parts of Bombay and the Central Provinces. Even cases of infringement of the Children (Pledging of Labour) Act were noticed in some parts of India". This is one of the findings of the Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in the Bidi, Cigar and Cigarette Industries, conducted by Mr. D. V. Rege, Chairman, Labour Investigation Committee. (The Report has been published.

The *bidi* industry is one of the most important unorganised industries in India in respect of employment. Though it is very difficult to estimate the exact number of workers employed in the industry, indications are that it employs nearly half a million of workers. The Central Provinces employs nearly 1,25,000 workers, South India and Bombay about 1,00,000 each and the rest and employed in other Provinces and States.

A Striking Feature

A striking feature of the industry is the large proportion of women and children employed. In the Central Provinces, Bengal and South India women are employed mostly as home-workers but in Bombay they are regular factory workers. In the Central Provinces nearly 40 per cent of the workers are women while in South India the percentage is about 30. The employment of children of very tender years, says the Report, constitutes a grave evil in this industry.

In South India, in the more important centres for *bidi* manufacture like Madras city and Vellore, the percentage of children to the total of workers is 18 and 29 while in the Mysore State it is about 25. In Bombay and the Central Provinces children are about seven per cent of the total of workers and in Bengal, about nine per cent. It is to be noted, however, that the children are not employed directly by the factory owners but by the workers.

Cigar Industry

In the cigar industry women are not generally employed, but as in the *bidi* industry, the Report adds, the employment of children constitutes a grave evil, especially in those factories manufacturing the inferior quality of cigars called cheroots. In the cigarette factories quite a large number of women are employed in Bombay and Bangalore. Children are not usually employed but a few cases of employment of children against the provisions of the Factories Act were noticed in Calcutta.

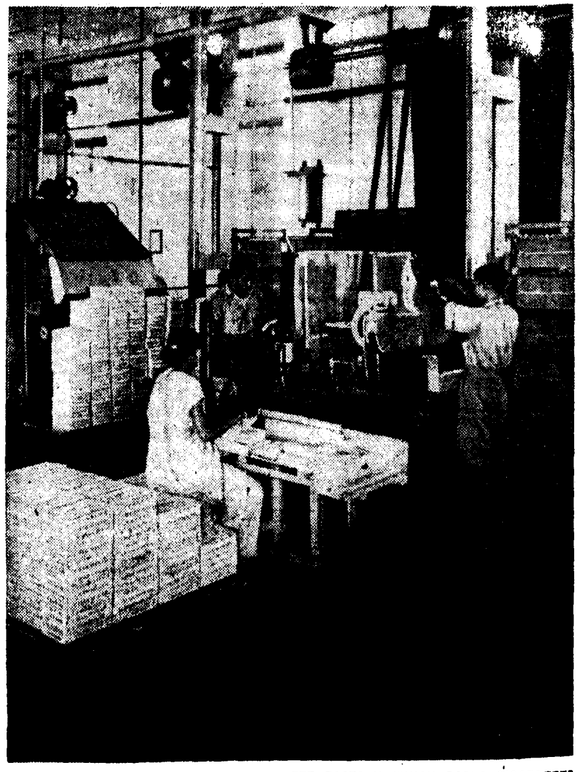
In the Central Provinces *bidi* factories employing 50 persons or more come under the C.P. unregulated Factories Act, 1937, which seeks to regulate employment of women and children, hours of work, rest and holidays and lays down minimum standards of health and sanitation in the factories. But the Act has not been strictly enforced for want of adequate inspectorate.

In the Bombay Province *bidi* factories employing 20 or more persons have been brought under the Factories Act by a notification under Section 5(1) of the Act. In Madras and Bengal the Factories Act does not cover *bidi* factories. Only two cigar factories in Dindigul and all the cigarette factories come under the Act. As a result, though the cigarette factories, with few exceptions, conform to the provisions laid down in the Factories Act, the lot of *bidi* and cigar workers is quite different.

Working Conditions

Describing working conditions the Report says: "The small *bidi* and cigar workshops which are often situated in dirty lanes are dark ill-ventilated semi-basements with uneven mud floors. They are seldom swept and the workers squat on the floor in a congested manner amidst dust and squalor. Latrines and nrihals for the use of the workers are scarcely provided. No clean drinking water is usually made available to the workers. Long hours of work and insanitary workplaces are the general rule in *bidi* and cigar factories.

"Employment both in the *bidi* and the cigar industry is irregular, depending on weather, availability of material, etc. Dearness allowance, bonus or any concession in kind is not given to *bidi* workers. But the cigar workers in South India are generally paid a dearness allowance of 5 annas in the rupee of wages earned and some cigar factories give bonuses of some kind or other. In the Central Provinces the average daily production of *bidis* per worker is about 800 and, on the basis that the average worker works for 21 days in a month, his earnings would vary between Rs. 13|10|0 and Rs. 21|- per month.



A MACHINE IN THE HYDERABAD CIGARETTE FACTORY WHICH PACKS CIGARETTES (UNTOUCHED BY HAND).

Wage Census

"In South India an average *bidi* worker rolls 1,000 *bidis* and in 1944 his earnings calculated from the total wage bill and the average number of workers were Rs. 18|4|- in Madras, Rs. 44|- in Palghat, Rs. 21|- in Mangalore and Rs. 29|3|- in Tinnevelly. The earnings in other centres in South India were in the neighbourhood of Rs. 30|- per month. In Bombay men workers were earning, on an average, Rs. 30|- to Rs. 40|- while women workers were getting Rs. 16|- to Rs. 30|- per month. In Bengal examination of 650 *bidi* workers showed that their average earnings were Rs. 14|12|- a week.

"The children get on an average, four to six annas daily in South India both in the *bidi* and the cigar industry while they get three to four annas in Bombay and the Central Provinces and four to six annas in Bengal. The average earnings of cigar makers in South India were from Rs. 27|12|- to Rs. 32|13|-.

"A wage census in cigarette factories in Bengal revealed that 30 per cent of the workers were earning below Re. 1|- per day, 46 per cent between Re. 1|- and Rs. 2|- and 24 per cent over Rs. 2|-. In Bombay the wage census showed that 5 per cent of men workers were earning below Re. 1|-, 37 per cent between Re. 1|- and Rs. 2|- and 58 per cent over Rs. 2|- per day; 23 per cent of women workers were earning below Re. 1/-; 42 per cent between Re. 1|- and Rs. 2|- and 35 per cent over Rs. 2|-. In Bangalore the average monthly earnings of workers were Rs. 36|11|- for men and Rs. 30|11|- for women."

The Report testifies to the existence of well-organised trade unions in the *bidi* and cigar industries in their respective centres of production. A few strikes were launched in recent years with a view to getting wages raised. Many of them succeeded partially. In the cigarette industry there are trade unions in Calcutta and Saharanpur, but none in Bangalore and Bombay.

The main suggestion contained among the conclusions of the Report refers to the need to abolish the present out-work system and to encourage the establishment of big factories in the *bidi* and cigar industries. Only in that case protective labour legislation can be enforced with any degree of success.

Long Hours of Work

Matters requiring immediate attention in these two industries are unhealthy working conditions, long hours of work, employment of women and children, deductions from wages and the sub-contract system of organisation. In view of the large number of women workers in the *bidi* factory concludes the Report, the appointment of women Factory Inspectors in every important *bidi*-making Province is desirable.

PLANTATION LABOURERS NEED BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS

THE need to enact a Central Plantation Labour Code is emphasised by Mr. D. V. Rege, Chairman of the Labour Investigation Committee, whose Report on an Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in Plantations in India, has been published. Plantations, which are large-scale enterprises in agriculture, cover a total area of 11,91,788 acres in India. 6,72,955 acres of which comprise the tea estates of North India, while the tea, coffee and rubber estates of South India together mark of 5,18,683 acres. The tea plantations in North India employ 7,71,946 workers while all the estates in South India together employ 3,19,515.

The Major Problem

The Central Plantation Labour Code, suggests Mr. Rege, must provide for the establishment of Wage Boards and Boards of Health and Welfare and lay down minimum standards of housing, medical facilities, education, etc. The major problem that has to be tackled in plantation industry is to even labour conditions, i.e., to bring the standards on many smaller estates to the level, as far as possible, of those on the more advanced.

This object can be achieved, says Mr. Rege, by imposing a cess on plantations as has been done in the case of coal-mines. He adds that it is for the plantation industry to devise ways and means of meeting the inevitable increase in cost involved in giving a fair deal to labour. For, the age-long apathy of the plantation labour is disappearing. "The new ideas which are pulsating in the hearts of Indian labour find an echo in the hearts of plantation labour also and it would be idle of the planters to think that they will be able to hold their labour in their present condition much longer," adds Mr. Rege.

Among the positive suggestions contained in Mr. Rege's Report, the following may be mentioned. Medical facilities require improvement, especially in small tea estates and in coffee and rubber estates, where compounders and apothecaries should be replaced by assistant medical officers. Establishment of group hospitals and appointment of women doctors, midwives and health visitors would be welcome steps. The children of the workers must also be given better facilities for education. The employment of children below 12 should be prohibited immediately by legislation. An essential step in improving labour conditions would be to secure public access to labourers' quarters, as recommended by the Royal Commission. The institution of a provident fund scheme for estate labourers also requires immediate consideration.

Present Conditions

The average monthly cash earnings of settled labourers on the books are Rs. 9-10-3 per man, Rs. 7-13-1 per woman and Rs. 5-14-10 per child in the Assam Valley, while in the Surma Valley they are respectively Rs. 7-13-7, Rs. 5-10-6 and Rs. 3-12-10. In Darjeeling they are Rs. 12-4-8, Rs. 9-12-10 and Rs. 4-9-1 respectively, including the dearness allowance. The average monthly cash earnings per worker in South Indian plantations in 1943-44, inclusive of dearness allowance, were Rs. 10-3-4.

Besides cash payments, plantations labourers receive a few other concessions. In parts other than in South India they receive scattered patches of land not exceeding, in all, one-third of an acre each, which serves as a cheap method of holding labour. In all plantations they obtain free housing also, but the accommodation



MOPLAH WOMEN WORKERS TAP RUBBER IN AN ESTATE ON THE WEST COAST OF INDIA.

available to them is cheap, congested and insanitary. The tea industry, especially in Assam, has provided medical facilities and anti-malarial measures to estates.

The most valuable concession is that of foodstuffs, though in Assam it was complained that the ration allowed was not enough, that it was linked with attendance and that it was not always given in full, even when earned, being subject to availability of stock. The ration is not given to non-working children. The monthly *per capita* cost of the foodstuff and cloth concession in the sampled gardens in Assam came to Rs. 5-8-6 in 1944.

High Cost of Living

The conclusion arrived at on this point by Mr. Rege is the following: "The cost of living has gone up by at least 200 per cent in the plantation areas in North-East India since 1939, while the total earnings of plantation workers including the value of foodstuff and cloth concession have been only nearly doubled in them. In South Indian plantations, the cost of living has gone up by 100 per cent. while the earnings went up by 50 per cent. in the case of men and about 70 per cent. in the case of women, who were getting very low wages before the war." He points out further, that most of the concessions, which are adduced to justify the low wages are no concessions in the circumstances of the plantation industry and the concession of cheap foodstuffs and cloth which alone can be taken into consideration while assessing wages will, and should, disappear when normal times return.

A remarkable feature of the plantations is, observes Mr. Rege, that while the employers are well-organised and powerful, economically as well as politically, the workers are unorganised, illiterate and helpless. In the whole of Assam there was, until recently, only one Union of garden labourers in the Cachar district. There are unions in other plantation areas. The best safeguard for labour is ultimately the evolution of Trade unionism and the introduction of collective bargaining; but, as at present establishment of Trade Unions in plantation areas is not practicable, it may become necessary for Government to protect their interests.

The food crisis since the end of 1945, has led to a rapid extension of rationing in India especially in the semi-urban and rural areas. Up to the beginning of October 1946, 771 towns and rural areas covering a population of over 150 million persons 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.

CENTRAL TECHNICAL POWER BOARD'S TWO-YEAR RECORD

A technical survey, whose conclusions may involve the future policy of power supply to the whole of Delhi Province, has been undertaken by the Central Technical Power Board. The survey will relate to the question of interconnecting two of the largest provincial power systems in India by high voltage transmission lines. The areas concerned are the South Eastern Punjab and Delhi Province and the North-Western United Provinces. Already a good deal of preliminary work has been done by the load survey staff of the Board.

The Board, which was set up in November, 1944, has been so far working on 12 Projects including the preparation of an engineering plan of a preliminary nature on the Damodar Valley Project. It has also submitted six reports, one of which (the Preliminary Memorandum on the Unified Development of the Damodar River) has already been published by the Government of India.

Damodar Valley Project

In addition to the Damodar Valley Project and the schemes connected with it the Board has taken up other investigations. The North Calcutta Rural Electrification Project, which has been accepted by the Bengal Government and is being carried out, was planned wholly by the Board. Similarly the Board has submitted a report to the U.P. Government on the U.P. North-western Power Transmission Systems, which if carried out, may cost in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2½ crores. A scheme called for by the C.P. Government on the Nursery Power Development in C.P. has been prepared, and so will shortly be prepared a report on the East Calcutta Rural Electrification.

The Board is now considering a request from the Government of Assam for the preparation of a Nursery Power Development Project. The Bahawalpur State has likewise applied for a "Ten Years' Power Plan".

Board's Functions

The Board, which was appointed in the first instance for a period of five years, was intended to serve as a body of Consulting Engineers. Its function is to act as a Central Government engineering planning agency to be available to the Central, Provincial and State Governments for the preparation of multi-purpose, hydro-electric and thermal power schemes covering proposed technical arrangements.

It also furnishes economic studies and estimated costs and recommends the course of action necessary for implementing the various projects. In cases where contiguous power systems exist the Board undertakes long-range studies for making recommendations on schemes relating to development, inter-connection, etc; and in cases where there are possibilities of electricity supply schemes, the Board surveys the extent of power requirements. Finally it prepares schemes to promote rural electrification projects.

In discharging these functions, the Board acts purely as a Technical Advisory Body without any mandatory powers.

The Electric Commissioner's Office, though intimately associated with the Board, is a separate organisation. It is a permanent Government institution acting as a Central bureau of information on the development of electricity supply in this country. It is intended to help any one desirous of information or data on electricity supply and in addition to help the industry to develop and secure its major requirements of heavy plant and equipment. It may be mentioned here that the Electric Commissioner's Office recently helped Indian industry in importing heavy machinery worth Rs. 15 crores by locating the most favourable manufacturing centres in Europe, U.S.A. and U.K.

The Board is scheduled to consist of three full-time Members. At present there are two Members, one of whom is the Chairman (who is also the Electrical Commissioner), while the other is an outstanding American specialist in hydro-electric projects. In spite of the Federal Public Service Commission's determined efforts, no Indian was available for appointment, a suitable Indian, who was actually selected by the Commission, being unable to join.

Foreign Technicians

There are, it is true, some Indian engineers with adequate experience in hydro-electric power system planning, but they are already occupying posts of high responsibility in the industry, and as the results of the Federal Public Service Commission's efforts revealed, their services could not be spared for the Board. In view of this, the Board has been instructed to utilise the services of such foreign technicians, as have been appointed by it, on short-term contracts, for training Indian Engineers and imparting to them the technique and the fruits of experience gained in planning work abroad.

There are at present 14 Indians, 2 Anglo-Indians and 1 non-Indian in the Electrical Commissioner's Office and 13 Indians and 4 non-Indians in the Central Technical Power Board. Recruitment of all gazetted personnel to both these offices is being undertaken through the Federal Public Service Commission.

Information now available shows, that of the imported grain from overseas during the period May 1 to September 30, Madras received the highest allocation of 316,000 tons and Bengal came next with 112,000 tons. The allocations for the deficit areas of Bombay, Travancore-Cochin, Mysore and Bihar were 99,000, 96,000, 95,000 and 71,000 respectively.

DRIVE FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

Labour Member's Statement in Central Assembly

"EVERY effort is being made to intensify the drive for the re-employment of demobilised personnel." this assurance was given in the Central Assembly on November 1, by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, in reply to a question on the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment.

He said that the Directorate of Employment recently set up in the Directorate-General was charged with the special responsibility of tapping all available sources of employment in the country and of stimulating the employment-creating activities of employers, both Government and private.

Central Control

The total releases from the Indian Army up to September 30, 1946, was approximately 8,65,500, said the Labour Member. He added, "So far 3,21,302 ex-Servicemen have asked for employment assistance from the Employment Exchanges, and of these 51,824 or 16 per cent. are known to have been placed in employment as the direct result of the efforts of the Employment Exchanges under the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment."

Reorganisation has been effected in the Directorate-General, said the Labour Member, with a view to achieving maximum results with the minimum cost to the tax-payer. He cited the instance of the amalgamation of four Directorates dealing with technical, vocational, disabled and women's training into one common Directorate.

On the question of transferring some section of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation to the Provincial Administrations, he revealed that it was recently discussed at a Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers, where it was decided that for some time to come central co-ordination and control would be necessary before Employment Exchanges and training schemes were handed over to the Provincial Governments.

Replying to another question the Labour Member said, the total number of ex-Service Women, who have asked for resettlement and employment assistance and been registered at the Employment Exchanges up to September 20, is 802. The number of ex-Service Women who have so far applied for training is 160.

H.E. the Viceroy has been pleased to appoint Hon'ble the Defence Member to be the President, and the Hon'ble Members for Finance, Education, and Labour to be the members of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board, said a Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on November 4.



NEARLY A THOUSAND, EXHIBITS, INCLUING HANDICRAFTS OF ALL KINDS, BEDSHEETS, DURRIES, HANDBAGS, LEATHER GOODS AND TOYS MADE BY DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN WERE ON DISPLAY AT THE EXHIBITION HELD RECENTLY AT THE C.-IN-C.'S HOUSE IN NEW DELHI. THE EXHIBITION WAS OPENED BY THE HON'BLE SARDAR BALDEV SINGH, DEFENCE MEMBER. PICTURE SHOWS LADY WAVELL EXAMINING CHILDREN'S TOYS.

Provinces to Benefit From Employment Exchanges

"EMPLOYMENT Exchanges at present are in their very initial stages and we have to make progress very cautiously and carefully. In view of this fact I am of the opinion that for the time being the Exchanges should be left to the Central Government; but the Provincial Governments may be given facilities to derive benefit from these Exchanges," said the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Member for Labour, addressing the Provincial Labour Ministers on October 15 in New Delhi.

He continued: "I may inform you that we have got Provincial Advisory Boards in most of the Provinces. We can reconstitute them in consultation with the Ministries there so that the Advisory Boards may be really useful. We may further direct our Employment Exchanges in the Provinces to supply all the material which the Provincial Governments may require from them. As it happened in Bengal, U.P. and Bihar, other Provincial Governments may also want our Provincial and Regional Exchanges in their areas to register certain categories of persons. In that case, it becomes the responsibility of the Provincial Government to find employment for as many of the registered persons as possible.

"In these matters we have to proceed in complete co-ordination. After all, even the demobilised ex-Servicemen belong to the respective Provinces and it is also the responsibility of the latter to see them settled in life. It is our responsibility too to work in conjunction in getting employment for other people as well. As far as the transfer of the control of the Regional Exchanges is concerned, I do not think there can be any difficulty even if they remain under the control of the Central Government so long as we work in co-ordination and direct the Regional Exchanges to supply the Provincial Governments all the information that they may require and to register all categories of persons that they direct them to register."

Training Schemes

While speaking on the various training schemes planned by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, the Labour Member revealed his intention to examine their availability to civilians also. He said, "I hold the view that training should be made available for the civilian population too, and should not be limited to ex-Servicemen. But, all the same, we have to take into consideration the various limitations. So far as accommodation and resources for training are concerned they are very limited in the country. And many of the Provincial Ministers are aware of the very limited resources in their own Provinces.

"My idea was, if possible, to accommodate in existing institutions as many ex-Servicemen as possible for training

(Continued on Page 346)



MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THE HON'BLE PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU (THIRD FROM LEFT) VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION IN INDIA

ADDRESSING a Press Conference in New Delhi on October 27, Mr. B. Meecham, Leader of the Australian Industrialists Delegation (which arrived at Karachi on October 24) said:

"This Delegation of Australian Industrial, Commercial and Exporting bodies was appointed by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia through its Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, the Hon'ble W. J. Scully, to visit India at the invitation of the Indian Government. The Delegation comprises: Messrs. B. Meecham (Leader) and E. P. Simpson, representing the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers of Australia; J. H. Kemp and C. S. Tanner (Associated Chambers of Commerce) and A. Sparks and H. Grose (Exporters Federation). Owing to a last-minute change in airways schedules arrival of three members of the Delegation—Messrs. Tanner, Sparks and Grose has been delayed. They are due to arrive in Delhi.

"While in India the Delegates are the guests of the Indian Government. The visit is in return for that paid by representatives of Indian Industrialists to Australia last year.

"Arrangements have been made for the members of the Delegation to visit Delhi, Peshawar, Lahore, Cawnpore, Bombay, Hyderabad-Deccan, Bangalore, Colombo, Madras, Jamshedpur and Calcutta. For this purpose every facility is being afforded to the Delegates by the Indian Government. The Delegates will spend seven weeks in India.

"The Delegation consists of experienced and practical men of the three bodies mentioned, nominated by their respective Associations in the first place, to the Government.

"Our chief aim is to foster and encourage mutual trade between India and Australia.

"It is our desire to meet exporters, manufacturers, importers and others interested in trade with Australia, and to discuss ways and means of increasing and improving the volume of business between our country and India.

"The proximity of our two countries indicates favourable circumstances for development of trade and with the return of more normal conditions of labour, material supplies and shipping it is anticipated that a greatly increased volume of trade will result.

"In view of the signs evident on all sides of the great developments imminent in India, Australia is anxious to ensure that the goodwill which at present exists should not only continue but extend. We hope you will accept as evidence of our goodwill that nearly 500,000 tons of wheat has already been shipped for famine relief to India, notwithstanding very severe drought conditions in Australia.

Foodstuffs Exports to India

"The quantity of prepared foodstuffs exported to India has shown a big increase in recent years. Chief items are butter, cheese, honey, tinned and processed meats, milk and cream, biscuits, flour, canned fruits, jams and fruit jellies, machinery and railway equipment.

"Increasing quantities of capital goods and small manufactures are being supplied. One Australian firm recently sold the Government of India 250 road rollers. These rollers are being assembled in India.

"Australia, at present, is supplying only a small percentage of Indian orders for consumer goods and capital equipment. This is due to problems of conversion to peace-time production, accumulated home demand, shortage of materials, manpower, and coal, together with the need for repairing war-worn plants. Much of Australia's expanded industrial activity arose only during the war for war purposes. Transition to post-war conditions is a difficult matter. Industrial unrest is a world-wide problem from which Australia is not exempt.

"We must ask Indian buyers to be patient and understand the present conditions in Australia. At the same time, Australian manufacturers are trying to understand conditions in India, and to supply what India wants, as circumstances permit. We can do this competitively because of our price control structure—one of the most rigid in the world. Australia's cost of living rose only 22½ per cent. during the war.

Indian Supplies

"Production in each country is complementary—not competitive. Both countries need what the other produces. Both are in the same geographical sphere. Both are in the sterling currency block. Exchange is in favour of the Indian importer. Australia's war-extended industry will need export markets for its surplus production when home demands have been met. We feel that India is a natural outlet, and we are anxious to foster trade to the mutual benefit of both countries.

"Indian supplies to Australia during the war were invaluable. Jute, cotton piecegoods, raw cotton, cotton yarn, linseed, mica, and shellac were vital to the Australian war effort.

"Australia, in turn, supplied blankets, battle-dress, woollen piecegoods, boots, foodstuffs and engineering stores and material, including railway equipment. We feel this close relation in war should be continued in peace.

"Among many things we want to know are:—

(i) How our goods are received by Indian customers. We shall, where possible, make recommendations to exporters as to what alterations and improvements should be effected to make them more suitable.

(ii) What refrigerated space is available, and its suitability.

(iii) To What extent it is possible to extend our markets by widening the variety and pack of our foodstuff lines.

(iv) If there are any other obstructions (other than the matter of supplies) hindering the free flow of trade both to and from Australia, so that we may make recommendations for their removal.

(v) More about the shipping position, including frequency of services, port destinations, what amount of refrigerated space is available in ships.

(vi) What possibilities exist for the likely to be successful in India.

(vii) What possibilities exist for the export of fresh fruit and vegetables to India."

Messrs. B. Meecham, E. P. Simpson and J. H. Kemp, Members of the Delegation, who arrived in Karachi on October 24, were welcomed by representatives of the local Chambers of Commerce.

The leader of the Delegation, in his first public speech made within 12 hours of his arrival, said the object of the visit was to try and build up happy relations between the two countries for their mutual advancement. Australia, he said, though a young nation of industrialists, had done a fairly good job in a short time. The Delegation, Mr. Meecham continued, consisted of six practical business men who would endeavour to do everything possible to bring the two countries together.

Earlier, the Delegation met business magnates of the city at an informal luncheon. The Delegation spent half an hour at the Karachi Cotton Exchange which handles a large part of India's cotton produce. The day was rounded off with a cruise round the harbour area and a drive through the business centre. After more sightseeing on October 24 the Delegation left for Delhi on October 25 where the remaining three Members joined the party.

THE DELEGATION ALSO DISCUSSED INDO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE MATTERS WITH THE HON'BLE MR. I. I. CHUNDRIGAR, COMMERCE MEMBER IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MR. H. GROSE; MR. E. P. SIMPSON; MR. B. MEECHAM (LEADER OF THE DELEGATION) AND MR. CHUNDRIGAR.



EXPORT PRICES OF JUTE DECONTROLLED

THE Government of India have decided to terminate the Jute Export Control Order, 1946 with immediate effect, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India on October 23.

This Order, it will be recalled, was conceived as an anti-inflationary measure as also with the object of ensuring that supplies of packing material were made available at reasonable prices to all countries of the world for facilitating the movement of cereals.

The Provincial Governments concerned, however, did not take steps to continue the control over internal prices, with the result that jute prices in India have increased sharply while exports have been dislocated. In the long run controlled export prices of jute and jute manufactures cannot fail to influence the internal price level but this would involve a long process resulting in undesirable fluctuation of prices and dislocation of trade. The Government of India have, therefore, decided to withdraw the price control over exports.

Export Duty Enhanced

At the same time, in order to reduce as far as possible the inflationary effects of uncontrolled export prices, the Government have decided to enhance the export duty on raw jute and jute goods. The high prices resulting from decontrol will benefit the growers of this commodity and a substantial part of the proceeds of the enhanced export duty will accrue to the principal producing provinces.

The Indian Tariff Act Amendment Ordinance, 1946, promulgating the new rates of duties has issued in a *Gazette Extraordinary*.

The Government of India intend to continue the quantitative control over exports of raw jute and jute goods so that exports of Indian jute may be equitably distributed among all countries of the world.

REVALIDATION OF LICENCES

In pursuance of the present liberal policy of licensing imports it has been decided to revalidate automatically all import licences initially issued in previous shipping periods and made valid for the period July/December 1946, except those for (1) Foodstuffs subject to allocation by the International Emergency Food Council, (2) Salt and (3) items covered by the Machine Tool Control Order, 1941, to cover shipment in the period January/June 1947, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 1.

Licences initially issued for July/December 1946 period have already been marked or notified as valid for two shipping periods, i.e., up to the end of June 1947.

Importers need not therefore apply for formal revalidation of such licences to the licensing authorities concerned.

EXPORT OF COTTON FROM INDIA

Floor Prices Raised to Help Growers

A PRESS Note, issued by the *Commerce Department*, Government of India, on October 26 stated:

The Government of India, after carefully reviewing the whole question regarding the export of Indian cotton in consultation with the representatives of producers, consumers and exporters, have come to the following conclusions:

(a) that the embargo on the export of Indian cotton *stapling over* 11-16" should be continued for the present;

(b) that the quota for export of cotton of 11-16" staple and below shall be up to 2 lakh bales for the period *ending* December 1946 over and above the 3 lakh bales agreed to by Government for export to Japan. Export to Japan, however, would be on a Government to Government basis; and

(c) that the quota for export for the period January to April 1947 *shall be 5 lakh bales.*

Government also expect to be able to allocate an additional quota of 5 lakh bales *from May 1 to* August 31, 1947, if their present estimates of new crops and the consumption by Indian mills prove to be correct.

Export Quotas

In regard to the 2 lakh bales fixed for export for the period ending December 1946, the following destinational quotas have now been fixed for different countries:

	(Bales)
U.K.	50,000
Australia	1,000
European countries (excluding U.K. and Germany)	50,000
U.S.A.	15,000
China	65,000
Other countries	13,700

Export licences up to 75 per cent. of these quotas will be granted to established shippers, i.e., those who exported cotton to these countries during the three years ending March 1939, and applications should be made to the Export Trade Controller at the port concerned with evidence of their exports during the basic period.

The remaining 25 per cent. of the quotas have been reserved for non-established shippers. Applications by such shippers should also be made to the Export Trade Controller at the port concerned along with evidence of their exports during other years, if any, and a certificate from either the East India Cotton Association, Bombay, or the Karachi Cotton Association, Karachi, that the applicant is a *bona fide* cotton trader for the last three years. Allotment of licences against applications from these exporters will be made by the Chief Controller of Exports with the approval of the Commerce Department in New Delhi.

Exports to European countries and to the group "other countries" would be administered on a group basis, i.e., exporters to any of these destinations in these groups will be allowed to export to any destination they choose in the respective groups. Exporters to Japan will be eligible to export to China on the basis of their export to Japan during the basic period.

Exports of Linters and Yellow Pickings will be allowed freely.

Cotton covered by genuine contracts entered into with foreign buyers prior to May 13, 1946 up to 13-16" in staple, provided the cotton sold and exported actually belongs to the 1945-46 or older crop, will be licensed for export in addition to the quotas mentioned above.

The Government of India have also decided to raise the floor prices of Indian cottons by Rs. 80 per candy in the case of Jarilla *fine* ¾" staple and *pro rata* for other types and varieties. The market price for Jarilla has for some time been above the new floor. Government therefore believe that this action will ensure the grower a better price without making any material difference to the cost of production of cloth. The ceiling prices will, however, remain unaltered.

The new floors as a result of this decision shall be as follows:

Serial No.	Description (Season 1946-47)	Staple length	Floor Price 1946-47 (Rs.)
1.	Fine Jarilla	3/4"	430
2.	Fine Broach	3/4"	430
3.	Fine Surti	7/8"	545
4.	Fine RG 4F Punjab/American ..	3/4"	450
5.	Fine RG LSS Punjab/American..	13/16"	490
6.	Fine RG 289F Punjab/American	7/8"	560
7.	Fine SG 4F Punjab/American ..	3/4"	480
8.	Fine SG LSS Punjab/American ..	13/16"	520
9.	Fine SG 289F Punjab/American	7/8"	615
10.	Fine RG 4F Sind/American ..	3/4"	450
11.	Fine RG LSS Sind/American ..	13/16"	490
12.	Fine RG NT Sind/American ..	7/8"	515
13.	Fine SG 4F Sind/American ..	3/4"	480
14.	Fine SG LSS Sind/American ..	13/16"	520
15.	Fine SG NT Sind/American ..	7/8"	560
16.	Fine Dholleras ..	3/4"	..
17.	Fine Kalagin	3/4"	..
18.	Fully good Bengal Deshi ..	..	..
19.	Fine Oomra Deshi ..	..	..
20.	Fine Sind Deshi ..	..	..
21.	Fine MG Compta ..	7/8"	530
22.	Fine MG Upland	13/16"	480
23.	Fine MG Western	13/16"	455
24.	Fine MG Cambodia ..	7/8"	550
25.	Fine MG Karunganj ..	13/16"	480

Claims by Victims of Nazi Oppression

Arrangements have been made which will enable persons resident in India, who have claims in respect of property of which they were dispossessed as a result of Nazi persecution or discrimination, to forward their claims to Germany through official channels.

Claims should be prepared in quadruplicate, two copies being in English and two in German, to include all relevant information expressed as concisely as possible. Bank forms for the purpose can be had from the Commerce Department, Government of India, Simla, which should, after they are filled in, be forwarded to the Director of Commercial Intelligence 1, Council House Street, Calcutta. Even persons who have been in correspondence with the Director of Commercial Intelligence or the Government of India on the subject are advised to take advantage of these facilities so that their claims may be forwarded to Germany according to the procedure *now* laid down.

It is emphasised that in making these arrangements the Government of India is concerned only to provide claimants, in the absence of normal postal facilities to Germany, with an opportunity for placing details of their claims on record with the appropriate authorities in Germany, pending the establishment of suitable machinery for dealing with them. No correspondence can be entered into with regard to these claims, nor is it possible to obtain and provide factual reports on the properties in question.

STATE SHOULD ACQUIRE MINERAL RIGHTS

Indian Coalfields Committee Recommendations

STATE acquisition of mineral rights in the permanently settled areas of Bengal and Bihar with a view to the eventual possibility of nationalising the coal industry, the creation of a new Central Department of Fuel and Power and the incorporation of a National Coal Commission to take over the ownership and administration of the Railway collieries and to discharge various executive functions of public control over the Industry, are recommended by the India Coalfields Committee in a unanimous Report submitted to the Government of India.

The Committee was appointed in December, 1945, to review the recommendations made by various Coal Committees set up in the past and to consider the present problems of the coal industry, particularly in regard to the conservation of high grade coal, the fragmentation of holdings, the openings of new fields, the economics of the industry and the stabilisation of prices.

It was constituted with Mr. K. C. Mahindra, formerly head of the India Supply Mission in Washington, as Chairman, Mr. C. A. Innes (Andrew Yule and Co., Ltd.), Mr. K.C. Neogy, M.L.A. (Central), Rai Bahadur Lala Rai Kanwar, Chief Minister, Patna State (Eastern States Agency) and Mr. M. Ikramullah, Joint Secretary to the Government of India as Members and Mr. P. R. Nayak, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, as Secretary.

Need for a National Plan

Stating that on the basis of Industrial plans made or under contemplation, coal consumption is likely to increase to 39 million tons by 1956 as against the present estimated demand for 30 million tons and that it is necessary to stop up coal production to 42 million tons per annum by that year, the Committee observe that this can be secured only through a well-considered national plan in which the State must play a positive role.

The Report says: "There is overwhelming need, in the present circumstances of the coal industry in India to direct the very considerable expansion that is necessary into sound channels. We must aim, as far as possible, to produce coal in the areas most conveniently situated to consuming centres; as a corollary, we must guard against overproduction in other areas, because of the consequences this would inevitably have on future production and on the transport system of the country. It is necessary also that coal production should conform, in the matter of the quantities produced of the different classes, to actual consumer requirements. If these objectives are not properly safeguarded, the future development of the coal industry may be prejudiced."

The Committee propose the creation of a new Central Department of Fuel and Power to exercise control over the coal industry and allied matters. Such control in certain matters should, however, be based upon the concurrence and co-operation of Provinces and States.

Subject to the supervision of this Department, there should also be a National Coal Commission incorporated and organised on business lines for discharging executive duties. This Commission will take over the ownership and administration of the Railway collieries, the duties of various statutory bodies such as the Soft Coke Cess Committee and the Stowing and Grading Boards and certain new functions proposed by the Committee. The Commission will be advised by a Standing Committee of the Legislature, a Consultative Board and Advisory Committees on development, prices and distribution. In order that the Commission may have an assured income, it is suggested that a cess on coal for this purpose may be levied.

Private Enterprise

Private enterprise, remark the Committee, has often resulted in overproduction of coal during slump periods and 'slaughter' exploitation of the better seams. Also, private ownership of mineral rights in the Permanently Settled areas of Bengal and Bihar has led to a number of harmful consequences. *Salami*, widely prevalent in the leasing of mineral rights, has been mostly responsible for the fragmentation of holdings. There is a wide diversity of royalty rates and development has been haphazard.

The remedy for all these evils is that the State should vest in itself by legislation all rights to coal at depths below 2,500 feet and in all areas in which coal has not so far been discovered. No compensation would be payable in such cases. Compensation for areas in which coal exists but is unworked should be nominal and for areas in which coal is being worked should not exceed ten times the royalty income in 1945. It is estimated that the total compensation for the acquisition of mineral rights will not exceed Rs. 6½ *crores* for Bengal and Bihar.

Conservation

The Committee estimate that reserves of good coking coal in India may not exceed 700 to 750 million tons and that at the present rate of extraction they will be exhausted in about 65 years.

Conservation, the Report observes, has three distinct aspects: reservation in use, i.e, the use of certain coals by specified classes of consumers only; rationalisation in production, i.e., the extraction of certain coals so as to secure a balancing of output with consumer requirements; and the adoption of mining methods which would aim at maximum possible extraction.

The following steps are recommended by the Committee for the conservation of metallurgical coal. The output of good coking coal should be frozen forthwith and the opening of new workings in such seams should be controlled. The output of good coking coal in the collieries belonging to Iron and Steel companies should also be curtailed with a view to conservation. Control measures on output and despatches should be so ordered that the requirements of essential industires like Iron and Steel Works and coke ovens are met first.

The Committee also recommended that the use of good coking coal should be restricted to Iron and Steel Works and coke ovens but add that its use by other industires cannot be stopped until other coals are available in sufficient quantity. This may not happen for another seven or eight years, for the development of new sources of production takes time.

As regards high volatile coals on which alone the large scale development of a chemical industry in the country can be based, the Committee observe that although India's resources in this kind of coals are considerable and no case exists at present for restricting its use, it would be wrong to assume that no such attempt will be necessary in the future.

Export

Till now considerable quantities of good coking coal went to the Railways, bunkers in ships, exports and a number of consumers other than Iron and Steel Works. The Committee feel that the emphasis placed on the coal export trade in the past is no longer valid and that the monetary concessions so far attaching to it should be withdrawn at once. Moreover, the export or the supply to bunkers of good coking coal should be stopped forthwith.

While the importance of the export trade has diminished, it should be borne in mind that Burma, Ceylon and Straits Settlements are India's natural markets for coal as for other commodities and India looks to these countries for supplies of certain important commodities like food. The maintenance of friendly relations with these countries is therefore of mutual benefit and exports of coal to these three countries should not be stopped. But the total quantities exported annually should be limited. The ban on the export of good coking coal would, however, apply to these countries also.

Regarding bunker requirements, the Committee feel that as India has practically no shipping of her own and has to depend on foreign ships for her trade, coal for bunkers should not be stopped. This apart, such supplies from India are not likely to be large, the maximum up till now having been about one million tons per annum. But whatever the requirements may

be, the Committee add, they must be met in full.

The Committee recommend compulsory assisted stowing in order to help conservation. Mining should in future aim at maximum extraction in respect of coals with an ash content up to 30 per cent. Assistance may be given up to 75 per cent. of the total cost of stowing subject to a maximum of Rs. 2|- per ton of coal extracted. For this purpose, a cess may be levied at the rate of 0-8-0 per ton of coal and 0-12-0 per ton of hard coke, for the next five years, to be increased later to Rs. 1-2-0 and Rs. 1-10-6, respectively. A priority plan for stowing on the two important coalfields is recommended.

Coal used for generation of electric power will not only aid conservation of the mineral, but also the industrial development of the country. The Committee are of the opinion that electrification of the Railways will benefit both the Railways and the countryside and result in wider industrialisation and the saving of good coal. It is estimated that the electrification of a mile of track is likely to lead to a saving 400 tons of coal per annum.

The Committee point out that with further progress in the Damodar Valley Scheme, electrical development will be most intense in the Bengal-Bihar area where large thermal stations would supplement hydro-electric power. The increased coal consumption on this account will be partly offset if Railways in the vicinity of coalfields, particularly of the E.I.R. route from Howrah to Moghalsarai, are electrified. The Committee recommend the immediate installation of three generating plants of 50,000 k.w. capacity each in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields so as to make greater power facilities available to the coalfields and to assist in the electrification of the track from Howrah to Moghalsarai and other industrial development.

Grading

The grading of coal seams according to the chemical and physical properties of the coal obtained and analysis of the coal requirements of various classes of consumers should, in the opinion of the Committee, be undertaken forthwith so as to provide data for deciding whether a general or partial regulation of use should be introduced. But even before this can be done, the consumption of cotton textile mills, electricity companies, cement works, brick kilns and soft coke manufacturers should be regulated on the basis of war-time experience.

The Railways require good non-coking coal for mail and express trains, but can use certain inferior coals for goods trains. In this connection it is pointed out that there is need for studying the possibility of designing future locomotive boilers so as to burn high ash coals.

As long as there are shortages of coal and of rail transport, control over distribution should continue. In the opinion of the Committee, the war-time system of control has on the whole worked satisfactorily. They, however, suggest the appointment of a small committee to review the work of the Controlling Officer and to examine grievances. It is pointed out that the Colliery Control Order, particularly in reference to middlemen, has certain defects which should be removed. The control over distribution should be modified only when supply has overtaken demand.

If certain consumers are compelled to use inferior coals, it would be necessary to consider if they should be allowed any concessions either in the price of coal or in rail freight or both.

Price control, say the Committee, is necessary and should continue in respect of all consumers, even after control over distribution is modified. Prices should, however, be fixed in such a manner as to assure a fair wage based on social considerations to labour. A representative Price Committee should advise on proper prices, which should not be subject to frequent alterations.

There is need for undertaking an early revision of the present prices for the different classes of coal, but in the interests of the rapid development that is necessary, the revised prices should remain in force for two or three years.

The present gap between supply and requirements is estimated at about four million tons per annum. In order to balance supply and demand, the Committee suggest that production and transport capacity should be stepped up at the rate of 1½ million tons per annum. They recommend also that until production increases to the desired extent the large reserve capacity of the railway collieries should be tapped.

Immediate steps should be taken to develop new fields in suitable areas, for otherwise the industrial development of the country will be greatly retarded. A plan of development is recommended by the Committee. The Kamptee Coalfield in Nagpur District, Central Provinces, the lignite deposit in South Arcot District, Madras and the Korar field in Rewa State are selected as the first group of new fields which should be opened within the next five years. In addition, large scale increases in production should be attempted in the fields now being worked.

A number of detailed recommendations as essential for the production programme are made by the Committtee in respect of rail transport facilities, they include the construction of fresh lines and the provision of better facilities in the coal areas, speeding up of goods trains, establishment of private weigh bridges in larger collieries, etc. In this connection, it is remarked that a change is necessary in the hitherto accepted ideas on railway development, namely, that the railways constitute a self-contained commercial enterprise rather than that they should be a means to an end. The Committee suggest a searching enquiry into the entire question of rail transport not merely for coal but for all traffic.

The lack of a settled mining labour force is one of the main reasons for low production of coal in India. Absenteeism is large and the average output per worker is low. Improvement of working and living conditions and provision of better wages and adequate amenities will go far to remove these evils. If miners are trained the average output will also increase. The Committee recommend the abolition of the raising contractor system and the establishment of labour exchanges in the main recruiting and coal areas. They also stress the need for the introduction of machine cutting in all new developments so as to bring about increased production.

Financial assistance to deserving mines, banking facilities for small operators and the extension of the service of the Industrial Finance Corporation for long-term financing of the coal industry are recommended for facilitating increased production.

It is emphasised that the Coal Production Cess should be abolished by the end of March, 1947, unless the cess at a lower rate is to be used for a different purpose. The Committee point out the desirability of each Province examining the possibility of changing the basis of some of the Provincial Cesses and unifying all of them. The unification of Central Cesses, on the other hand, is not considered to be practicable.

The Committee recommend consideration of the question of granting collieries an allowance for depreciation of the rights in a wasting asset.

Bye-Products

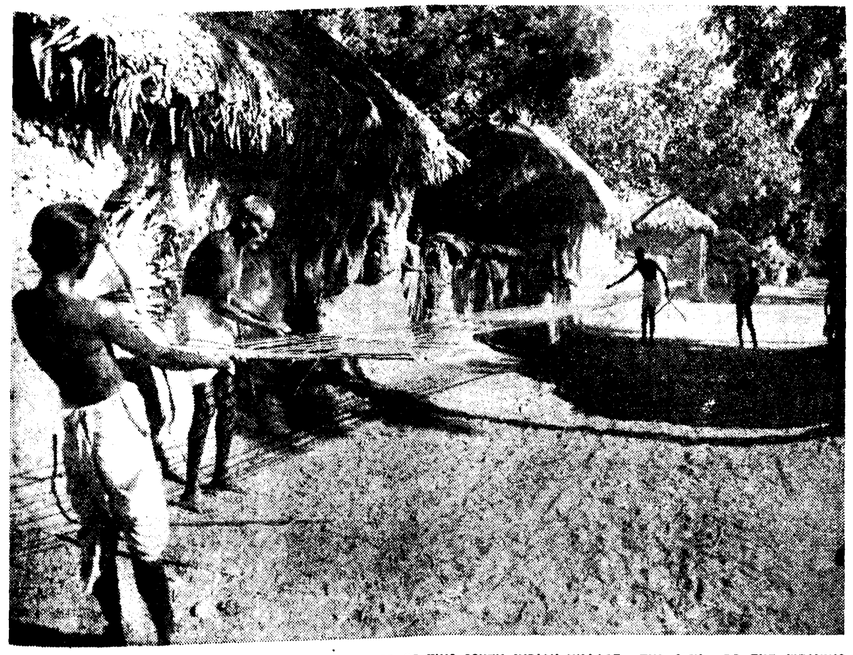
The need for extending operations for the recovery of bye-products is stressed by the Committee. For this purpose the installed benzol recovery plants and the three unused ones now lying with the Government should be put into full use. As some of the bye-products of high temperature carbonisation are valuable and essential to chemical industries, the excise duty on benzol should be removed.

It is not desirable that coke oven batteries should be permitted in future without a full complement of bye-product recovery plant. Improved methods for the manufacture of soft coke should be evolved and a strenuous attempt should be made to increase the consumption of soft coke as domestic fuel. Exemption from stowing cess is recommended for soft coke.

Fuel Research

Attention should first be paid, observe the Committee, to a chemical and physical survey of Indian coals to be completed in the next five years. Referring to the proposed Fuel Research Institute, the Committee recommend the provision of additional staff in the Central Institute and the setting up of three sub-stations in the Raniganj, Bokaro and Central Provinces fields. The cost of fuel research should be shared by Government and industry and the Committee suggest that a cess of one pice per ton of coal despatched may be levied for this purpose.

The need for studying, blending and washing possibilities with a view to increasing the resources of good coking coal is stressed in the Report. Another important work for the Fuel Research Institute would be to devise a process for de-sulphurising the excellent coking coal of Assam. Increasing the facilities for technical training in mining is also urged by the Committee.



HAND SPINNING AND WEAVING IS THE WHOLETIME JOB OF THIS SOUTH INDIAN VILLAGE. THE MEN DO THE WEAVING AND THE WOMEN THE SPINNING.

OVER 2½ MILLION WORKERS EMPLOYED IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

THE biggest single industry in India, next only to agriculture in its importance, is the handloom industry which produces nearly 1,600 million yards or 25-30 per cent. of the total cloth consumed and employs over 2,500,000 workers. Handweaving is the sole occupation of most of these workers and the mainstay of many towns and villages in the country.

If for any reason the industry collapses, the resultant misery is bound to be serious. The social advantages of the employment of a large number of people under conditions far different from those of a factory are such as cannot be ignored. These facts are brought out by Mr. M.P. Gandhi in an article in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

Basing his information on the Report of the Fact-Finding Committee, published by the Government of India in 1943, Mr. Gandhi computes that there are about 2,000,000 handlooms in the country, of which 1,400,000 were engaged in cotton (72 per cent.), 371,000 in silk (16 per cent.), 25,000 in artificial silk (1 per cent.), 99,000 in wool (5 per cent.), and 100,000 looms in other textile mixtures (6 per cent.). Sixty-four per cent. of the looms are throw-shuttle looms, 35 per cent. fly-shuttle, and over 11,600 small power looms. In 1941 the industry consumed 360 million lbs. of cotton yarn, of which 78 per cent. was made in Indian mills, 70 per cent. imported and 14 per cent. hand-spun; 54.4 per cent. of the yarn consumed was below 20 counts, 33.8 per cent. between 20 and 40, and 11.8 per cent. over 40.

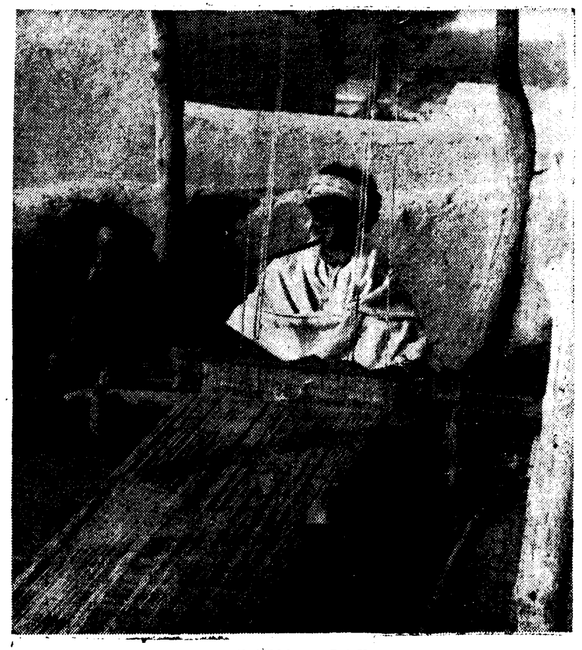
Handloom Goods Exports

Handloom weaving specialises in the production of coloured and multi-coloured cloth, cloth interwoven with gold and silver threads, cloth with embellished borders, short pieces of unique design, rough cloth of low counts and very fine cloth. The principal types are *saris* and other women's clothing, men's apparel like *dhoties, lungis* and *chaddars*, cloth for domestic use, such as towels, carpets and curtain cloth and long cloth. Ninety-five per cent. of the production in Bombay, seventy-five per cent. in the C.P., 44 per cent. in Madras and 40 per cent. in Bengal consists of *saris*.

Handloom goods form about 25 to 33 per cent. of the total piecegoods exported from India. The principal countries of destination are Burma, Malaya, Ceylon and Siam, where there are Indian settlers. The bulk of the exports is from Madras.

One of the chief handicaps of the industry in the present time is the lack of supply of suitable quantity of hand-spun yarn, which throws the industry at the mercy of the mills. The weaver has to pay an inflated price for his yarn on account of middlemen's charges and is exploited by the cloth dealer when selling his cloth. Lack of standardisation and concessional railway rates add to his difficulties. Direct competition from the mills, especially in *saris* and *dhoties*, has proved injurious to the industry.

In spite of all this, the industry can hold its own if it is given the little aid it asks for, such as an uninterrupted supply of yarn at fair prices, an efficient organisation for marketing the products, exemption from taxes and tolls, and publicity, both inside and outside the country, for the superior qualities of handloom cloth.



A VILLAGE WEAVER.

How Indian ingenuity got over the problem of shortage of clocks and clock-work machinery during the war by making use of a simple paper fan in the construction of a highly sensitive instrument is told in an article in the *Journal*, which describes another type of *radio-sonde* developed by the India Meteorological Department for sounding the upper air.

The fan-type radio-meteorograph is cheaper but equal in efficiency to the cock-type one. Poona in 1942-43 and is now in regular use in three Meteorological stations in India.

In this instrument the rotation of a simple paper fan is utilised to close the high tension circuit of an ultra high frequency signaller successively by contact pens connected to an aneroid, a bimetallic dry-bulb temperature element and a similar wet-bulb temperature element. The unit is complete with a wireless signaller. The receiver is placed on the ground, and it has been found that the dry and wet-bulb temperatures at different pressure values can be computed by experienced observers with very little lag from the time of recording of the signals.

A penicillin-like drug called allicin has been developed from garlic, much used in native therapy. The drug has been extracted by a simple process and is being investigated in the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, under a scheme of research on plant anti-biotics, financed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. It possesses anti-bacterial activity against gram-positive, gram negative and acid fast bacilli while neither Sulphaguanidine nor Penicilline is anti-bacterial to all the three types of organisms. In addition, allicin has anti-fungal properties. It is stable in the presence of blood and gastric juice, but is inactivated by artificial pancreatic juice.

D. D. T.

The Alembic Chemical Works, Baroda, have made considerable progress in the production of D.D.T. in India, although actual commercial manufacture has not been started so far. A pilot plant with an output of 50 lbs. of D.D.T. per day has been set up, and the data essential for the large-scale project have been collected. An article apearing in the *Journal* describes the present position with regard to the production of D.D.T. and the properties and applications of the insecticide.

Among other articles appearing in the Journal mention may be made of "The Bellara Gold Mine", and "Production of Elemental Sulphur by Bacteria." The editorial discusses the organisation of library and information services.

ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD

TO co-ordinate and improve plans for the development of the country, the Government of India have decided to appoint an Advisory Planing Board to renew the Planning Board to renew the Planning work that has already been done, whether by official or non-official agencies, and to make recommendations to Government regarding objectives and priorities, and regarding the future machinery of Planning.

Mr. K. C. Neogy will be the Chairman of the Board which will be composed as follows:

Non-officials: — Prof. Meghnad Saha, Nawab Ali Nawaz Jang, Mr. Gaganvihari L. Mehta, Mr. Shuaib Qureshi, Dr. Zakir Hussain, and Prof. K. T. Shah who will also act as Honorary Secretary.

Officials:—Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director, Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Member, Tariff Board; Mr. H. K. Kirpalani, Industrial Adviser, Industries and Supplies Department: Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, Director-General, Industries and Supplies: Mr. V. Narahari Rao, Finance Secretary; Sir Pheroze Kharegat, Agriculture Secretary; and Mr. E. P. Moon, Secretary, Development Board.

Mr. E. P. Moon will be Secretary to the Board.

The Board will meet early in November and is expected to complete work in about two months.

Committees to Advise on Development of Industries

In order to establish closer contact with industries and to ensure prompt assistance in their development and day-to-day progress, 36 committees have recently been set up to advise the Director-General of Industries and Supplies.

The industries for which such committees have been set up include machines and machine tools, engineering, electrical goods and appliances, metals, paper, newsprint and boards, plastics, glass, ceramics, rayon, tar products, fine chemicals, heavy chemicals, surgical instruments, soap, paints and varnishes, and enamelware. A committee for the leather industry is shortly to be established. Some of the committees may have to be expanded and more committees may be formed when more industries are taken up for development.

Each committee consists of about four to six representatives of industrialists selected with due regard to their past performance, potential capacity and regional importance, the appropriate Development Officer in the Directorate-General, Industries and Supplies and, where necessary, representatives of Provincial Governments.

The committees will meet once in three months, or oftener, as necessary.



IN A SOUTH INDIAN LEATHER FACTORY: PICTURE SHOWS SCUDDING—AN OPERATION BY WHICH SMALL HAIRS, DIRT, ETC. ARE REMOVED FROM UNTANNED HIDES WITH BLUNT KNIVES.

INDIA NOW EXPORTS PROCESSED LEATHER GOODS

OWING to the impetus given by the war, India is now able to export processed leather goods and has passed the stages when she was merely an exporter of raw hides. It is estimated that nearly 30 to 40 million pairs of European style footwear and about 70 to 75 million pairs of Indian style footwear per year are now being manufactured in the country.

India's tanning industry has progressed so much during the war that her capacity to process leather is now far in excess of the production of raw hides. This development has benefited the primary producers also. The price of raw hides in July this year was about 400 per cent of the prewar price and that of raw sheep skins 300 to 400 per cent.

India's Cattle Wealth

India has the world's biggest cattle herd amounting to one-third of the world stock, and was producing about 25.7 million hides in addition to one million hides imported per year before the war. Of this about 9.1 million hides were tanned in the villages, 8.6 million by the South India Kip-tanners and 3.1 million by organised tanneries. 1.2 million hides were used in the raw form and another 4.7 million were exported as raw hides.

It is estimated that India's cattle wealth has not been appreciably affected during these years, and is still over 200 million heads. With the impetus received during the war, the chrome-tanners and the organised bark-tanners have doubled their prewar capacity. It is computed that the tanning industry as a whole has increased its production capacity by about 25 to 50 per cent and is able to process all the hides that are available. Even so, the organised section of the industry is working only up to 50 per cent of its capacity.

Because of this change, export of leather manufacture of all sorts, other than gents' and ladies' footwear, is now uncontrolled. Exports of gents' and ladies' footwear, for which there is great internal demand, are being allowed on a quota basis. In addition, leather which is surplus to India's requirements is also permitted to be exported.

In order to obtain a correct appreciation of the stocks position in the country and of the capacity of the tanning industry and thus enable the Government to formulate a more stable and proper export policy, the export of hides and skins was freely allowed to all destinations as an experimental measure in April this year.

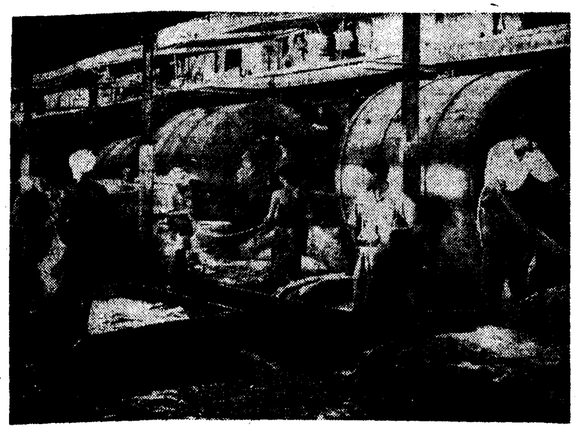
Export Policy

In August 1946, the Government, as a result of watching the trends of exports during this period, decided on the policy to encourage the exports of processed and manufactured goods in preference to raw goods, consistent with the supply position in the country. The present restrictions on the exports of hides and skins are based on the above policy.

LUBRICANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEES WOUND UP

It has been decided by the Government of India to terminate with effect from November 1, 1946, the scheme for the conservation of stocks of lubricants, which was brought into operation in India early in 1942 in order to regulate oil companies' sales of lubricants. This is in conformity with the general policy of the Government of India of relaxing wartime controls, said a Press Note, issued by the Department of Works, Mines and Power, Government of India on October 29.

The Central Lubricants Advisory Committee at Bombay, and the Port Lubricants Advisory Committees at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Karachi, are consequently being wound up.



TANNING DRUMS WHICH BY THEIR SLOW MOVEMENT ENSURE COMPLETE PENETRATION OF THE TAN LIQUOR AND SPEED UP THE TANNING PROCESS.



AMERICAN AIR MISSION ENTERTAINED—

General George A. Brownell, Personal Representative of the President of U.S.A., and leader of the American Air Mission to India, and Mrs. Brownell were entertained to an evening party by the officers of the Communications Department on behalf of the Government of India at the Delhi Gymkhana Club on October 23

Among those present were Members of the Cabinet, Secretaries to the Government of India and other high Civil and Military officers.

Mr. M. H. Zuberi, Acting Secretary of the Communications Department received the guests. Picture shows Gen. George Brownell and Mrs. Brownell with Mr. Zuberi (left).

AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD

A Press Communique issued by the Communications Department, Government of India, on October 28 stated:

In the Communications Department Press Communique dated September 27, 1946, the Government of India announced the amendment of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, providing that the members of the Air Transport Licensing Board shall be persons having high judicial, legal or administrative experience, but unconnected with the Departments of the Government. It was stated that Mr. Justice Din Muhammad would continue as the Chairman of the Board and Dewan Bahadur K. S. Menon as the Member appointed in consultation with the Crown Representative and that an announcement would be made about the appointment of one other Member to the Board.

Rai Bahadur N. C. Ghosh, O.B.E., General Manager, East Indian Railway, has now been selected for appointment as the second Member of the Board. Rai Bahadur Ghosh has agreed to accept the post and will assume charge of his duties in the first week of November, 1946.

As now reconstituted, the Air Transport Licensing Board will consist of Mr. Justice Din Muhammad, Chairman; Dewan Bahadur K.S. Menon, Member; and Rai Bahadur N.C. Ghosh, O.B.E., Member. The functions and powers of the Board remain the same, *i.e.*, licensing of scheduled air transport services in British India and the amendment, suspension or revocation of such licences, as provided for in the Indian Aircraft Rules.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

(Continued From Page 337)

and thereby reduce the cost, or rather save the cost, which may be incurred by duplication of institutions. But so far as existing institutions are concerned we find that the seats available in them are not sufficient. The Provincial Governments are, in fact, unable to accommodate even their own students in them. We may, in the circumstances, save a lot by co-ordination. Still, so far as these training schemes are concerned I will certainly examine the possibility of throwing them open to the civilians."

Central Control Over Motor Vehicles Ceases

A Press Note issued by the Transport Department, Government of India, on October 19 said:

It was announced in a Press Note issued on September 29, that control by the Central Government over the distribution and price of new motor vehicles would cease at the end of September. Legal power to exercise such control does not vest in the Centre because the Defence of India Rules have lapsed and power to continue control by ordinance has not been conferred.

Motor Car Imports

Though there is a shortage of passenger motor cars, the position is improving month by month. From the beginning of 1946 to the end of September, about 4,000 new motor cars have been imported and now they are being received at the rate of nearly one thousand per month. There is no serious shortage of transport vehicles in the country and the question of continuance of control does not arise in respect of them. Power to exercise control over distribution and price of motor cars now vests in the Provinces, and it is understood that the Provincial Governments of Punjab and Madras have already imposed control.

Prior to the cessation of Central control, the Central Government arranged to grant permits to members of the Constituent Assembly to purchase motor cars. These cars were not supplied at Government cost, as has been suggested in an article that appeared in the Press. Cars were released to members of the Constituent Assembly for their use in Delhi when attending sessions of the Assembly. The special quota for this purpose was formed from fresh arrivals in the month of September and no cut was made in the quotas allocated to Provinces and Indian States.

PREMIERS' CONFERENCE

Continued From Page 310)

the Hon'ble Mr. B.G. Kher, Premier, Bombay; the Hon'ble Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier, U.P.; the Hon'ble Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla, Premier, C.P.; the Hon'ble Mr. Sri Krishna Sinha, Premier and the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Ballabh Sahay, Revenue Minister, Bihar; the Hon'ble Mr. Hare Krishna Mahtab, Premier, Orissa; the Hon'ble Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi, Premier, Assam; the Hon'ble Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier, N.-W.F.P.; the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Muzaffar Ali Qazilbash, Home Minister, Punjab; Mr. A. P. Le Mesurier, I.C.S., Chief Secretary, Sind; and Mr. B. N. Chakravarty, I.C.S., Additional Secretary, Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hassan Suhrawardy, Premier, Bengal was unavoidably absent due to the situation in Eastern Bengal and conveyed his regrets to the Conference for his inability to attend.

INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL ACCEPTS BHORE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

THE Medical Council of India at its 25th session held in Delhi on October 19 adopted a resolution accepting "in general the broad principles laid down by the Bhore Committee with reference to Professional Education."

As regards the details of the Committee's recommendations, the Council felt that "when the Central Government have decided to implement these recommendations the Council will be prepared to give their comments in detail."

Lt.-Col. Dr. A S. Erulkar, President of the Council, addressing the meeting said, "In addition to fulfilling our object of establishing a uniform minimum standard of higher qualifications in medicine and maintaining such a standard—by no means a mean achievement—the Council has taken steps which, we hope, will bring Indian States in line with the rest of India, bring about for the whole of India one uniform standard of medical education, one Register, and one modern medical profession without compartments."

New Medical Colleges

He added that the Executive Committee of the Council had noted from time to time the defects and limitations of the Medical Council of India Act and would in due course submit to the Council its considered suggestions for changes in the Act by the Government.

The President informed the Council that post-war schemes and plans for the establishment of new Medical Colleges or up-grading the existing Medical Schools had been received from various Provinces and States and were receiving the consideration of the Executive Committee of the Council.

Research Work at Imperial Agricultural Research Institute

STEADY progress was maintained by the different sections of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, according to the Report of the Director published in the volume of "Scientific Reports" of the Institute for the year ended June 30. 1945. A special feature during the year was the preparation of a detailed preliminary five-year plan for the expansion of teaching and research activities of the Institute.

One of the major lines of investigation in the Agricultural Section has been the role of phosphate manuring of legumes in developing soil fertility. The comparative study of 200 wheats grown at Delhi, Pusa and Coimbatore was continued, while at Simla, the study of hill wheats was also continued. Flood water farming experiments were continued at Delhi and Karnal.

Improved Methods of Storage

Research was carried on to evolve methods for the control of crop pests, sugarcane diseases and the virus diseases of potatoes. The potato crops in the Punjab and the United Provinces hills were inspected for disease incidence. The Central Farm for Seed Certification was established at Kufri in Simla Hills and work on production of seed potato tubers, relatively free from virus diseases, was started at Karnal.

Work on improved methods of storage of grains was continued during the year. A number of non-poisonous chemicals was tried as preservatives D.D.T. and 666 were tried as dusts at the rate of 1|5,000 and 1|10.000 after diluting with chalk and mixed with grain against five stored grain pests. This method appears to be promising, particularly for use in seed stores. Carbon bisulphide was tried as a fumigant in different doses and its effectiveness was found to vary with the temperature and humidity prevailing as also the duration of exposure.

The Institute's Entomological staff successfully fought the locust menace not only in India, but in the Middle East as well. An Indian Locust Delegation visited East Arabia in the spring and summer of 1945 and carried out successful control work in Oman and Sharjah areas.

A Press Note issued by the Health Department, Government of India, on October 23 stated:

The following candidates have been selected from India for the Nuffield Dominion Medical Fellowships, 1946-47:-

Dr. O. V. Jooma (Neuro-surgery)
Major K. P. Bhargava (Thoracic surgery)
Dr. Y.M. Bhende (Haematology) and
Dr. C. Gopalan (Clinical research in Nutrition).

The object of the Fellowships, which are awarded by the Nuffield Foundation, is to enable the candidates to obtain in the United Kingdom such post-graduate training and experience as may be necessary to enable them to undertake medical teaching and research work in their particular subjects on return to India.

Punjab's Post-War Health Plan

BETTER environment, better nutrition and protection of people from endemic and epidemic diseases are three planks in the post-war health development scheme of the Punjab Government.

Two crores of rupees have been earmarked for the extension and improvement of drinking water supplies in rural and urban areas.

Paving of streets and introduction of drainage in villages is to be undertaken in order to improve sanitation, while a scheme for collection of wastes and their utilisation as manure is under consideration. This linking of conservancy with manure production is expected to result in increased crop production.

To Combat Malaria

A plan has been drawn up to establish herds of milk cattle throughout the Province under conditions which will make clean milk production possible.

To combat malaria one crore of rupees has been set apart for drainage works, application of insecticides like D.D.T. and other measures. It is proposed to double the number of maternity and child welfare centres in the province. Village housing will receive attention. Model houses are to be constructed in a large number of villages.

The recommendations of the Bhore Committee are being examined and the present health plan may be suitably altered to introduce, on an experimental basis, in the first instance, a health service of the type envisaged by the Committee.

MEASURES AGAINST YELLOW FEVER

With the growth in civil aviation it has been found necessary to take stringent measures to prevent the introduction of yellow fever into India from the endemic areas, especially of Africa.

The Government of India have, from time to time, made amendments in the Indian Aircraft (Public Health) Rules, 1940, and have now issued the Indian Aircraft (Public Health) Rules, 1946, incorporating all these and certain other amendments.

Under the new Rules all aircraft coming from the West are required at present to land at Karachi. On arrival the aircraft and cargo may be disinsected and all persons on board are to be medically examined either before disembarkation, or under such arrangements as may be made by the Airport Health Officer to reduce the risk of spread of infection to a minimum.

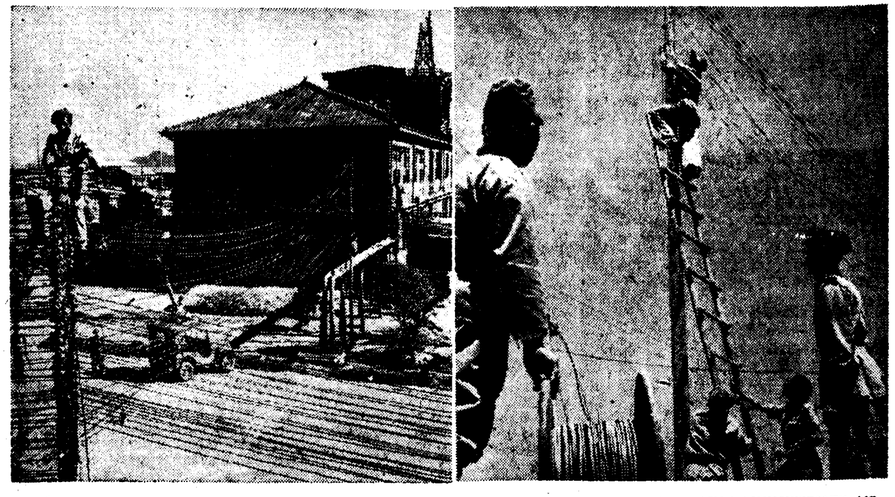
The new Rules also make some change in the period of validity of yellow fever inoculation certificates.



MEN OF THE AIR FORMATION SIGNALS LAYING NEW TELEPHONE LINES.

Indian Signalmen in Japan

Serving with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan is an Indian Army Signals Detachment known as Air Formation Signals. Since its arrival in Japan the Detachment has been engaged on the important task of reconditioning miles of war-torn Japanese telephone lines and laying new installations to improve present communications.



AN AIR FORMATION LINE TECHNICIAN ATTENDS TO A NETWORK OF TELEPHONE WIRES AT THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AIR HEADQUARTERS, IWAKUNI IN JAPAN. (RIGHT) THE SIGNALS SECTION OF NO. 4 ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCE SQUADRON AT MIHO (JAPAN) CHECKING THE TELEPHONE LINES.

WELFARE-GENERAL'S BRANCH CLOSES DOWN

Greatly Accelerated Repatriation of Troops

AFTER operating for just over 18 months the Welfare-General's Branch closed down on October 1. Its three Directorates—those of Welfare, Resettlement and Services Kinematography—will be absorbed in the Adjutant-General's Branch.

Formed in April, 1945, to put into effect the recommendations of the Munster Report on welfare of troops in India, the Welfare-General's Branch was placed under the responsibility of "D.P."—Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel de la Poeur Beresford-Peirse, of Western Desert and Eritrea fame.

Legal Aid Sections

Under "B.P.'s" direction compassionate repatriation for troops was greatly accelerated. Over 4,000 legal cases were dealt with by the Legal Aid Sections and Indian Forces' Family Welfare was greatly expanded. Accommodation and amenities in leave camps were also improved.

On the entertainment side, the Welfare Directorate distributed 30,000 radio sets and 12,500 gramophones throughout India and South-East Asia Commands. For Indian troops, live entertainment was provided by Fauji Dilkush Sabha and the activities of E.N.S.A., the counterpart for British troops, increased considerably during the winter of 1945-46. At present, special programmes are being broadcast to Indian and British troops daily from Radio S.E.A.C. and All-India Radio.

Film Shows

Starting with 24 mobile cinemas, the Services Kinematography Directorate increased these to 370 fitted with 35 millimetre equipment and 1,002 fitted with 16 millimetre equipment. This Directorate also sponsored 95,627 performances, screen 217,334 miles of film to audiences totalling over 46,000,000. In addition, 45 films in 61 languages were produced for training schools and centres.

Far-reaching plans were also laid by the Education Directorate, now under the General Staff Branch, for the educational training of troops. These included the training of thousands of instructors, provision of text books and an organisation that could cope with the multitude of soldiers due for demobilisation. Opportunities were given to soldiers for education in English and Hindustani up to Matriculation standard.

Pre-Release Training

To prepare men for their return to civil life the Resettlement Directorate initiated a pre-release training scheme, which covered general education, hygiene and sanitation, agriculture, animal husbandry, cottage industries and technical refresher courses. Over 100,000 men have already been given such training.

Welfare-General's Branch has also started schemes for rehabilitating the disabled. Up to the present, six Services' convalescent rehabilitation centres and nine hostels attached to Labour Department training centres have been established.

C.-IN-C.'S TRIBUTE

"Whilst offering you my most sincere personal thanks I know that the tribute you really value is the one you have so well earned—the gratitude of all our fighting men and of those whose duty it was to help them to fight, says the C.-in-C. in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, in a farewell message to Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, who was Welfare General in India, on the eve of his departure from this country.

Continuing the C.-in-C. says: "Your branch was born in difficult times, when there was so much to do that those who were engaged on the imperative work of the day found it well-nigh impossible to give the attention they wished to everything connected with the Serviceman—especially the citizen Serviceman—which might contribute to his general well-being and consequently raise his morale to the highest level and keep it there.

"The results of your work prove, I think, the soundness of the decision to create a special Welfare Branch which should look after the Serviceman's interests, not only whilst he was serving with us but after he has left us. You have performed your duties with intense enthusiasm and even greater success than I had dared to hope and moreover, have done so in conspicuously happy association with all other branches of my Staff."

Recruitment for airmen into the Royal Indian Air Force has been resumed by Air Headquarters, India. The minimum educational qualification required is Matriculation (Pass) or its equivalent. Candidates must be between 18 and 28 years of age.

Ex-airmen who wish to re-enlist will, in most cases, be allotted to their previous trades. Educational qualifications and age limits do not apply to ex-airmen.

Engagements will be on a peace-time basis—nine years' regular service followed by six years' reserve. Regular service can be extended by periods of six years to complete 21 years.

83,049 Demobilised in September

MORE than one million personnel of the three Armed Services were released up to the end of September, this year. In that month, 335 were released from the Royal Indian Navy, 80,700 by the Indian Army and 2,014 by the Royal Indian Air Force. Total released from all three Services up to September 30, 1946, amounted to 1,034,152.

The Navy figure includes 265 ratings, 44 officers and 26 W.R.I.N.S. The total decrease in the strength of the Navy since demobilisation started and up to September 30, 1946, amounts to 1.602 officers, 16,444 ratings, 602 W.R.I.N.S. and 199 civilians borne in lieu of ratings.

Since V.-J. Day and up to the end of September, 1946, 999,185 men and women were released from the Indian Army. Of these 18.408 were officers both British and Indian, 5,749 W.A.C.(I) Officers and Auxiliaries, 24,059 British Other Ranks and 931.932 Indian Ranks including 30,406 civilians attached to Indian Army.

In September there was a net reduction of 1,977 officers both British and Indian, 59,702 Indian Ranks, 11.635 Non-Combatants (Enrolled), 538 Non-Combatants (Unenrolled), 693 W.A.C. (I) and 6,155 British Other Ranks attached to Indian Army.

5,006 Units Disbanded

In September, 554 units were disbanded and one Indian States Forces unit was returned to its State making a total of 5,006 Indian Army Units disbanded and 55 I.S.F. Units returned to States in addition to 11 Nepalese Contingent Units returned to Nepal up to the end of September, 1946. Total number of I.S.F. personnel returned to States now amounts to 32,905 in addition to 9,178 Nepalese Contingent personnel returned to Nepal.

The Royal Indian Air Force in September, released 20 officers 1.061 airmen and 993 enrolled followers. Total releases from the R.I.A.F. amount to 176 officers, 3,066 airmen, 7.827 enrolled followers and 51 non-combatant technicians.

Approximately 419,000 tons of seed potatoes and about 306,000 tons of table potatoes were allocated to deficit areas from the Simla Hills crop of 1946.

Among the principal recipients of potato seeds were Bengal, Bombay, Mysore and Baroda with 150,000, 100,000, 37,000 and 28,000 tons respectively. For the table variety the largest allocations have been made to the Punjab, Bengal, Bombay and Rajputana States with 64,000, 50,000, 50,000 and 34,000 tons respectively.

Special transport arrangements have been made to move the allotted quotas expeditiously to the various destinations.



THE FIRST BATCH OF MADRASSIS TO VOLUNTEER FOR SERVICE IN THE 16TH LIGHT CAVALRY, THE RECONVERSION OF WHICH INTO AN "ALL-MADRASSI" REGIMENT WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED, HAVE NOW TAKEN TO ARMOUR, LEARNING TO MAN TANKS AND GUNS, AT THE INDIAN ARMOURED CORPS TRAINING CENTRE, BABINA. PICTURE SHOWS THE TANK CREW LEARNING TO CLIMB A STEEP HILL.

MADRASSIS TAKE TO ARMOUR

FIRST batch of Madrassis to volunteer for service in the 16th Light Cavalry, the reconversion of which into an "all-Madrassi" regiment was recently announced, have now taken to armour, learning to man tanks and guns, at the Indian Armoured Corps Trade Training Centre, Babina.

Various forms of technical training are given to the newly-enlisted men. Maintenance of wireless equipment, battery charging, gunnery and tank mechanism are some of the subjects taught at the Centre.

Among the first to volunteer to join the 16th Light Cavalry is Risaldar Major Appa Rao Bahadur, O.B.I. of the Madras Sappers and Miners, who has to his credit 23 years' service in the Army.

The 16th Light Cavalry was one of the first I.A.C. regiments to be selected for nationalisation and the first to go into battle under the Indian commanding officer—Lt.-Col. J. M. Chaudhury, O.B.E. This regiment established a distinguished record in the hard-fought Melktila operations and in its sweep with the 14th Army's spearheads to link up with 15th Indian Corps patrols outside Rangoon.

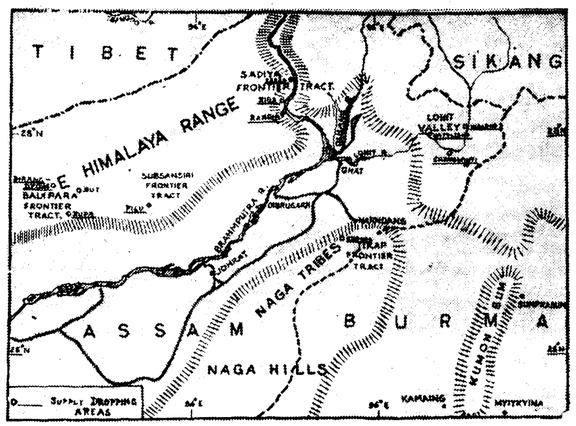


JEM. GOPALAN NAIR GIVES ORDERS TO HIS CREW WHILE CLIMBING A HILL.



A TANK BEING LOADED ON TO A TRANSPORTER. (BELOW) A CLASS IS GIVEN A LESSON IN BATTERY CHARGING.





MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF 11 OUTPOSTS MANNED BY MEN OF THE ASSAM RIFLES. THESE OUTPOSTS GUARD THE ASSAM-TIBET AND ASSAM-CHINA FRONTIERS AND ARE NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL BEING SUPPLIED FROM THE AIR BY PARACHUTES THUS ELIMINATING THE USE OF NEARLY 3,000 COOLIES.

AIR SUPPLIES TO ASSAM RIFLES

MORE than 300 tons of civil and military supplies will be dropped, within the next few weeks, by parachute, to 11 units of the Assam Rifles garrisoning remote outposts in the Sadya, Balipara and Tirap frontier tracts, located along the Assam-Tibet and Assam-China borders.

Dakota aircraft of India Command have been allocated for this purpose and are now based at Mohanbari, in Assam, ready to start operations as soon as possible after the preliminary reconnaissances of the dropping zones have been completed.

An Air Despatch platoon of No. 1 Air Despatch Company, R.I.A.S.C., which did such splendid work with the R.A.F. Transport squadrons during the recent Chittagong floods, is also based at Mohanbari. They are responsible for the packing of the parachutes, loading of supplies and their ejection during flight.

Supplies which have been despatched to Mohanbari by Headquarters, Eastern Command, in conjunction with the civil authorities, consist of rice, *dal, atta, ghee,* salt, tea, Sugar, potatoes, onions, kerosene oil, condiment, powder, cigarettes, *bidis,* matches, cloth, tinned milk and fish, butter, soap, biscuits and medical supplies.

It is estimated that nearly 200 sorties will be necessary before each of the frontier posts will have received its six months' quota of supplies. The posts themselves are situated in some of the most inaccessible and difficult country in the world, over which, previous experience has shown, it is only possible to carry out air supply at certain periods of the year, namely November and March.

Difficult Task

Supplies will be parachuted down to carefully selected dropping zones. Bonfires, pyrotechnic signals and white strips will be used to aid in identification. The advent of air supply has eliminated the use of nearly 3,000 coolies, each of whom used to carry a 60-lb. pack and make the long and hazardous trek over several months.

The squadron engaged on this difficult task is No. 77, commanded by Wing Commander Cooke, D.S.O., D.F.C.

Gift to Promote Sport for Defence Services

In response to an appeal from Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Chief of the General Staff, the Victory Thanksgiving Fund has given Rs. 1 lakh to promote sport within the fighting services in India. The patron of the fund is H.E. Sir John Colville, G.C.I.E., T.D., and the President Sir Homi Mehta, K.C.I.E., K.B.E.

In accepting the gift, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, in a letter to the Honorary Secretary of the Fund, Mr. Mani H. Mehta, M.B.E., says:

"May I, on behalf of the Services Sports Control Board, offer both H.E. Sir John Colville and the Advisory Committee of the Victory Thanksgiving Fund, my most sincere thanks for the most generous donation of Rs. 1 lakh towards promoting sport in the fighting services in India; I feel confident that the benefit of this assistance will be reflected in the improved standard and conditions of sport in the Services."

El Alamein Reunion in London

"Men of the Eighth Army gathered at the El Alamein reunion at the Royal Albert Hall, London, send greetings and affectionate good wishes to their comrades of the Indian Army who fought with them at the Battle of El Alamein. (Signed) Montgomery of Alamein."

So runs a message received by Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, from Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery, Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

In reply to the C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal Auchinleck says: "Thank you for your message which will be much appreciated by all those of the Indian Army who fought at the Battle of El Alamein. Please convey their reciprocal good wishes to all their comrades present at the reunion."

Gen. Freyberg's Greetings

It was at 9-30 p.m. on Friday, October 23, 1942, under a brilliant moon, that the Alamein front erupted with the crash of 1,200 guns. Thirty minutes later, Empire troops swept into the assault which eventually drove Rommel's army from Egypt, across Cyrenaica and Tripolitania to the final debacle in Tunisia.

"All ranks of the New Zealand Forces who served in the Middle East remember with pride and affection, on Alamein night, the gallant 4th, 8th and 10th Indian Divisions," said Lt.-Gen. Sir Bernard Freyberg, V.C., Governor-General of New Zealand, in a message to these great Indian formations.

Gen. Freyberg was formerly Commander of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in North Africa.

It has been decided to permit individuals to despatch by post from India, gift parcels containing small quantities of controlled articles, to their relatives in liberated British Empire countries in the Far East to which parcel service is available, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on October 18.

Among the articles which can be sent are medicines and medicinal oil, toilet requisites other than soaps, children's footwear, gold and silver thread (real and imitation) filigree articles, Benares and Surat silk sarees made of hand reeled silk yarns, Kashmir wooden artware made of walnut wood, *papier mache* articles and bone carvings.

The weight of each parcel should not exceed 5 lbs. (Gross) and the parcel can be sent once a month only. Application for permits should be addressed to the Export Trade Controller at the nearest port or the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi, for the despatch of such parcels.

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NEW G.O.C.-IN-C., NORTHERN COMMAND — LT.-GEN. SIR FRANK MESSERVY

Lt.-Gen. Sir Frank Messervy

LT.-Gen. Sir Frank Messervy, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Malaya Command, has been appointed G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, in succession to Lt.-Gen. D. D. Gracey, C.B., C.B.E., M.C. Gen. Messervy's appointment recalls a hoax, now almost legendary, which he played on the Germans during the great tank clashes with Rommel's panzers, in 1942.

While Gen. Messervy was commanding the 7th Armoured Division in North Africa his Headquarters, surrounded by a German battle group, was forced to surrender to the enemy. Gen. Messervy tore off his badges of rank and posed as a private soldier.

"You look too old for desert fighting," said a German officer.

"Well, Sir," said 'Private' Messervy, "it's like this: I should have been out of the Army years ago, but my C.O. has a down on me." Within 18 hours 'Private' Messervy had escaped.

Commissioned in 1913, Gen. Messervy served with Hodson's Horse in France, Palestine and Syria during World War I. In 1938 he commanded the 13th D.C.O. Lancers and in the first year of World War II served as General Staff Officer I of the 5th Indian Division.

Commanded "Red Eagles"

In April, 1941, Gen. Messervy commanded the famous 4th ("Red Eagles") Indian Division and, later, the 1st, the 7th and 43rd Armoured Divisions.

Gen. Messervy also led the 7th Indian Division in the Arakan campaign of 1943-44. Their defence of the "Admin Box", when signalmen, clerks and cooks helped to stem the ferocious breakthrough of 6,000 Japanese with 4,000 more on the outer ring, ranks high in the triumphs of the 14th Army. In the decisive battle for Central Burma, the Division made a secret 320-mile march down the Kabaw Valley to strike out from a bridgehead at Pakokku to Meiktila, south of Mandalay.



LT.-GEN. SIR F.W. MESSERVY

Gen. Messervy assumed command of 4th Corps in December, 1944. Two divisions of this formation leap-frogged down the Mandalay-Rangoon road and, supplied by air in the latter stages, broke through to Burma's capital soon after it had been entered by an amphibious force drawn from 15th Corps.

Early in 1946, Gen. Messervy was appointed G.O.C.-in-C., Malaya Command.



THIS NEW BADGE HAS BEEN RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE KUMAON REGIMENT (FORMERLY THE 19TH HYDERABAD REGIMENT). IT IS THE OLD BADGE OF THE 94TH AND 95TH RUSSELL'S INFANTRY, NOW THE 1ST BATTALION KUMAON REGIMENT. THE CREST OF THE RUSSELL FAMILY, THE BADGE WAS THAT OF MR. RUSSELL, RESIDENT IN HYDERABAD STATE, WHEN THE RUSSELL BRIGADE WAS FORMED IN 1813.

PERSONNEL

TO locate personnel on a given date and to obtain particulars for a variety of statistical purposes, the Army has planned to take a census of its personnel on November 30, next.

All officers, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, Indjan Other Ranks and Non-Combatants Enrolled, on the active list of the Indian Army, irrespective of where they are serving, and all Officers and Other Ranks of British Service serving in Allied Land Forces South East Asia, Japan and India Command and those filling vacancies in Indian Army Units and formations in theatres west of India, will be included in the census.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India), the Ceylon Defence Force, the Indian States Forces, the Burma Army, Levies, unembodied Auxiliary Forces (India) and unembodied Indian Territorial Forces including the University Training Corps will not be included in the census.

Individual Cards

The census will be carried out by means of individual cards which will be completed by units and despatched to a main collecting centre which is being established at Jhansi.

The cards have been printed by G.H.Q. and distributed to Commands for detailed distribution to units.

Personnel serving away from units are advised to get in touch with the nearest military authority; if in civil employ the head of administration should be consulted in order to ensure they receive a card.

H.M.I.S. VENDURUTHY

The Government of India has decided to concentrate the Signal, Torpedo, Anti-Submarine, and Electrical Schools of the Royal Indian Navy in the Naval Base Cochin.

Each school will be self-contained or instructional purposes, but the schools will be administered as a whole under the Command of a Captain R.I.N.

The entire establishment will be called H.M.I.S. *Venduruthy* which is the present name of the base. Previous names of the various schools will lapse.

The Signal Schools has already moved to Cochin, while the move of the Torpedo and Anti-Submarine School is expected to be completed in about two months time. The move of the Electrical School will follow later.





AFGHAN, ARABIC, PERSIAN AND URDU CALIGRAPHY DATING BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS WERE AMONG THE NUMEROUS EXHIBITS SEEN BY FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, C.-IN-C, IN INDIA, AT THE JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA SILVER JUBILEE EXHIBITION AT OKHLA, NEAR DELHI. DR. ZAKIR HUSSEIN, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE JAMIA ISLAMIA TOOK THE C.-IN-C. ROUND THE EXHIBITION. PICTURE SHOWS FIELD MARSHAL AUCHINLECK, WITH DR. ZAKIR HUSSEIN, EXAMINING AN EXHIBIT.

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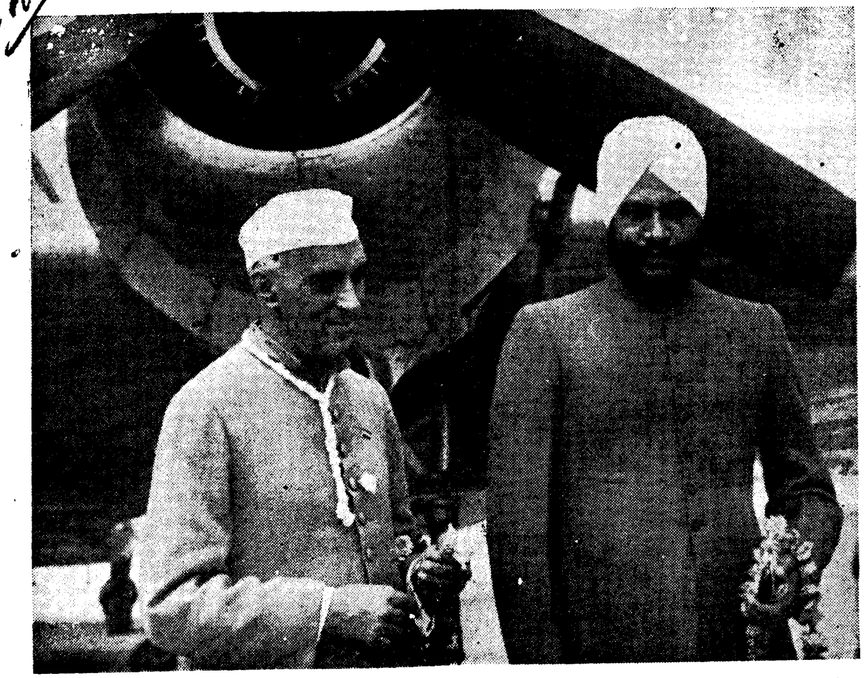
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Cover Picture: Lord Wavell (right) photographed with Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (second from right) Finance Member, Mr. G. E. B. Abell (left) Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Mr. Mumtaz Hassan (second from left) Official Secretary to the Finance Member and Major C. D. Mackenzie, Deputy Military Secretary to the Viceroy, at the Palam Airport before their departure for Karachi *en route* to London.

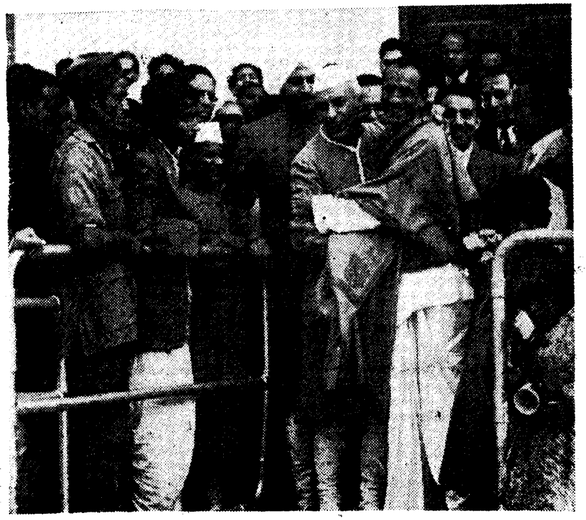


PANDIT NEHRU AND SARDAR BALDEV SINGH LEAVE FOR LONDON

HIS EXCELLENCY Lord Wavell, Viceroy, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, and Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the All-India Muslim League, left Karachi for London on December 1 at the invitation of His Majesty's Government for important political talks.

The Viceroy and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan left New Delhi by air on November 30, while Pandit Nehru and Sardar Baldev Singh left later the same day. Mr. Jinnah joined the party in Karachi from where the Viceroy and the four Indian Leaders left for London in the same aircraft.

These pictures show: (Above) Pandit Nehru (left) and Sardar Baldev Singh photographed at the Willingdon Aerodrome just before their departure from Delhi. (Right) Acharya Kripalani, President of the Indian National Congress, embracing Pandit Nehru and wishing him "Bon Voyage."





LORD WAVELL SHAKING HANDS WITH AN AFRIDI LEADER WHO PRESENTED TO HIS EXCELLENCY A DAGGER, A LOCALLY-MADE RIFLE, A LEATHER BAG AND A PAIR OF CHAPPALS—TRADITIONAL GIFTS.

H.E. THE VICEROY'S TOUR OF FRONTIER

H.E. the Viceroy and Lady Wavell accompanied by Mr. I.D. Scott, Deputy Private Secretary, and Col. Currie, Military Secretary, arrived in Peshawar by air on November 14. They were received at the aerodrome by the Frontier Governor, Sir Olaf Caroe and Lady Caroe.

The party motored to Government House, where Lord and Lady Wavell met prominent residents of Peshawar city and the district at a small garden party in the evening.

"Your freedom is your most precious possession. The maintenance of this freedom which has been guaranteed to you under the treaty, your ancestors made so many years ago with the British Government is a matter of utmost importance and I assure you that there is no intention of handing it over to any political party. When the time comes to replace the treaty with a new agreement which now exists between you and the British Government, due warning will be given to you; and you should then be prepared to negotiate the terms of a fresh agreement with the future Government of India. In doing so I am sure that you will remember that your interests are bound up with India as a whole and not with any political party."

This statement was made by the Viceroy addressing about 200 representative Afridi leaders who met him in Jirga at Landi Kotal on November 15.

Jirga's Views

Before the Jirga, the Viceroy inspected a detachment of the Reformed Khyber Rifles on their parade ground where the Jirga was held with tribesmen seated on rugs. Lady Wavell and Lady Caroe watched the proceedings. Malik Abdul Latif Khan, Malikdin Khel Afridi, was the spokesman. The tribesmen in response to a question from the Viceroy whether his (Abdul Latif's) views were supported by all present, answered that they were the views of the tribe as a whole and of all other tribes in the Khyber Agency.

Malik Abdul Latif Khan said that the Tribesmen of the Khyber Agency were grateful for the generous contribution of Rs. 25,000 for scholarships for boys. The Tribesmen, however, asked for a substantial increase in allowances as the execution of defence works in the Khyber Agency during the recent world war had caused considerable inconvenience and loss to residents. Again, the purchasing power of the rupee had fallen very low. Tribesmen had fully co-operated by giving men and money during the war.

They asked for a remission of the fine imposed on them on account of the incident near Landi Kotal during Pandit Nehru's visit. They stated that communal feeling was running high at the time of Pandit Nehru's visit and they could not be blamed. If however the fine could not be remitted, they requested that the money be allocated for the amelioration of riot victims in India.

The tribesmen emphasised that their treaties were with the British Government and in the event of British leaving India they would request that the Khyber Pass be returned to them—the original owners. They might then elect to remain aloof or link themselves with Afghanistan as might suit them. In view of the communal disturbances in India, they had no desire to negotiate with the Interim Government unless and until Hindu-Muslim differences had been amicably settled.

Replying to the Jirga's references to the Pass, the Viceroy reminded tribesmen that the Pass was on an international highway and the tribe would naturally in future wish to make suitable arrangements to keep it open as in the past. Referring to the request for an increase in allowances, Lord Wavell commended the tribe for their helpful attitude during the war.

The Khyber Rifles had been reconstituted only recently and the development of the country, His Excellency pointed out, would help more than an increase of allowances. Their request for the remission of the fine could not be accepted. The incident was a grave breach of the Treaty of 1898 and they had brought shame on their own officers. The Viceroy said, "forty years ago I might have addressed you in your native Pushtu, but now I will ask the Governor to translate".

After the Jirga the Viceroy was presented with a dagger, a locally-made rifle, a leather bag and a pair of chappals, the traditional gifts of the Afridis.

Visit to Wana

Lord Wavell returned to Peshawar at one o'clock and flew to Wana where he arrived at 3-30 p.m. At four o'clock he met a representative gathering of the Ahmedzai Wazirs who inhabit the country surrounding Wana. Their spokesman was Malik Hafta Khan, one of the leaders of Ahmedzais. He expressed the pleasure of the tribe at the visit paid by the Viceroy and explained their adherence to the Muslim cause and the determination of their whole tribe whose views the Jirga was voicing to resist any encroachment on their liberties.

The Jirga also expressed their firm intention to resist Hindu domination which was the way the tribe interpreted Pandit Nehru's recent visit. His Excellency made a reply similar to that which he had given to the Afridis that the tribes should strive to remain united and negotiate, when the time came, a new form of agreement with the future Government of India. At the end of the gathering the Viceroy was presented with six sheep which he touched and returned to their owners.

Both Jirgas expressed themselves as being greatly concerned at the report of Muslim sufferings in India.

On his return trip to Peshawar on November 16, the Viceroy touched down at Miranshah, where he met Political and Scouts Officers, Royal Indian Air Force officers, and inspected an impressive Guard of Honour of Tochi Scouts. Qazi Ataullah Khan, Revenue Minister, Mr. Mehr Chand Khanna, Finance Minister, and Mr. Mohd. Yahya Jan, Education Minister met the Viceroy at dinner on November 16.



DURING THEIR EXCELLENCIES' RECENT VISIT TO THE FRONTIER LADY WAVELL VISITED THE AFGHAN MISSION HOSPITAL AND THE LADY CUNNINGHAM PROVINCIAL WELFARE CENTRE, PESHAWAR. HERE, HER EXCELLENCY IS AT WELFARE CENTRE.

LADY WAVELL VISITS RED CROSS CENTRE

LADY Wavell (on November 15) met three women (a Muslim, a Hindu and a Sikh), who are doing pioneer welfare work amongst mothers and children of Peshawar City. They are Mrs. Habibullah Khan, Health Visitor, Red Cross Provincial Centre, Miss Tara Narathru and Miss S. K. Hassanwia, who are Health Visitors to the Bhanamarand and Gorkhatri centres respectively.

With the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, the Medical Officer of Health, Peshawar City, and Red Cross Officials, they were introduced by Lieut.-Col. G. Mallam, Development Commissioner, when Lady Wavell and Lady Caroe, visited the Red Cross Provincial Welfare Centre, located amid the slums of Peshawar City.

The Development Commissioner explained that the Provincial Government gave a building grant of Rs. 40,000 to the Society and Lady Cunningham, wife of Sir George Cunningham, former Governor of N.-W.F.P., performed the opening ceremony on February 26 this year. Work in the centre was begun on October 15, with Mrs. Habibullah Khan as the first Health Visitor. The Provincial Red Cross Centre would not only do welfare work amongst mothers and children of Peshawar City and of the extension areas, but would also be a training centre for health visitors and midwives, until the new Provincial Zenana Hospital began to function.

Lady Wavell saw mothers being taught how to bathe newly-born infants and visited every section, including the new residential quarters for Health Visitors.

Earlier in the afternoon, Lady Wavell, accompanied by Lady Caroe, visited the Afghan Mission Hospitals, which is also a training school for male nurses. The hospital, founded by missionary enterprise, is supported by donations, some from the United Kingdom which have paid for wards and beds, each of which has a wooden tablet recording the name or designation of the donor. Patients come from all parts of the North-West Frontier Province and tribal areas. One patient was a traveller from Jalalabad, whose caravan had been attacked on the way to Peshawar by outlaws. He was



LADY WAVELL PHOTOGRAPHED IN A WARD OF THE AFGHAN MISSION HOSPITAL, PESHAWAR. (BELOW) HER EXCELLENCY IS TALKING TO A PATIENT IN A WARD OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, KOHAT.





LADY WAVELL ALSO VISITED A FACTORY IN THE TRIBAL TERRITORY WHERE THE TRIBESMEN MAKE THE PASS RIFLES. PICTURE SHOWS LADY WAVELL EXAMINING A RIFLE MADE BY THE TRIBESMEN.

stabbed and robbed of Rs. 4,000. Others had gunshot wounds suffered in tribal feuds.

Lady Wavell was interested to see a bed which had been donated to the hospital by Sir Francis Humphrey, one time Minister in Kabul. There are 78 men's beds and 35 women's beds in the hospital.

Lady Wavell and Lady Caroe visited the women's section before proceeding to the Beurj, which was at one time the mess of the famous corps of guides. This square, a solidly-built stone structure is crowned by a dome beneath which is a tiny chapel for the hospital staff. On the ground floor is a lecture room for men who are being trained as nurses.

Lord Wavell, accompanied by the Governor, the Viceroy's Deputy Private Secretary, the Viceroy's Military Secretary, and the Chief Secretary of the North-West Frontier Province, left in the afternoon for Wana in South Waziristan.

Lady Wavell, accompanied by Mr. C. R. Latimer, Secretary to the Governor, and Mrs. Latimer, visited Kohat on November 16 where Her Excellency went round the Civil and Military Hospital. At the Frontier Control Post, Her Excellency was met by Major A. L. A. Dredge, Deputy Commissioner, who conducted Her Excellency round two factories where the famous Pass Rifles are made by tribesmen.

Tribesmen's Craftsmanship

Her Excellency paid a warm tribute to the craftsmanship of the tribesmen who produce exact replicas of modern rifles with the crudest implements. Tribal Maliks entertained Lady Wavell and party to tea in the verandah of the small factory building. Her Excellency was garlanded by tribesmen.

At Kohat, Lady Wavell made a prolonged tour of the hospitals visiting both male and female patients and inspecting hospital equipment. There were comparatively few patients but Lady Wavell chatted briefly with Indian and British other ranks and a Gurkha hailing from Khatmandu. Lieut.-Col. Chowla, Lieut.-Col. Mian, Major Manicktala, Capt. N. K. Smith, Major. (Mrs. I. M.) Stewart and sisters of the Auxiliary Nursing Service were among the party which conducted Lady Wavell round various wards. After lunching at the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow, Lady Wavell returned to Peshawar. In the evening Her Excellency visited the Y.M.C.A. which provides amenities for troops.

Hospital Equipment for Sale

More than Rs. 2 crores worth of surgical and pharmaceutical stores are available for disposal with the Director-General of Disposals. Even after meeting the demands of priority indentors, such as the Central Government's, Provincial Governments' States' and quasi-Government institutions, it is expected that a very large proportion of these stores will be available for sale to the public.

Among the stores included in the miscellaneous section of their second catalogue issued recently are numerous types of surgical instruments; aseptic furniture; anaesthetic, nursing, dispensary and laboratory appliances and hospital equipment in general, comprising of sterilizers, scales and weights, blood transfusion sets, operation tables, dental chairs, various types of stands, shelves and cabinets along with certain outfits which can be utilised for improving the equipments of hospitals in the country.

Large Stores of Drugs

Other stores prominent by virtue of the huge quantities released are shell dressings (12,00,000 Nos.), cotton wool (12,00,000 lbs.), catguts (11,00,000 tubes), safety pins (about 2.5 lakh dozens), various types of suture needles (about 3.5 lakh packets), operating gloves (about 1.5 lakh pairs) and several lakhs bottles of various sizes. Besides, the catalogue includes large stores of drugs, chemicals, acids, paints and varnishes.

Most of the stocks are reported to be in good condition. Export licences for surgical instruments and appliances are now being more easily granted to bulk purchasers of these items.

It is notified for general information that facilities for private trade with Indonesia and the Netherlands East Indies have now been restored. Persons and concerns in India can, therefore, resume business with persons and concerns in Indonesia and the Netherlands East Indies, subject, of course, to the export, import and financial regulations at present in force, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 15.



LORD WAVELL VISITED THE RIOT-STRICKEN AREAS IN BIHAR RECENTLY. PICTURE SHOWS HIS EXCELLENCY GOING ROUND A WARD OF THE PATNA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL WHERE RIOT VICTIMS ARE BEING TREATED. (BELOW) THE VICEROY AT A RELIEF CENTRE IN PATNA ORGANISED BY THE ANJUMAN ISLAMIA.



Viceroy Tours Bihar Riot-affected Areas

AN aerial tour of the riot-affected area followed by a visit to the Patna Medical College Hospital and two refugee centres were the chief items in Lord Wavell's crowded programme on November 8 during His Excellency's Visit to Bihar.

The Viceroy did not use his Dakota but a four-seater Expeditor, when he flew over the affected area this morning. He was accompanied by His Excellency Sir Hugh Dow, Governor of Bihar, the Hon'ble Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar, Member for Communications, Government of India, and Major-General Russell.

The Sub-area Command with headquarters at Patna under a Brigadier has now become an Area Command under Major-General Russell.

The Expeditor traversed Patna and Monghyr Districts and a part of the Bhagalpur district covering a distance of nearly 500 miles on the round tour.

One of the problems facing the local authorities is the difficulty of access to isolated trouble spots owing to the recent floods.



LORD WAVELL TALKING TO A PATIENT IN THE PATNA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL.



HIS EXCELLENCY INSPECTS THE COOKING ARRANGEMENTS AT A RELIEF CENTRE.

Immediately on returning from the flight, His Excellency proceeded to inspect the Patna Medical College where nearly 400 riot casualties are being cared for. This hospital has been admitting casualties from a wide area, moving them by train of ambulance.

The Viceroy's visit to the Hospital had been preceded by a day of comparative calm but the size of the task which faced the doctors was apparent. Many victims would require weeks of care and treatment, some may be permanently maimed; many were women and children, and there were victims of knife attacks, gun shots and arson.

Visit to Refugee Centres

There was an over-powering sight when Lord Wavell later visited the refugee centres. One of them which is being run by the Muslim League at the Anjuman Islamia Hall is accommodating nearly 1,200 souls while the Madrassa Shamshul Hooda Centre, recently taken over by the Government, accommodates nearly 2,000 persons of all ages.

Two relief centres are now being run by the Government in Patna City, the Muslim League having agreed only two days ago to these centres being run by the Government. The Government are also opening relief centres at Barh, 40 miles from Patna and at Bihar Sharif, about 50 miles away. They have also been running transport services from the disturbed areas to the relief centres. Rations are being supplied and a senior officer in charge of relief arrangements has been appointed with 10 other gazetted officers to help him.



A BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S.A. WAS SIGNED IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 14. PANDIT NEHRU (THIRD FROM RIGHT) AND MR. ABDUR RAB NISHTAR, (LEFT) MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. THE AMERICAN SIGNATORIES WERE THE HON'BLE GEORGE MERRELL (SECOND FROM RIGHT) CHARGE-D'AFFAIRS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND THE HON'BLE GEORGE A. BROWNELL, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. PRESIDENT. STANDING BEHIND IS MR. M. H. ZUBERI, JOINT SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, AND A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN TEAM OF NEGOTIATORS.

AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES

A PRESS Communique issued by the Communications Department, Government of India, on November 14, stated:

The Government of India and the Department of State of the United States have announced the conclusion of a bilateral air transport agreement between the United States of America and India which was signed in New Delhi on November 14, 1946, by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Council, and Member for External Affairs, and the Hon'ble Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Member for Communications, on behalf of the Government of India and by the Hon'ble George Merrell Charge-de-Affairs of the American Embassy and the Hon'ble George A. Brownell, Personal Representative of the President of the United States, on behalf of the Government of the United States.

The Agreement consists of 13 Articles and an Annex, and defines the conditions under which the scheduled air services of each country are to be operated between the territories of the United States and of India. The Agreement is a development of the 'Bermuda' type of agreement which, since it was concluded between the United Kingdom and the United States in February, 1946, has formed a pattern for a number of other bilateral agreements.

Categories of Traffic

The agreement conforms with the principles embodied in the Bermuda Agreement, but secures to each Party a greater measure of control over the application of those principles and the air services to be operated. The agreement provides for the categories of traffic which may be carried, the use of air ports, control of rates (tariffs) for carriage between the territory of the two Parties, customs duties and exchange of information and statistics; it makes provision also for appropriate use of the machinery of the Provincial International Civil Aviation Organisation and of the International Air Transport Association in their respective spheres.

The Annex describes the specific routes to be operated by the airlines of the United States, and gives Indian airlines identical rights to operate routes to the United States to be determined at a later date. Airlines of the United States are accorded the right to fly the following routes and to make traffic stops in India at the places named:

The Routes

Route 1. (To be operated by Pan American World Airways). The United States through Central Europe and the Near East to Karachi, Delhi and Calcutta, thence to a point in Burma, a point in Siam, a point in Indo-China, and beyond to the United States.

Route 2. (To be operated by Trans World Airlines). The United States through Western Europe, North Africa and the Near East to Bombay and beyond Bombay to:

(a) Calcutta, a point in Burma, a point in Indo-China, points in China and Japan, and beyond to the United States over Pacific routes.
(b) Ceylon, Singapore and beyond.

The foregoing routes may be operated in both directions. Until quarantine facilities are available in Bombay, TWA flights from the West will temporarily enter India at Karachi, and will proceed from there to Bombay.

An exchange of notes between representatives of the two Governments at the time the Agreement was concluded sets out a collateral understanding concerning principles and arrangements with respect to rates to be charged by the airlines for "Fifth Freedom" traffic to and from the territory of the other Party.

In announcing the conclusion of the bilateral air transport agreement the two Governments expressed their conviction that the mutual arrangements which it embodies will afford a practical means of implementing and strengthening the friendly relations already existing between them.

INDUSTRIALISTS' MISSION TO GERMANY

The Government of India propose to send a Mission to Germany to inspect the Wagner plant, which has been allotted to India by way of reparations, and advise them on the best mode of utilising it. The plant, which was valued at 1.8 million Reich marks in 1938, consists of about 225 machines for manufacturing machine-tools like planing machines, lathes and presses, and was known to have been in operation till March last. Five of these machines have recently been awarded to the U.K. by the arbitrator.

The Mission will include the Machine-Tool Controller in the Directorate-General, Industries and Supplies, a technical officer of the Railway Board, and representatives of three leading machine-tool manufacturers in the country. They will spend about three to four weeks in Germany. They will consult leading manufacturers in the U.K. regarding designs for other models for which the plant may be adapted, if necessary.

Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha of Patna has been informed by the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly that as the oldest member of the Assembly he would take the Chair at the preliminary meeting on December 9 pending the election of a permanent Chairman. This follows the precedent adopted by the Constituent Assembly of France, said a Press Note issued by the Constituent Assembly Secretariat on November 30.

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES TO RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

Railway Chief's Address to General Managers

"I must not omit to refer to the changed conditions in the Government of India since our last meeting", said Col. R. B. Emerson, Chief Commissioner of Railways, addressing the Meeting of the General Managers of Indian Government Railways, held in Delhi on November 21.

"You have observed", he continued, "from the various directives which have issued from this office since the beginning of September, such as the setting up of Complaints Sections, the warnings against bribery and corruption, the drive for improved civility and courtesy, and the suppression of communal prefixes to vendors' cries and chatty stands, that the Interim Government are determined to bring about a revolution in the attitude of the Railway employee to the public. I know that you all welcome this attitude, and will do your best to foster it. I know also the many difficulties which beset you in bringing about a change in the twinkling of an eye, but a change there must be, and early.

The Interim Government are also determined to do all in their power to expedite the return of more normal conditions of travel comfort, speed and safety, and of the more expeditious transit of goods coupled with an early return to the pre-war standard of loss by damage, pilferage, or misdespatch.

The Hon'ble Member is kept fully advised of the difficulties which lead to the present most unsatisfactory conditions, and he will always be prepared to support every method that we may suggest which will lead to a speedy improvement in conditions of travel and transit. There is much leeway to be made up—both here as well as in other countries—and it is his earnest desire to get back to normal".

Armed Protection

Dealing with the recent situation in Bihar and Bengal Col. Emerson said, "the recent troubles in Bengal and Bihar have necessitated special steps to provide increased armed protection to railway employees on duty, going to and from work, to their families in the colonies, and to the travelling public. I have asked the Bengal and Bihar Governments to enrol a large number of railway employees, which is expected to total between 1,500 to 2,000 men, in their Police Forces, and to arm them and permit their use, in addition to those now provided for crime duties, for these purposes, and we are considering how the U.P. Government can help us in some similar way too. The charges for these extra Police will be borne by the Railway Administrations concerned as an emergency measure."

Commenting on the relations of the Railways with Labour Unions, he said, "labour has been difficult and continues so, though there are signs that the firm handling of the S.I. Railway strike has given the agitators to think seriously before fomenting further outbreaks. There are still far too many unauthorised stoppages of work and go slow movements, and we hope that you will be able to bring about an improvement by firm and tactful dealings with the Unions."

In the course of his speech he also dealt with rise in the percentage of locomotives under repair and impressed on the General Managers the necessity of combating this trend for percentages to go up.

Prospects of Promotion

Among the important questions discussed by the General Managers Meeting were, retention of the Railway Grainshop Organisation, supply of uniforms to staff, standardisation of nomenclature for gazetted posts, stores purchase policy, powers of General Managers under the State Railway Code for the Stores Department, late receipt of station returns in the Accounts Office, the claims compensation bill of Railways, the question of ensuring reasonable terms of service and prospects of promotion to the small number of experts engaged on bridge work on the State Railways, and the recovery of one-third of the money received by Railway staff as remuneration for outside work.

It is notified for general information that the Government of India have authorised persons and concerns in British India to trade with the Austrian State and persons and concerns carrying on business in Austria subject to the export, import and financial regulations at present in force, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on October 12.

Money and property derived from future trading transaction with Austria are exempted from the control of the British Indian Custodian, but this exemption does not apply to Austrian money and property already subject to control and income arising therefrom.

Traders are advised that before finally entering into commitments they should satisfy themselves that their Austrian customers have the necessary permission from the appropriate authorities of the Austrian Government to export from or import into Austria and to acquire the necessary exchange with which to pay for the imports.

'UNESCO' GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS



RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR (CENTRE) AND MR. SAIYIDAIN (RIGHT, INDIAN STATES REPRESENTATIVE), INDIAN DELEGATES TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE, PHOTOGRAPHED WITH MR. A. M. ASHRAF OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AT THE WILLINGDON AERODROME BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR PARIS ON NOVEMBER 12.

Indian Films and Paintings Exhibited

THE first session of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural) General Conference opened in Paris on November 19.

The Indian delegation to the Conference is headed by Sir S. Radhakrishnan. The other members of the delegation are Sir John Sargent, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Dr. H. J. Bhabha, F.R.S. and Mr. K. G. Saiyidain (Indian States Representative).

The Secretariat of the delegation consists of Mr. P. N. Kirpal, Secretary, Miss Dorothy Bose, Assistant Secretary, Mr. A. M. Ashraf, Public Relations Officer and Mr. R. N. Chakravarti, Art Officer.

Fifty Indian paintings including those by the late Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Mr. Jamini Roy and Khan Bahadur Abdur Rehman Chugtai and 16 documentary films produced by the Information Films of India will be exhibited during the Conference at Paris. The paintings are representative of modern Indian art and the films relate to Indian village and social life, folk and classical dances, musical instruments and historical buildings.

Paintings by Indian school children will also be exhibited during the Conference.

A "UNESCO Month" is being celebrated concurrently with the General Conference in commemoration of which the Publications Division of the Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India, has brought out a pamphlet entitled "UNESCO". This pamphlet, which is a priced publication, contains several articles on cultural and scientific topics by contributors including Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Professor K. G. Saiyidain, Professor Mohammad Habib, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar and Dr. Syed Hossain.

Task of Intellectuals

Referring to the task of the intellectuals, Sir S. Radhakrishnan in his article on Intellectual Co-operation says: "Intellectual co-operation is an essential factor in the organisation of peace. It is the task of the intellectuals who have sought the meaning of life and meditated on the aims of social existence to produce the international mind. They can train plastic youth to disregard private prejudices and preferences and serve the independent voice of reason. To be able to do so, they must themselves be free from racial prejudice, national pride and imperial ambition.

"They must be fervent in their quest of truth, be unamenable to any kind of intimdation. They must be free spirits who believe that human society cannot endure except on the foundations of peace and justice. They should free educational methods from their subservience to sectional interests and make peace psychologically satisfying to humanity even as wars are made palatable to us to-day. If we can organise for savagery, we can also organise for sympathy.

"We are parts of a continuing process of history. From the primitive savage to the modern man, human beings have formed larger and larger groups. Families merged into clans, clans into communities, communities into nations, and we feel that the time is now ripe for regional and world organisations. We are now in a position to manage technically an overwidening area of human affairs on a world basis and in the common interest. The great obstacle in the way is our outmoded social thinking."

Pandit Nehru's Message

"AT no other period of history has mankind been more alive to the needs of human co-operation," says Sir S. Radhakrishnan in a special article on Intellectual Co-operation published in UNESCO, a pamphlet brought out by the Publications Division of the Information and Broadcasting Department to commemorate the first session of the UNESCO General Conference which met in Paris on November 19. Sir S. Radhakrishnan is the leader of the Indian delegation.

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, in the course of a message of greetings through the UNESCO Pamphlet says, "I hope their (UNESCO delegates') deliberations will bring a word of hope to the people of every land, for education, science and culture are the potent forces which will shape our future. The delegates at the UNESCO are among the world's intellectual leaders and if they follow their path with courage and faith, UNESCO may well become a symbol of the moral quality of mankind."

Another message from Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, referring to the functions of the UNESCO says, "It is to discover, interpret and enhance the spirit of unity and fellowship among peoples; and what divining rods over the hidden springs of humanity are more magical and potent than culture which speaks with such myriad tongues?"

Some of the modern Indian paintings, which were flown to Paris for exhibition during the UNESCO Month, have been reproduced in black and white in the pamphlet.

"UNION GOVERNMENT'S POLICY PROVOKES WORLD CONFLICT"

Field Marshal Smuts' Speech Quoted by Mrs. Pandit

MRS. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations Organisation, addressing a joint session of the Legal and Political Committees, held under the chairmanship of Senor Roberts Jimenesy of Panama to consider India's complaint against South Africa in Lake Success (New York) on November 21 said:

The present complaint arises as a result of an application made by the Government of India in June, 1946. This date, Sir, is significant. I should perhaps explain to the Committee that at the time, India did not have a popular, National Government. Though it is not my purpose here to go into internal affairs, I mention this to show that there has been no difference of opinion in India on this issue.

The application set out in document A/68 and the supplementary document have been in the hands of honourable delegates for some time so there is no need to go into further detail at this stage. But in order that non-members may fully understand the problem, I shall mention a few outstanding facts.

Indians in S. Africa

The issue before the Committee is the treatment of Indians in South Africa and the legislation passed discriminating against them. There has been an Indian population in South Africa since 1860 when Indian labourers were sent to the British colony of what was then Natal and is now one of the provinces of the Union on conditions which were the subject of agreement between the Government of India and the then Government of Natal, namely His Majesty's Government in London, on a system of indenture.

These Indians went there without acceptance by them, or imposition by the then Government of any special code for system of law exclusively applicable to Indians as different to European colonists. Then the British Governor of Cape Colony had made the following declaration in the name of the Queen of England:

> "There shall not be in the eye of the law any distinction of colour, origin, language or creed but protection of the law in the letter and substance shall be extended impartially to all alike."

Smuts-Gandhi Agreement

Some of these labourers and other immigrants, mostly traders, migrated to other territories in South Africa which are now part of the Union, such as the Transvaal. Some 20 years later, as a result of European agitation, certain discriminatory measures against Asiatics were passed restricting their rights to trade and to own property. Since then, the history of Indians in South Africa has been one of a progressive increase in disabilities. Mr. Gandhi, who was then in South Africa led the resistance against these measures and finally an agreement, known as the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement, was reached by which the immediate grievances of Indians were redressed and further immigration stopped. It was hoped that the Indian population would, as a result, be accepted as part of the permanent population.

Segregation Demand

This happened in 1913 and by that time the territories of South Africa had ceased to be colonies and had become incorporated as a self-governing Dominion of the British Empire, the Union of South Africa, of which today the distinguished Field Marshal is Prime Minister. India and Africa fought side by side in the first World War. Sacrifices and deeds of valour were shared by them. Both were signatories to the same Peace Treaties and original signatories to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

But these things were unfortunately forgotten and anti-Asiatic agitation reappeared after the war with a demand for segregation. Since this principle of segregation was first introduced in the Transvaal the Government of India have consistently opposed it. They have always contended that Indians should be allowed to own and occupy fixed property without segregation wherever they are lawfully resident in the Union. This is not merely a matter of national pride, important though that is; segregation, in our view, is a denial of an elementary human right, the right of the individual to own and occupy property according to his inclination and means. It tends to demoralize human beings by arbitrary restriction of opportunity and by civic neglect where, as in South Africa, the inspiration of this disability is racial prejudice and its victim has not the means of redress which the democratic privilege of the franchise provides. The proposed legislation was abandoned by the Union Government and the Agreement known as the Cape Town Agreement was arrived at in 1927. This was reaffirmed in 1932 and has not been abrogated.

Terms of Agreement

The Committee may be interested in the terms of this Agreement which were as follows:

(A) South Africa's right to use just and legitimate means for the maintenance of Western standards of life is recognised.

(B) Indians domiciled in the Union who are prepared to conform to Western standards of life should be enabled to do so.



MRS. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT, MINISTER FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH, U P., AND LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE U.N.O.

(C) Indians desirous of emigrating to India or other countries where Western standards may not be required should be assisted to do so.

(D) The Union Government undertook the obligation to take active measures for the uplift of those Indians who remained part of the permanent population.

(E) The pending Class Areas Bill for the segregation of Asiatics should be dropped.

(F) The two Governments agreed to watch the working of the Agreement and to exchange views as to any changes that experience may suggest.

(G) The Union Government requested the Government of India to appoint an agent for securing continuous and effective co-operation between the two Governments.

The Agreement was formally ratified by the Governments of the two countries and was announced in their respective legislatures.

In spite of concessions made on the Indian side by Mr. Gandhi, and subsequently by the Government of India, the agitation continued and came to a head in 1943 when the Natal Province of the Union passed temporary legislation, usually known as the Pegging Act, which imposed, for the first time, statutory prohibitions and restrictions in respect of the right of Asiatics to land.

The Government of India, which had continuously protested against policies of racial discrimination of the Union, was forced into retaliatory action. The Union Government declined to come to any satisfactory agreements either with its own citizens, the Indian community in South Africa, or with the Government of India when the Union had already accepted as aparty interested in the dispute. And here, Sir, I would like to say that the victims of the South African policy are not an exploiting alien community—birds of passage and prey—they are mainly people who have been born in the country and reared there and whose contribution to the economic life of the country has been considerable. They are entitled to the protection of the Charter and the high principles contained in the preamble, for the formulation of which we owe a debt of gratitude to Field Marshal Smuts. Thus, over and above all agreements between the two Governments, we feel confident that this Committee will readily appreciate that the case before it is concerned with violation of fundamental principles of the Charter.

The Ghetto Act

To return to the narrative. The Union Government precipitated matters by enacting this year the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, 1946, the result of which is the total segregation of Asiatics both for Trade and residence. This Act very appropriately has been called the Ghetto Act. It is the system embodied by this Act which the distinguished delegate for the Union of South Africa has asked us to consider as a pattern for the rest of the World for dealing with minorities and establishing communal peace, the peace of the Ghetto.

The immediate result of this hostile action of the Union has been that the Government of India has had to break off trade relations with the Union and recall its High Commissioner, in addition to the Reciprocity Act passed by the Government of India in 1944 in respect of non-Indian South African residents in India.

Thus, between two member States of this organisation there is severance of relationship and acts of hostility, even though there is no war.

Passive Resistance Movement

The Committee is perhaps aware of what is happening in South Africa today. The passive resistance movement has now been in progress for nearly six months. Hundreds of our countrymen and women, assisted by a number of Europeans who are imbued with a sense of justice, are participating, for the second time in the history of South Africa in a non-violent movement which was originally launched by Mr. Gandhi in the hope that, by self-suffering, the passive resisters might appeal successfully to the conscience of the European community and of world opinion.

It has been suggested that what happens to Indian in South Africa is exclusively the concern of the Government of the Union whose nationals

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

It has been finally decided that the preliminary meeting of the Constituent Assembly shall assemble in New Delhi on December 9 and invitations are being sent to the members accordingly to-day, said a Press Note issued by the Constitutional Adviser's office on November 20.

the majority of them are. The Government of India do not contend that the Indian population in South Africa are not South African nationals but they have a moral and political obligation towards their people. They were responsible for sending the forbears of these Indians to South Africa. They did so on the clear understanding that the original immigrants, as well as their descendants who settled in the Union lawfully, would enjoy equality of opportunity and right with any other class of South African citizens.

Their whole efforts have been directed against the extension of existing or the imposition on Indians in South Africa of new disabilities. The provisions of the Land Tenure Act of 1946, relating to ownership and occupation of land, constitute an extension of the field of disabilities and racial discrimination to the geographical area of Natal where they have not existed before and where a far larger number of Indians will be affected than has been the case in the Transvaal. Thus, since the signing of the Charter, the Union Government have brought about an even wider application of racial segregation and the Ghetto principle. The Government of India contend that this is a process of retrogression which in the interests of the solidarity of the United Nations and world opinion, they must resist.

The preamble to our Charter "reaffirms faith in the fundamental human rights". It expresses our determination "to promote social progress and better standards of life in the larger freedom". Can it reasonably be argued that racial segregation of this kind is not infringement of fundamental human rights or that measures aiming at such segregation constitute the promotion of "social progress and better standards of life in the larger freedom"? Is enforcement of racial segregation by law consistent with the "practice of tolerance" of the exhortation in the Charter to peoples of the United nations "to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours"? And, may I ask, is it not wholly inconsistent with the resolution adopted in the Assembly two days ago with so much enthusiasm? I refer to the resolution moved by Egypt in abolition of racial and religious persecution.

The Government of India submit, in all earnestness, that their dispute with South Africa is properly a matter for discussion and disposal by the Assembly because the legislation to which they object offends against the purposes of the Charter. They submit, with equal emphasis that the Assembly is concerned with this dispute because the law to which they object is not only likely to impair but has already impaired friendly relations between member nations.

Political Issue

The legal argument that the Government of the Union of South Africa is competent to legislate for any class of its nationals without interference does not dispose of the fact that the legislation in question has resulted in the severance of relations between India and South Africa. In as much as the cause of the dispute is the racial subordination of the just claims of members of one race to the unjust demands of another, its repercussions will extend beyond South Africa and India. The issue, therefore, is a political not a legal issue, not even an issue between two countries alone but in the possibilities of its extent a world issue.

It calls for an effort in statesmanship. It will not be solved by unilateral insistence in some narrow concept of domestic jurisdiction. The only method of peaceable solution open in our opinion is the exercise by the United Nations of their collective wisdom and moral sanction in the cause of justice and fairplay.

It has been urged that since social conditions in India are worse than anything that exists in South Africa, Indians should not complain of provisions of the Tenure Act which are designed to avert racial tensions that may endanger the peace of all communities.

The danger of this argument, proved by practical experience, lies in the fact that each new concession to the prejudices of the politically dominant European community has led to fresh demands for racial discrimination. Comparison with conditions in India is profoundly misleading.

Mr. Hofmeyr Quoted

In India, we are doing everything in our power to remove as rapidly as possible social evils which are an inheritance from the past. Neither in India nor before world opinion do we seek to justify these.

In the Union what is being done is the reverse process of legalizing disabilities which with us never had the force of law and which we are contending, not without success, to remove. Disappearing evils of India are not examples for the introduction of new or the perpetuation of old evils in South Africa.

I may here be permitted to quote from a speech made in 1941 by Mr. Hofmeyr, Deputy Prime Minister. Referring to "Indo-European" relations in South Africa, he said: "Our record scarcely bears examination. Self-interest of the European brought the Indian

to South Africa. Self-interest has sought to get rid of him from the country. Self-interest, in so far as this cannot be achieved, is determined to keep him in what is regarded as his place. Within the last year we have seen how the Pretoria Agreement, a sincere and honest effort to find a solution of the problem in its most important aspect, that is, in so far as it affects Natal, has been shipwrecked as a result of the display of mass intolerance which is one of the least creditable episodes in our history.

"It is well that we should remind ourselves how the Indian came to South Africa. It is an inescapable fact that Asiatics came to South Africa primarily not of their own initiative but because Europeans wanted them to come. They remained because Europeans wished them to remain. If our history proves anything it is this: that however we may regard our Asiatic problem, the fact that it came into existence is due to the European and the European alone."

"Two Important Quotations"

I do not wish to take up more time of the Committee at this stage but would like to put before it two important quotations, which have as much bearing on the subject we are discussing to-day as they had in 1924 when they were made.

"We shall gather on our heads the hatred of the whole of Asia, we shall feel the weight of that hatred in the years to come. The Bill will be taken as an outrage not only by black Africa but by yellow Asia. We, a handful of whites, are right fencing ourselves, first with an inner ring of black hatred and beyond that with a ring of hatred of the whole of Asia. For while only a few Asiatics are directly affected by the Bill, the inclusion of their name will win us the hatred of hundreds of millions of Asiatics from the north of Asia to the South."

And a year later.

"A year ago, I warned the Union Government that the effects of their policy would not stop in South Africa but would provoke a world conflict. Extension of the colour bar at this moment will be disastrous. There is no doubt that when the Asiatic Bill is passed then trouble will begin We know that it is coming. The Asiatic Bill must lead to the gravest troubles of administration. I knew that in 1924. It is inevitable in these circumstances. The Colour Bar Bill, gratuitously produced here, is a firebrand flung into a haystack."

Mr. Chairman, the author of these two quotations is the distinguished Prime Minister of South Africa, Field Marshal Smuts.

It is notified for general information that the Austrian Government have promoted necessary legislation for restitution to owners or their heirs of their property in Austria of which they were wrongfully dispossessed after March 13, 1938. Full details of the procedure for submitting claims can be obtained from the Director of Commercial Intelligence, 1, Council House Street, Calcutta, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department on November 30.

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO UNITED NATIONS

Mrs. Pandit Addresses Security Committee Meeting

"ON the general questions raised by the three resolutions before us, I feel that if the General Assembly thinks that the Security Council has refused to recommend a State for membership on inadequate or unfair grounds, then it is open to, and indeed incumbent on, the General Assembly to ask the Security Council to reconsider its attitude. For these reasons, India will support any resolution which has this object in view," said Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit while addressing a meeting of the Political and Security Committee of the United Nations in Lake Success (New York) on November 8.

Mrs. Pandit said: Mr. President, since I am to be the last speaker in the debate on the resolutions submitted by distinguished representatives of Egypt, Panama and the Philippines and since the ground has already been well covered, I shall endeavour to be extremely brief in my remarks.

First of all, let me say how glad we are that Afghanistan, Iceland and Sweden are going to be admitted to the United Nations. My delegation is particularly glad that Afghanistan will shortly be with us. Afghanistan is India's neighbour. We have had intimate relations with Afghanistan in the past and with a National Government in India we hope to have even happier relations with her in the future.

Ireland

The item on the agenda under which this discussion has been taking place is "Admission of New Members." Actually, however, we have been speaking about non-admission of certain members. On this point the view of my delegation is that we should adhere strictly to the qualifications for membership laid down in Article IV of the Charter. We feel confident no extraneous considerations will be imported by the Security Council in deciding whether a State should be recommended or not, or by the General Assembly in deciding whether a State should be admitted.

We regret that Ireland has not been recommended for membership of the United Nations. There is no doubt that Ireland is a peace-loving nation. Perhaps Ireland was a little too peace-loving during the war. Ireland could not be admitted as an Original Member of the United Nations because, at that time, the definition of peace-loving country was that it should have declared war. That definition is no longer applicable. We feel that Ireland fully satisfies the conditions laid down in Article IV of the Charter.

India has always had a certain fundamental sympathy with Ireland. Ireland, like India, has fought long and hard for her freedom. Indeed, our earlier patriots used to follow Irish methods for obtaining freedom. Later, however, thanks to the gospel of non-violence elaborated by Mahatma Gandhi, we have been following a different and, I believe, a nobler method for the achievement of freedom. This, however, does not detract from our admiration for the tenacity and vigour with which Ireland has conducted her own struggle.

In our view, Ireland is thus not merely a peace-loving but a freedom-loving country, eminently fitted for membership of the United Nations.

Transjordan

We feel that Transjordan should also be a member of the United Nations. We have sympathy with Transjordan as a Middle East State which has recently attained its independence. Doubts have been expressed in this Committee regarding the degree of independence which she has attained. Even if these doubts were justified, we feel that they should not stand in the way of Transjordan's membership of the United Nations. I say this as a subject of a country which has herself not yet attained complete independence.

Albania and Outer Mongolia are further removed from us than Afghanistan and Transjordan. We are, therefore, not in a position to pronounce a definite opinion about them. I was, however, impressed by the figures given by the distinguished delegate of the Soviet Union regarding the sacrifices made by Albania which was one of the first victims in the struggle against Fascism and Nazism during the war. We feel that the question of Albania's admission to the United Nations should be reconsidered.

Outer Mongolia was, until recently, an integral part of China. If, therefore, anyone had the right to object to the admission of Outer Mongolia it was China. Yet China desisted from raising any objection or applying the veto. It seems, therefore, a little strange to us that countries less interested, geographically and politically, should have used the veto to prevent her admission to the United Nations.

Portugal

Among the applicants for admission to the United Nations there is, in our opinion, one country and one only, which is definitely not fitted to be a member of the United Nations—I mean Portugal. I say this with regret for I am fully aware of the magnificent contribution which Portugal has made towards the sum total of human civilisation. I readily endorse much of what the distinguished delegate for the Philippines said regarding the glorious history of Portugal. But the fact that a country has had a great past should not blind us to its present conduct.

The Portuguese Government is, from all accounts, authoritarian; it has a distinctly Fascist flavour, and Portugal's collaboration with Franco Spain does not add to her credit. Moreover, her colonial policy is thoroughly reactionary. I speak with experience for we know what her policy is from the manner in which Portugal has been dealing with her subjects in the tiny Portuguese settlement of Goa in India. There, civil liberties are severely curtailed; there is little freedom of speech; and anyone who criticises the policy of the Portuguese administration is brought to book, tried (often by Court Martial) and given inhuman sentences.

Tribute to French Authorities

In fact, Portuguese administration in India forms a glaring contrast to that of the French administration of their own settlements. Here I would like to pay tribute to the French authorities who have been following a liberal policy and who have declared their intention to respect the wishes of the people of the French settlements in India in regard to their future relations with self-governing India. Such, Mr. President, are our views on States which have applied for admission to the United Nations.

On the general questions raised by the three resolutions before us, I feel that if the General Assembly thinks that the Security Council has refused to recommend a State for membership on inadequate or unfair grounds, then it is open to, and indeed incumbent on, the General Assembly to ask the Security Council to reconsider its attitude. For these reasons, India will support any resolution which has this object in view.

Mrs. Pandit's speech was the only speech to receive an ovation from all sections in any Committee up to date. At the conclusion, the Chairman of the Committee, M. Manuilsky, stepped up to Mrs. Pandit and shook her warmly by the hand. She was congratulated by other delegates, including those of France and Egypt.

Mrs. Pandit was the last speaker at the end of a four-hour session and began her speech in a low and barely audible voice but she soon warmed up and made her points with a clarity and incision which earned the spontaneous applause of the audience. Comment among the delegates immediately after the conclusion of the session was that the Indian representative's speech was a dispassionate summing-up of all the issues involved.

In a Press Note published on October 25, 1946, it was announced that 5,000 tons of potatoes would be made available for export from East Africa to India in monthly instalments commencing from the end of July, 1946. Information has been received that the potato position in East Africa does not permit of any exports from that country at present, but that the East African Government propose to review the position in December, 1946, and a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department on November 27.

INFORMATION ABOUT PRESENCE OF TROOPS IN NON-ENEMY TERRITORIES

Mrs. Pandit's Address to Security Committee

"The Indian delegation support the resolution moved by the delegate of the Soviet Union. They are glad that the scope of the resolution has been extended to cover former enemy as well as non-enemy territories. There is no reason why information regarding the disposition of troops and the location of air and naval bases in these areas should not be furnished. On the contrary, there is every reason why it should be," said Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, while addressing the Political and Security Committee, in Lake Success (New York) on November 22, on the resolution regarding the furnishing of information about the presence of troops in non-enemy territories.

Mrs. Pandit continued: In wartime information regarding the movement of troops has, of necessity, to be kept secret but in peacetime secrecy does more harm than good; in fact, it is impossible to maintain secrecy. The only result of attempting to maintain secrecy will be that information will leak out somehow or other causing wild, exaggerated and often distorted rumours.

India's War Effort

I would like to say a word about this resolution so far as it affects India. During the last war, Indian troops were distributed all over the Eastern Hemisphere. They fought in Tunisia, Tripolitania, Abyssinia, Cyrenaica, Somaliland, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece, and the whole length of Italy. Mere enumeration of these places will show the range and extent of duties assigned to Indian troops during the last war. They were used to defeat aggression not only in the West but in the East. In no Far Eastern theatre was so crushing a defeat inflicted on the enemy as in Burma in 1945. It is because we were conscious of the contribution which India has made in two World Wars to the cause of international peace and security and also of the contribution which she is capable of making in case, God forbid, there is another World War, that we stood as a candidate for the Security Council.

Indonesia

We were unsuccessful but I hope neither you, Mr. Chairman, nor any member of the Committee will think that India did not fulfil completely the criteria for election to the Security Council which have been laid down in the Charter. The war is over, and, as someone has rightly said, peace has broken out. The vast majority of the Indian troops whose number stood at two million at the end of the war, were withdrawn. A handful continued to be employed in certain areas.

India was not happy about the employment of these troops in Indonesia. They were employed on the innocuous, and indeed essential, task of protection and evacuation of Allied internees, but Indian public opinion strongly resented their use to bring pressure on the Indonesians who were engaged in a struggle for freedom.

One of the first tasks of the new Indian Government was to insist on the withdrawal of these troops and I am glad to say that, in accordance with a scheme which was laid down some weeks ago, the withdrawal of Indian troops will be complete by the end of November. We also hope that a few troops who are in Iraq will be withdrawn shortly.

Ultimate Objective

To conclude: We feel that the information called for under the resolution under consideration should be furnished by all member states without hesitation. We support the resolution because we feel that it would facilitate the implementing of Article 43 of the Charter and we support it because it will be a step towards that ultimate objective which we all have in mind, namely, a scheme of universal and well-regulated reduction of arms.

SIR MAHARAJ SINGH'S SUGGESTION ACCEPTED

An important recommendation, made by Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, was accepted on November 18 by the Sub-Committee of the Trusteeship Committee of U.N.O. It was that, in future, information regarding non-self-governing territories submitted to the United Nations should refer not only to the economic and social conditions of the people in the territory concerned but also to political conditions, to which India attaches great importance, including the share of the inhabitants in the executive and legislative functions of government and in higher Government posts. Reference also should be made to their political advancement.

The pilgrim ship *Khosru* left Jeddah on November 20. The pilgrim ship *Englestan*, which left Jeddah on November 12, arrived at Karachi on November 21. The pilgrims will leave for their homes by a special train. The pilgrim ship *Rizwani*, which was earlier reported to have been badly damaged, has now been certified to be seaworthy and is expected to sail with pilgrims from Jeddah shortly.

INDIA AND WORLD TRADE

Mr. R. K. Nehru's Speech at London Conference

"THE American proposals have served a useful purpose in focussing attention on major problems of trade and tariff policy," said Mr. R. K. Nehru, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department, and leader of the Indian Delegation at the Plenary Session of the Preparatory Commission on Trade and Employment held in London on October 17.

Mr. Nehru continued: Our own approach to this problem is very different, and, as you will see from the document which we have placed before the Committee, on many points the disagreement between our experts and the American experts is fundamental. This has not, however, prevented us from carrying on discussions in the friendliest spirit with the Department of State Mission which came to Delhi only a few weeks ago to ascertain our views on the proposal.

We feel, Sir, that the American experts have made a valuable contribution to the study of this question of trade and employment which affects the welfare and happiness of the common man in all countries, and we would like them to know that, so far as India is concerned, the importance of their work in drawing attention to some of these problems is fully recognised.

International Co-operation

We have listened with great interest to the observations made by the leaders of the various Delegations.

The leader of the American Delegation referred to the need for cultivating a spirit of co-operation in matters affecting trade and employment. On this point, Sir, I can only repeat what I said yesterday: that the Indian people are second to none in their desire to promote co-operation between the nations in every sphere of activity.

We are firmly convinced that the true interest of our country, as indeed of every other country, lies in the furtherance of international co-operation, and we are anxious that no effort should be spared in making a success of the new Institutions which are gradually being set up for this purpose. Towards the United Nations Organisation in particular, the attitude of our Government has been recently defined as that of wholehearted co-operation and unreserved adherence, both in spirit and in letter, to the provisions of the Charter. It is for this reason, Sir, that we have welcomed the Council's initiative in setting up this Committee, and have decided to accept the proposals as a convenient basis for discussion.

There is, however, the important point to which I referred yesterday, namely, that this Committee should not be left in any doubt as to what exactly in the Indian view is implied by the idea of co-operation. We feel, Sir, that it would be helpful from the point of view of the further discussions which are to take place in this Committee, if our views on the subject were made known.

The kind of co-operation to which we in India attach importance is a relationship based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. I might add, Sir, that this principle is clearly laid down in the United Nations Charter and, so long as India is a member of the United Nations Organisation, it will be the endeavour of our representatives to see that this principle does not remain a pious aspiration, but is actually applied in practice.

In the economic sphere—or, more specifically, the sphere of trade and employment with which we are concerned, this would mean that no scheme of co-operation which fails to meet the essential requirements of the less developed nations (whose interests, I might add, are the interests of perhaps more than three-quarters of the world's population) or which shows undue bias in favour of a particular country or group of countries, is likely to be accepted by India as a scheme of genuine and fruitful co-operation.

We are glad to see that this Committee has been advised, in drafting the Agenda, to take into account the special conditions prevailing in primary producing countries and countries which are industrially backward. But we are not sure that the needs of such countries, especially in the matter of a suitable commercial policy, are fully understood, and as our own country falls in the group of the less developed economies, we feel that our position should be clearly explained.

The problem which faces our country, as I pointed out yesterday, is not an exceptional one, and the views we are putting forward are no doubt shared by other nations in a similar economic position. I have in mind particularly the nations of Asia and Africa, many of which are India's immediate neighbours in whose prosperity and welfare we are deeply interested.

Our Primary Concern

In other parts of the world also there are countries in the same position, which are faced with the same problems and confronted by the same difficulties. Many of these countries are not represented here to-day, but I am sure that my fellow delegates will agree with me that their interests should not be overlooked.

So far as India is concerned, the Committee will be interested to know that a conference of unofficial representatives of the various nations of Asia is expected to meet in Delhi early next year, and among the problems of common interest to all Asians which will be discussed at this conference will be economic and trade problems. Although this conference has been sponsored by an unofficial agency, I have not the slightest doubt personally that the views expressed by our fellow Asians will have a considerable influence on the Government of India's future policy. I have mentioned this, Sir, in order to emphasise that, although our primary concern is naturally the welfare of our own country, we do not wish to take a narrow view or to seek any special advantage which is exclusively in our own interest.

Our objective is to bring into existence a co-operative system which is suited to the requirements of all countries which are not fully developed, without affecting the genuine interests of the highly industrialised economies. It is because of our conviction that the interests of the two groups are not irreconcilable that we have come to this meeting determined to play a constructive part in devising measures for the promotion of genuine international co-operation.

Low Purchasing Power

If I may revert to our own problems, Sir, the position in India is that, in spite of our large resources, both in men and in material and the traditional skill and other qualities of our people, the purchasing power and standard of living of the average Indian remains among the lowest in the world. Efforts have been made in the past, from time to time, to deal with this problem, but there has been no fundamental or far-reaching change in this respect. It is to this problem, Sir, of the removal of poverty and other evils which have resulted in social stagnation that our Government and people are now addressing themselves.

We do not consider this to be an insoluble problem, but it is our conviction, based on long experience, that if substantial and rapid progress is to be achieved, an intensive and planned development of the Indian economy is essential. Unless the country's resources are developed to the maximum extent there is little hope of our being able to tackle the problem successfully, for the needs of our vast population, which is still expanding, grow from day to day. We must increase production and achieve a better balance between industry and agriculture, which means that we must adopt a policy of industrialisation and the modernisation of our methods of production.

There are other considerations also which are vitally important from our point of view: first, economic progress must be rapid, for the problems which face us in India are of an urgent character; secondly, the fruits of economic progress must be shared equitably among the people. We attach the greatest importance to this

objective, for it is not for the sake of enriching a few that we are adopting these measures of industrial development, but for raising the standard of living and the real income of the common man: the third point is that we consider it vitally important that our resources, which are not unlimited, should be used in the best interests of the community as a whole.

From every point of view, we consider that it is essential that the nation's economic development should not be left wholly to the operations of private enterprise and unchecked competition, whether internal or external, as seems to be implied by some of these proposals, but that a real effort should be made by the State to plan or to regulate or to direct economic activity in the larger interests of the community.

Employment Policy

All this, Sir, has definite bearing on our attitude to the American proposals. These proposals lay down certain objectives with regard to the maintenance of employment at high and stable levels. This is, the central part of the scheme, for in the absence of agreement on an employment policy, there appears to be little chance of an acceptable trade convention being worked out. We do not unfortunately find in this statement of objectives any real understanding of the problem which confronts the less developed countries.

Without going into much detail, I would point out that any trade convention which fails to recognize the effective development of a country's resources, and the expansion of the real income of the people, as one of its primary objectives, cannot inspire much enthusiasm in a country which is still not fully developed. Our problem, Sir, is not primarily one of the maintenance of full employment, but of a change in the character of employment, and of a greater diversification of employment, and we consider it essential that the full development of a country's resources with a view to raising standards of living and real income should be laid down as one of the primary objectives of the International Trade Organisation.

Economic Objectives

Furthermore, as I pointed out yesterday, we feel that the Organisation should be specifically charged with the duty of assisting the governments concerned in the attainment of this objective by all suitable and effective measures, including measures designed to facilitate access to capital and other goods needed for the full development of the national economy.

Our whole attitude to these proposals for the removal of trade restrictions and trade barriers on which the principal industrial countries lay so much emphasis, is based on our conception of a sound employment policy. If our economic objectives are sound—and there seems to be general agreement that the rapid economic development of all countries is a desirable objective—then we must retain the power to regulate our trade relations with other countries by methods which are both effective and economical from our own point of view, and which will yield maximum results at minimum cost to all the interests concerned.

Among these interests in any scheme of international co-operation which is accepted by us, we would give a high place to other members of the Organisation. Our whole approach to this question of trade regulation is a practical approach and we feel that it is wrong to take a doctrinaire view of the soundness or otherwise of specific trade measures. Trade from our point of view (and I am glad, Sir, that this point is recognised by the American Representative and other Delegates) is not an end in itself, but a means—and a very subsidiary means—of giving effect to our larger economic plans.

Foreign trade, I might add, is only a small fraction of our total trade, and our primary objective is the development of our vast internal market. Nevertheless, since our plans are of an expansionist character, our trade with other countries must also expand, but it will only expand if we take a rational view of the whole problem of trade regulation, and instead of rejecting certain methods of regulation on grounds which are not applicable to Indian conditions, make full and effective use of them for the purpose of building up our economy.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MAILS

The public are advised to post their *surface* Christmas and New Year mails by November 15, 1946 for the United Kingdom, East Africa, South Africa and Malaya and countries in the South East, allowing a further two weeks for America and for European countries. In the case of Australia and New Zealand, the latest safe date of posting is November 1, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Communications Department, Government of India, on October 16.

To avoid pressure on the air capacity, the public are requested to utilise, as far as possible, surface route for their Christmas and New Year mails.

If, however, greetings are to be sent by air mail and by air letter service to the countries to which these services are available they may be posted by December 10, 1946, in the case of the United Kingdom, East Africa, South Africa and Malaya and countries in the South East and by December 1 in the case of U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand and European countries, a further margin of one week being made for more distant destinations.

The dates mentioned above relate to posting by civilians. The dates fixed for postings by the Defence Services have been notified by the military authorities.



MR. BHAGWAT DAYAL

First Indian Consular Representative in Siam

A Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on November 23 stated:

"Mr. Bhagwat Dayal, till recently Special Officer in the Food Department, has been appointed Consul at Bangkok. He will be the first Indian consular representative in Siam. Mr. Dayal will also represent India on the Combined Rice Commission and the British Commonwealth Siamese Claims Committee, Siam."

Mr. Bhagwat Dayal, B.Sc., Bar-at-Law, was educated at Philander Smith College, Naini Tal, the Muir Central College, Allahabad, and the Middle Temple. He joined the English Department, Allahabad University, and was Warden of the Kayastha Pathshala College from 1925 to 1945, when he was appointed Special Officer in the Food Department.

A Linguist

Mr. Dayal was Honorary Secretary of the U.P. Automobile Association from 1931 to 1945 and a member of several committees concerned with motoring. Apart from his work as a teacher of English literature, he took a keen interest in the University Officers' Training Corps as a commissioned officer, and in various literary and other activities at the University.

Mr. Dayal has travelled in England and France and is a linguist. His hobbies are riding and motoring. He is 46 years old.



IN SOME PARTS OF BOMBAY, WHERE PRE-MONSOON RAINS HAVE BEEN GOOD, CULTIVATORS ARE ALREADY BUSY PREPARING THEIR LAND FOR CULTIVATION.

INDIA MUST BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Speech in Central Assembly

"DURING the last session of the Assembly, the question of food was debated at great length. This was in February, 1946. Since then, the situation has not improved, except for the fact that the monsoon, which has just ended, has, on the whole, been more or less favourable. It is, therefore, necessary for me to explain to the House the way in which we have managed to deal with the situation during the last seven or eight months," observed the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food, during the course of the debate on the food situation in the Central Assembly on November 4.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad said: It will be recollected that it was pointed out during the debate in February that we anticipated, on account of the failure of the monsoon last year and the failure of winter rains a deficit of something like seven million tons in kharif and rabi crops. The question with which the Government was faced was how to meet this big deficit. It was a big deficit because if you take into consideration the amount of grain that is produced normally in the year it came to something like 10 per cent. and in a country which lives more or less from hand to mouth a deficit of 10 per cent. is likely to upset most calculations. We had, therefore, to take steps from the very begining to meet the situation with which the country was faced.

The Government decided upon three courses for meeting the situation. The first was to get imports of foodgrains from foreign countries. Great stress was laid, I find from the reports of the proceedings, on this aspect of the question. Many members impressed upon the Government the desirability of getting as much imports as they could from foreign countries.

The second line which the Government adopted was to husband the resources within the country and this involved two different modes: one was to procure what we could within the country, and the second was to so distribute what we had as to make the deficit spread over the whole country as far as possible, and to let people share the difficulties as equitably as they could.

Imports from Abroad

The third line was to step up production as far as that could be done. I will take each one of these and will place before the House the extent to which we have succeeded in the steps that we have taken.

Coming first to the question of imports from foreign countries, as soon as we discovered that we were faced with a large deficit, the Government of India deputed the Food Secretary, Sir Robert Hutchings, to London and to America. This happened before the debate took place in February last. During the course of the debate, it was announced that a large delegation under the then Food Member would proceed. The Food Member did not go but the delegation did proceed under Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, and it was fortunate enough in securing the support of the British Government. Subsequently, ex-President Hoover of America visited this country and some time later another American Mission under Dr. Schultz went round the country visiting particularly the areas which were worst affected.

Short-Supply of Foodstuffs

Our delegation pressed the case for India before the International Organisation which deals with the food question, and, as a result, we secured some allocation. Our demand was for 4 million tons. Unfortunately, we never got any firm promise with regard to the amount that we could get and since then what has happened has been more or less a sort of *ad hoc* arrangement, programmes made from month to month for giving us wheat from America, Australia, Canada and other countries, and rice from the countries of South East Asia like Burma, Siam, Indo-China, etc.

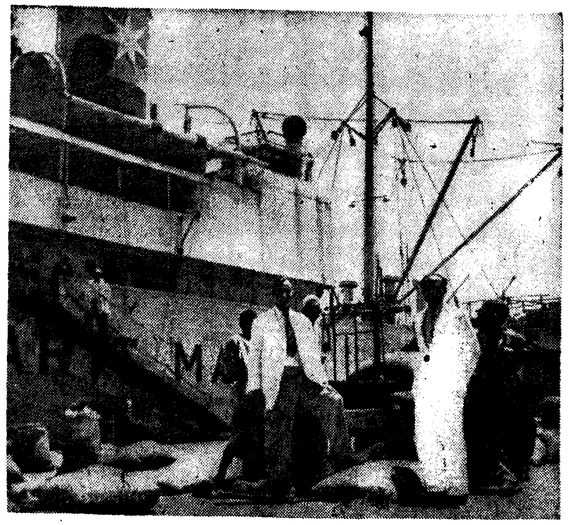
We have been pressing the International Food Emergency Commission for larger and larger allotments to us but situated as the world is to-day, it has not been possible for that Commission to give us all that we wanted. We know that the whole world to-day is in short-supply with regard to foodstuff

and it is the function of that body to pool whatever surpluses are available from the producing countries and to distribute them to the western countries which are in need. India has had her share, but unfortunately it has not been what we wanted or what we needed. With all our efforts we have so far been able to import into this country 1,484,740 tons of wheat and other grains and rice 247,500 tons, a total of 1,732,000 and odd tons. This is as against our demand of 4 million tons. We have been, therefore, faced with this other difficulty of meeting this big deficit which arises on account of our not getting what we wanted from foreign countries.

We are indeed grateful to those foreign countries which have come to our help, and we cannot blame them if they are unable to give us more. But at the same time, we cannot help asking them to give us more, and I hope that in the months which are still difficult for us we shall be able to get something more. But it is not only the difficulty of allocation or difficulty of availability which has stood in our way. There have been other difficulties also which have made imports more and more difficult.

Diwan Chaman Lall's Mission

We know that in the United States of America the shipping strike has been going on for a pretty long time. That has affected our imports to a considerable extent from that country. We expected something like 224,000 tons of wheat from America in the month of September. All that we have been able to get has been no more than 110,000 tons, thus causing a short-fall of no less than 114,000 tons. We find that it was not possible to rely only upon America, Canada and Australia, although they have given us quite a good deal of wheat. We felt that it was necessary to look to other sources also, and therefore, we turned to countries which are west to our own. We have got supplies from Iran, Turkey, Abyssinia and Egypt and these are of the following order. They come, in all, to 89,210 tons, of wheat, barley and millets from these countries. We have got from Brazil 28,904 tons of rice.



EGYPT IS AMONG THE COUNTRIES HELPING INDIA TO TIDE OVER HER PRESENT DIFFICULT FOOD SITUATION. PICTURE SHOWS FOODGRAINS FOR INDIA BEING LOADED ON TO A SHIP AT AN EGYPTIAN PORT. IN THE FOREGROUND, ON THE RIGHT, IS MR. J. A. RAHIM, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S TRADE COMMISSIONER IN EGYPT.

"I FEEL that although we have nearly passed through the present crisis and although we may not expect to be in the brightness of full sunshine, we have just begun to see streaks of light and I am hoping that we shall be able to pass through the darkness of this crisis and emerge into full sunshine very soon. But we cannot ignore the perennial problem of shortage of food in this country, and the only way to meet it is to increase our own production."

—Dr. Rajendra Prasad



BAGS FILLED WITH MAIZE FROM AMERICA BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE QUAY IN MADRAS.

The House is aware that recently Diwan Chaman Lall, a Member of this House, whom we are all pleased to see back to-day, was deputed on a mission to Argentine to secure permits for the export of 300,000 tons of maize which we purchased in that country. I am sure the House will be pleased to convey to him its thanks for the skill with which he conducted the negotiations and congratulations on the way he has achieved success in that effort. Out of the 300,000 tons of maize which we have secured in that country, 150,904 tons have already arrived and we are hoping that the balance will be coming within the next two months or so. In order to secure these supplies, we have had to be constantly in touch with the International Emergency Food Council through our representative and with the various countries from which we have these imports. In some of these we have got our permanent representative; in others our representatives go as necessity arises.

Transport Difficulties

Turning now to the countries on the South East from which we have got our rice, I find that we have secured about 247,500 tons from these countries. Burma is, of course, the largest exporter of rice for us. We had expected a large quantity from Siam, but unfortunately that has not materialised and we have not secured more than 17,000 tons from there. We were offered, very kindly,



POTATO GROWING IN THE NILGIRIS (SOUTH INDIA): NEARLY HALF THE AVAILABLE CULTIVABLE LAND ON THE NILGIRI SLOPES IS SOWN WITH POTATOES. HERE LAND IS BEING PREPARED FOR POTATO CULTIVATION.

he Indonesian Government some 00 tons of paddy, and we had hoped we would have been able to get paddy, which would have gone a t way towards solving our difficul- Unfortunately, in Indonesia as in 1, difficulties have arisen which have e exports difficult. In both these tries, there were internal difficulties ransport.

The Government of India offered to meet these difficulties by supplying locomotives, wagons and trunks to Siam and trucks and coal to Indonesia. The position in Indonesia was complicated by the fact that political considerations came in and military reasons stood for some time in the way of the supply of our trucks. Fortunately, all these difficulties have now been removed and a special officer has been deputed by the Government of India to Indonesia to expedite the despatch of rice or paddy from that country. On account of these difficulties our import from Indonesia has not been more than 16,000 tons so far out of the 500,000 tons promised. We are hoping that with the changed circumstances and with the facilities which we have provided in the shape of



HESE WOMEN WORKERS RE PLANTING POTATO EEDS IN A FIELD ON THE NILGIRIS.



A JOWAR CROP IN GUJERAT (BOMBAY).

trucks and coal, we may be able to import larger quantities hereafter. As I have stated that total imports thus far from foreign countries come to something like 1,700,000 tons.

One question with regard to these imports is that of price. We have been paying rather heavily for these imports. We expect in the course of the current year to make purchases to the extent of Rs. 91 crores worth of foodgrains from these countries. The prices at which these arrive in this country and the prices prevalent in this country differ to some extent and we felt that if we allowed these imports to be sold at the cost price, it might have the effect of upsetting the price structure in this country and the Government therefore decided to make good the difference between the price at which these were purchased and the price prevalent in this country for the same quantity of grain. This would come to something like Rs. 15½ crores in the course of the year. This is what we have done by way of imports.

Internal Procurement

Turning to the second line of attack, we had first to procure what we could get in this country. Procurement is not easy, when you have not a factory or a number of factories from which you have to procure, but when you have got innumerable cultivators spread over this vast country, from each one of whom you have to collect what is surplus to his own needs. There is the further difficulty which has arisen on account of lack of statistics and information with regard to individual producers.

In provinces where the ryotwari system prevails there is undoubtedly an agency which keeps account of individual cultivators and which can give us more or less a reliable data with regard to what is produced by each cultivator. In the areas where the permanent settlement prevails no such agency exists, because there the Government is concerned only with getting its land revenue, which is paid by the middleman, the zamindar. The difficulty in procuring therefore has been greater in the case of the permanently settled areas than in the ryotwari areas.

Monopoly Procurement

The system that has been followed by the various Provincial Governments with regard to procurement has also not been uniform. In some places practically monopoly procurement prevails. The Government has been in favour of monopoly procurement in all provinces but it has taken time for all the provinces to fall in line with the policy of the Central Government.

On the opening day of the session a statement was laid on the table of the House which showed the methods pursued in the different provinces. To-day I can say that almost in every province there is or is going to be more or less monopoly procurement and we expect that with the next crop the procurement will be on a larger scale than has been possible in the past. But even as it is, procurement has given us a very considerable quantity of grain within this country. We have been able to secure by procurement 3,800,000 tons as against 1,700,000 tons of imports. We have procured within the country itself more than double what we have been able to import from other countries.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Is not procurement less than 10 per cent. of the produce?

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I think it will be less than 10 per cent. but it has to be taken into consideration that the procurement can only be with respect to the surplus which is actually marketed. Every cultivator naturally wishes to retain for his own use what he needs.....

PROF. N. G. RANGA: (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Should they also be starved?

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: And his needs are in the first place, food for his family and in the second place wages for his labourers who are paid in kind and not in cash and thirdly, seeds.....

PROF. N. G. RANGA: And the village requirements also.

Cultivators' Requirements

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: After making allowances for these three kinds of requirements of the cultivator, whatever remains as surplus he places in the market. It has been found that the surplus which is marketed ordinarily is 40 per cent. of the total produce. That has been arrived at by our statisticians and if we take into consideration the total produce at 60 million tons and deduct from that what is retained by the cultivator we get 24 million tons for sale. And out of these 24 million tons we have secured nearly 4 million tons, 3.8 million tons to be accurate. That I think is about 1/6th or 16 per cent. of the surplus which was available for procurement.

Honourable Members will be able to understand and appreciate the importance of this procurement when they take into consideration the amount procured in the provinces which have been worst affected. We have to deal with two kinds of Provinces and two kinds of crops. There are certain crops in certain provinces which are grown for the market. In other provinces the crop is grown for consumption and only a part of it which is surplus is really marketed. Take, for example, the case of the Punjab or Sind. Some part of the wheat grown there is for sale. Whereas in a province like Bihar, if anything is sold, it is sold more or less under necessity. There is hardly any grain produced for sale.

In Madras

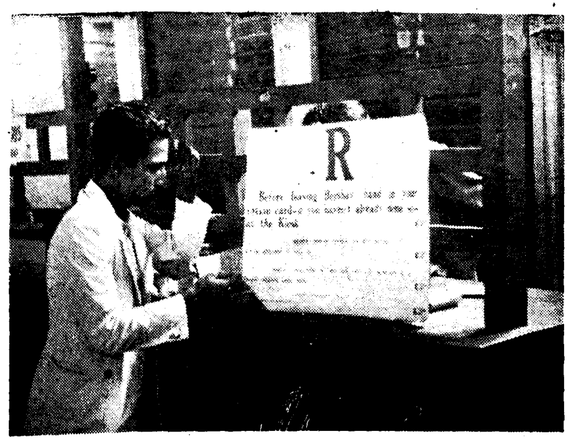
So, in taking into consideration what amount the governments have been able to procure, we have to consider whether in any particular province the procurement has been of grain which was produced for sale, or of grain which was disposed of by the cultivator as surplus to his needs. Naturally, what was produced for sale came in larger quantity and in greater proportion to the market for sale. What was produced for consumption naturally came in a much smaller proportion to the market for sale, and therefore when we see the figures for procurement for Punjab and Sind, we see a higher percentage of procurement; when we come to a province like Madras, which has been hard hit during the last year and which is still very badly hit at the present moment, we find that there the procurement has been very very successful from this point of view; there we find that during these difficult times through which we have been passing Madras has been able to procure something like 94 per cent of what might be a surplus with individual cultivators; and it is because of this policy of rigid procurement and rigid distribution that that province has so far been able to scrape through.

I do not know if it will be able in the future to do so and to what extent it will be able to do so; but it is because of this rigorous procurement and rigorous distribution that it has succeeded.

In Bombay

The province that comes next in this respect is the province of Bombay. There, the procurement has been something in the neighbourhood of 60 per cent. Amongst other provinces I might mention the case of the United Provinces, which in previous years depended upon the Government of India for meeting its deficit to a considerable extent; but after the last Rabi crop the Ministry there carried out a rigorous policy of procurement, with the result that we have been free from anxiety for that province for these months, and any responsibility that we had in respect of that province has for the time being been taken off our hands. I do not say that that will be so in the future, but that is the present position.

On the other hand coming to a province like Bengal or Bihar, procurement has been rather poor; and as I have explained, one of the reasons has been the difficulty in getting statistics and data on which to proceed. As I have submitted, the procurement policy of the government has so far been more or less uniform. Now that we are going to have monopoly procurement, I am hoping that in the coming season we shall have larger quantities at the disposal of the government, which could be taken to places in need from places where there is a surplus.



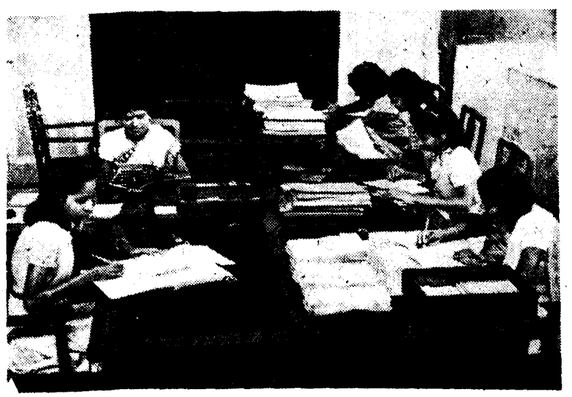
A RATIONING KIOSK AT THE BOMBAY RAILWAY STATION. PEOPLE LEAVING BOMBAY HAVE TO DEPOSIT THEIR RATION CARDS AT THE STATION KIOSKS.

Rationing

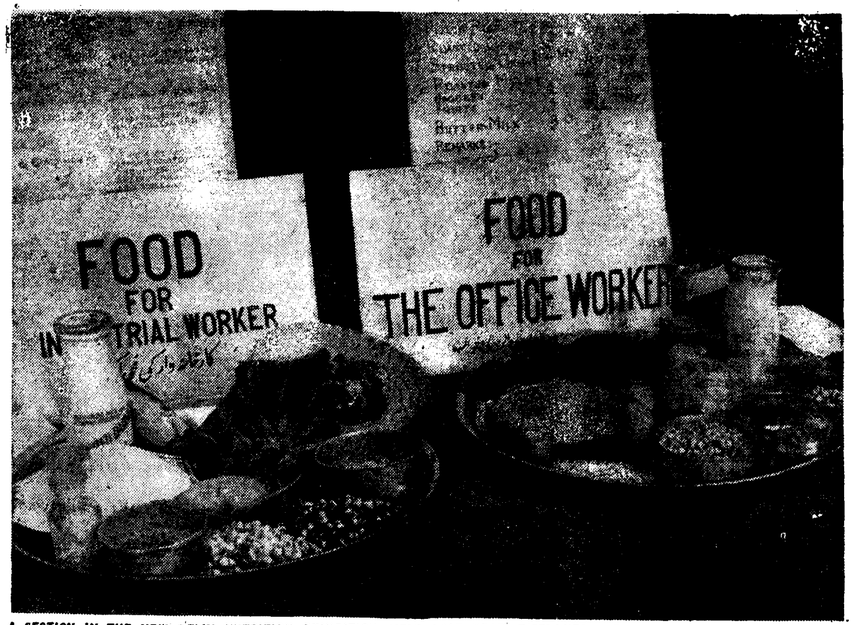
The second line of attack in regard to internal husbanding of resources has been an attempt to make distribution as fair and equitable as possible. For that purpose, we have had to extend rationing and control distribution.

Rationing has been extended very considerably. In 1943 there were few towns that were rationed, and the population that was rationed was not a very large one. There were only 2 million people rationed in March 1943. By March 1944 the number of rationed people had increased to 26 millions. In March 1945 it was 52 millions, and in March 1946 it was 100 millions. To-day it is 150 millions.

This does not mean that this entire population of 150 millions is completely rationed in the sense that each member has got a card. A certain number—one-third—is completely rationed in that sense; the remaining



WOMEN WORKERS IN A BOMBAY RATIONING WARD OFFICE.



A SECTION IN THE NEW DELHI NUTRITION EXHIBITION, HELD LAST YEAR, DISPLAYED THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF DIFFERENT CLASSES OF WORKERS AS WELL AS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN DIFFERENT LOCALITIES.

two-thirds of about 100 millions are under controlled distribution.

The areas which are completely rationed are mostly urban areas; but the areas which are only under controlled distribution are some of them rural areas but the bulk are under controlled distribution, and these belong largely to the southern presidency and to Bengal, certain areas in Bombay and Madras and the states of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin. For meeting the demand of this rationed and controlled population, we have been distributing from government sources and through government agencies something like 650,000 tons of foodgrains a month, roughly; and this has continued for the last 8 or 9 months up to now.

Members will recollect the figure of imports and the figure of internal procurement which I mentioned a little earlier in my speech. The two come to something between 55 and 56 lakh tons. We have been distributing 653,000 tons a month during the last 8 or 9 months. We started with a ration of 12 oz. per head. To begin with, the ration was of the type of grain which was consumed ordinarily in a particular locality; but as the position became tighter we had to alter that; particularly in regard to rice, the position became so tight that even in a presidency like Madras and in the States of Travancore and Cochin, where the ordinary food of the people is rice, we had to give them only wheat; we had to give them not even wheat but also maize; and the House can easily imagine the difficulty of people who have never been used to wheat or maize, having to take to them under stress of hard times. But they have taken to them because they could not get anything better and we had most reluctantly to acquiesce in giving them wheat and even maize because we had nothing else to give them.

In Northern India, where rice is eaten like Bihar, there also wheat had to be given but no portion of Northern India is so unfamiliar with wheat or maize as the South is. Therefore, while inconvenience must have been caused to these parts too, it could not be anything compared to what the people in the South had to suffer.

Modified Rations

The system of rationing has further had to be modified and altered to suit the exigencies of time by dividing the ration of 12 ounces into separate kinds of grains, a portion to be given in wheat, a portion to be given in rice, a portion to be given even in maize or millets and I imagine—in fact, I fear—that in some cases people have not taken their full ration because they could not use the full ration on account of the unsuitability of the grain which was given to them. That has happened, I believe, in many cases.

Then the question arises how is it that with this small import (when we demanded four million tons and we got only 1.7 million tons) how is it that we have been able to survive these months? I have to point out that various factors have contributed to this. Our people are used to suffering and they know how to face such difficulties because they have done it in the past and India is more or less in a chronic position of underfeeding. That has been one of the causes contributary to our success in gaining this time which we have so far succeeded in gaining. Another cause which must have contributed to it is that from the very beginning the Food Department has been anxious to maintain two things—to maintain the ration at 12 ounces by splitting up the ration into various kinds of grains and thereby making some sort of a saving, although indirectly.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: You give a stuff which cannot be eaten. That is true of Madras.

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: In the second place we have always been anxious to maintain a stock for about six weeks in every province. It has been a most difficult job to maintain this stock of 6 weeks. We have somehow or other managed so far, but the month



ANOTHER SECTION IN THE EXHIBITION SHOWED THE NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AS WELL AS OF INFANTS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN.

of November opens with a stock of 4 weeks or even less in some of the provinces. I can say this, that the most difficult months we have now almost passed through. We now have the crop in sight of us. The monsoon has been fair. There have been floods in some parts like Assam and Bihar which have damaged the crop considerably; and in Assam and Bengal we have had short rain, as also in parts of the Punjab and Sind but, on the whole, I must say that nature has been kind to us this year and we are hoping to get more or less a normal crop this season.

Fasting Clubs

With this crop in sight I venture to hope that our people will not starve and what is more I have found that the provinces and the people have shown grit in facing this difficulty which is really admirable. Some time ago after taking office, I made an appeal to the people to save as much as they could. It has gladdened my heart to see that I have received thousands of letters and telegrams from thousands of people offering to save a part of their ration.

Some people have even starved and they have even started fasting clubs to be able to save their own food for the sake of others. All this taken in terms of maunds and tons may not come to very much, but that shows the spirit in which the people have taken it and the spirit in which they have been facing this calamity.

I have also ...ealed to provinces which have any surplus to spare over and above what they declared earlier in the year to make such surpluses available and I am glad and grateful that Orissa, the Central Provinces and the Punjab have given us large quantities than they promised to give in the beginning. This extra surplus which we have received from these provinces comes to something like 45 thousand tons which is not an inconsiderable amount when we are so hard pressed. All these factors have enabled us to pass through the most difficult times. We are not yet out of the wood. November and December are still difficult months.

Need for Wheat Imports

Although we have a crop standing in front of us, we still need imports of wheat from foreign countries because during the past months we have had to borrow wheat from some provinces to meet the urgent necessities of other provinces and they were able to give us even at risk of their own supplies going short. We are pledged to repay the loan within December and I hope that we shall be able to get this import of wheat which will enable us to repay the loan.

We cannot get any more wheat in this country because the wheat crop will not be ready before the spring next year and our loan of wheat has to be repaid out of imports from foreign countries. It is for this reason that I have said that we are not yet out of the wood but the chances are, my hopes are, that with people determined to get over the present difficulties we shall be able to get over them.

Question of Prices

One question which has been raised and which has caused us considerable anxiety is the question of prices. That has two aspects. The first aspect relates to the price which we have to pay to the cultivator for the grain that he gives us. The second relates to the price at which the grain is to be sold by the Government to the consumer. Both these go together and I shall deal with them in such a way as to place before the House the views which we have taken in regard to them.

Taking first the question of prices at which we have to place our food supply to the consumer, I know that throughout the country there is control of prices of the principal foodgrains. There is widespread complaint that in some places the grain that is actually sold in the market is not sold at the control price and I have myself come across cases

where the difference between the control price and the price at which the grain is actually sold is very very great. It is as much as twice or two and a half times control price. This is due undoubtedly to various causes—we may call it black marketing—but if you analyse what that actually means, we shall see that various factors enter into this.

It was suggested to me in my own province, which I recently visited, that if inter-district restriction of movement of foodgrains is removed, it would be possible to bring down the sale prices of foodgrains within the districts. It is very often assumed that the man who actually sells to the consumer is the really guilty person in respect of these high exorbitant prices. As a matter of fact, the retailer is only the last link in the chain through which the grain has passed from the producer to the consumer. Every link that has preceded this last link has had its share in some way or other in putting up the price. It may sometimes be the greed of the various men through whose hands the grain has passed. It may be—probably it is in some cases—corruption on the part of those who are entrusted with the control of these prices which is responsible for adding to them.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: And the Police also; every constable!

Greed of Middlemen

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I think I have included that. We cannot forget that whenever anything is smuggled, the smuggler runs a certain risk and the profits which he charges naturally are commensurate with the risk which he runs. So, what with the greed of the middlemen, what with the corruption of those who have to supervise the sales and what with this additional profit which is to be charged as a result of smuggling, the price at which the retailer sells to the consumer becomes very exorbitant.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: How many stages this wheat passes through? Can we not minimise them?

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: It is difficult for me to say that. It depends upon the particular locality; it depends also upon the agency which is employed. And the idea of monopoly procurement has been to eliminate as far as possible these intermediary stages in the matter of procurement. Similarly, wherever it has been possible to have co-operative societies for the sale of goods, that has been encouraged; and wherever it will be found possible to eliminate these stages, the Government will undoubtedly give consideration to any suggestion and eliminate these intermediaries who add to the price.

The question of the control of retail prices is really in the hands of the Local Governments. We from the Central Government can only advise, and can only give indications but we cannot really control the retail shop and the retail shop-keeper. I do not mean to suggest that the Provincial Governments are not mindful of their duty. They are, I am sure, doing their best to control these things, but the force of circumstances and the forces of events have made their efforts unfruitful or, at any rate, not as fruitful as one would wish them to be.

Turning, then, to the other aspect of the price, the price at which the grain has to be procured from the producer, we have to take into consideration two classes of people. We must give the producer a reasonable profit for his labour; we must, at the same time, attend also to the position of the consumer, who should not be made to pay more than he can bear. And in fixing the price for foodgrains particularly, one has to be very careful to see that the interests of neither are sacrificed.

Demand for Raising Prices

I know there is a great demand for raising prices of foodgrains, and it has been suggested that the cultivator does not get what is his due and the prices of agricultural produce should be enhanced to give him a reasonable and fair return. On the other hand, the number of consumers is not negligible. Among the consumers we have a class of people who do not produce at all. There is another class which produces only a part of its requirements and for the rest it has to depend upon what is produced by others. In the first class, that is to say, those who are only consumers and not producers at all, we may include the towns people all over the country; we may include the entire population which is engaged in labour in all factories; and we may include also a certain proportion of labour which is employed in agriculture but which has got no land of its own.

A certain proportion of the land labour is paid in kind; but the modern tendency—I should say the up-to-date tendency—is to pay in cash and not in kind, and that is partly also because of the high prices which the grain fetches. The cultivator does not want to part with his grain, if he can help it, for paying wages to his labourers. Then, there is another class which is employed in various kinds of sundry services and which is also a non-producing class. If you take all these classes together, you will find that a pretty good proportion of the entire population is a non-producing class.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: All the M.L.A's are non-producing class.

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I do not know if all, but certainly most. There is no means of escertaining the exact proportion of the population which is purely a consumer population as distinguished from the producer population. But there are some data from which we can draw the inference, I stated earlier that about 40 per cent. of the total produce is marketted by the producers. I take it roughly that that indicates the quantity which is surplus to its own needs, that is to say, for feeding himself and his family, for wages which he pays to his labourers, for seeds, etc. If 40 per cent is actually sold by the producer, I take it that roughly speaking 40 per cent. of the population is fed with his 40 per cent. of the produce and if we add to it a certain quantity which used to be imported from abroad, that would also go to feed the non-producing population. I take it therefore that 40 per cent. or a little more than 40 per cent. of the population consists of people who do not produce, but who purchase their food requirements from the market. In fixing the price, we have to consider the interest of this 40 per cent. or more of the population as against 60 per cent. of the population or so, which is the producing population.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The average income is three or four times that of the agriculturist's income.

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: If we consider the prices from the point of view of both these classes of our population, we cannot help coming to the conclusion that the price should be fixed in such a way as to be fair both to the consumer class and the producer class. Now, Sir, in arriving at the correct figure of prices, we have also to take into consideration other things to which I will presently refer. What would be the fair price that we should pay. The claim for higher prices arises because it is said that the prices of other consumer goods which the cultivator or the producer consumes have risen and therefore he has to spend more and he should accordingly get more for what he produces.

Agricultural Produce

If we look at the index figures of various kinds of commodities, we find that in the case of agricultural produce, the rise has been higher than in the case of other consumer goods. Taking 1939 (August) as the base, I find that in September 1946, the price of rice had risen 322 per cent, wheat 373 per cent, sugar 169 per cent, cotton 192 per cent, jute 227 per cent, linseed 357 per cent, iron 117 per cent; hides and skins—200 per cent; kerosene 151 per cent; cotton manufactures—261 per cent; cement —182 per cent; galvanised corrugated sheets—229 per cent. It would appear from these figures that agricultural products, particularly foodstuffs, have got the highest index figure, much higher than those for manufactured articles like cloth, kerosene and other things which are largely used by agriculturists. If we took these figures into consideration it would seem that there is no case for raising the price of foodstuffs in this country.

There is another test which might be applied. If, as a matter of fact, agriculture does not pay and does not give a fair return to the producer one would expect one of three things. The



A CLASS IN ENTOMOLOGY IN AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE DECCAN. STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE WINGLESS GRASSHOPPER WHICH DOES GREAT DAMAGE TO CROPS.

producer might reduce production, that is to say, give up the land which he cultivates or allow it to remain uncultivated; secondly, he might divert the land from food crops to other crops which might bring him money; thirdly, he might reduce his cultivation by less intensive effort in cultivation and thereby reduce the actual produce. I am not aware of any evidence that any of these things has happened in the case of agriculture. We know as a matter or fact that land instead of going out of cultivation has actually increased in extent, and within the last five or six years there has been considerable increase in the acreage under cultivation. We have no evidence of land going to cash crops from food crops. On the other hand, within the last five or six years a considerable quantity of land which was under cotton cultivation has been diverted to food crops. Some amount of land which was under cane cultivation has also been diverted to food crops; and there is no evidence whatsoever, that I know, to show that there is less intensive cultivation on the part of the agriculturist.

Taking this test into consideration, I think there is no case made out for increase of agricultural prices. I know there is a great demand for increasing the prices of agricultural produce. Some of the provincial Governments under pressure from the producing section have recommended increases in the price of agricultural produce.

The position of the Food Department is very unenviable when it has to sit tight in spite of demands made by provincial Governments, in spite of demands made by the producing section of the community. My position is particularly difficult. On the one hand I have to look to the interest of the agriculturist, and on the other I cannot ignore or neglect the consumer. I have no personal experience myself but sometimes I feel I am in the position of a man with two wives both of whom he loves equally but does not know whom to neglect or ignore. As Member-in-charge of Agriculture my interest is to see that the agriculturist gets as high a price as he can; on the other hand, as Food Member my duty is to see that the consumer gets food as cheap as possible. Betweeen the two you can easily imagine what my position must be. I can give this assurance that it is only under a compelling sense of duty that I have to stick to the prices which have been fixed and not to agree to an increase at the present moment. But I may say this also that Government have not been content to leave things to their own decision alone.

We have known that for some time past a sub-committee which was appointed some time ago under the chairmanship of Sir T.V. Krishnamachari has been considering the question of prices of agricultural produce. That committee has submitted its report only recently—just a few days ago—and we have not had time to consider that report. But it is a comprehensive report which deals with all aspects of the question; and Honourable Members must have noticed from the Press summary that has been published that one of the recommendations is to have a sort of independent and semi-judicial body to deal with the question of prices. We shall consider the report of that committee as soon as it is available in a printed form which I hope will be very soon.

Circulation of Reports

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: Will the report be circulated to the Members of the House or those who desire to have it?

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I think we shall follow the usual practice. If such reports have been previously circulated to Honourable Members, this also will be circulated.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: It depends on the generosity of the Honourable Member.

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I did not know that; if that is so, the Honourable Member can count upon it.

So, as soon as this report is available in a printed form Government will give their most earnest consideration to it; and I can give the House this assurance that if as a result of the consideration of that report a review of the price policy is called for I shall not be deterred from taking action simply because the Food Department has been wedded so long to a particular policy. And I shall give effect to such decision as on a consideration of that report Government feel it is necessary to arrive at for the benefit of the agriculturist and the consumer alike.

I will now come to the third line of attack on the shortage of food, and that is to increase our production in this country. In a sense that is the most important aspect of it. We have seen that we cannot depend upon imports from foreign countries for meeting our requirements. It is not desirable either to continue to depend upon such imports. India is an agricultural country and it is really a matter of shame for us if we have to go to other countries for the one thing which is supposed to be our main source and our speciality, namely agriculture.

Production Programmes

It would, therefore, be in the fitness of things that Government should take all possible steps to increase the production in this country. It is the function of the Department of Agriculture to find out ways and means for increasing production, and I will mention briefly the programme which the Department of Agriculture has before it. It is no new programme which we are going to adopt to-day. In fact it was explained at some length in the course of the debate last time. The objective that we have set before ourselves is twofold: We must produce enough to meet the present emergency; and, secondly, we must produce enough not only to meet the present emergency on the present scale of consumption, but also to improve the standard of living of our people, and to find enough food which will be sufficient in quantity and also in quality.

The problem, therefore, has to be attacked in two ways: We are contemplating one long-range programme and another short-range programme. As a long-range programme, there are several multi-purpose projects which are in contemplation of the Government. I might mention the project of the Damodar river which flowing through Bihar passes into Bengal and causes immense havoc in Bengal whenever it is in flood. The idea is to train the river and to so control it as to turn the water, which is now a source of havoc and devastation, into a source of profit to the agriculturist and at the same time to create power which will be available for industrial and other purposes cheaply.

Some projects relate to the river Mahanadi which is in Orissa, and to the river Kosi, which is in Bihar and is the source of immense devastation not only of wealth but also of human life because in its train there is always malaria. There are similar other projects of this nature.

But these projects are likely to take time to be planned and to be executed and we cannot depend upon them for meeting our immediate requirements. But we can certainly depend upon them for giving us more food to enable us to improve the standard of living of our people.

Short-Term Projects

The other kind of projects are short-term projects which are intended to bring quick results and they have become popularly known as Grow More Food projects. The target which we are fixing before us is to produce four million tons of food in the next five years, i.e., by 1952. Four million tons will be sufficient, as we think, to meet the present requirements at the present scale of consumption and also the requirement of the increasing population which we shall have by 1952. It is not expected that this four million tons will, in any way, be able to improve the standard of living or the standard of consumption. It can only meet the demand at the present scale of consumption and no more, but for the present we are aiming at that and leaving it to the multi-purpose projects to supply us more for the other purpose.

It may seem to be a very ambitious project to be able to produce four million, but I submit, Sir, that if we take into consideration the quantity of land on which this has to be grown it is not much. After all, it amounts to an addition of four million tons to 60 million tons that we are producing now, or 1|15th of what is being produced to-day. The area which produces 15 maunds to-day if it can be made to produce an additional maund we shall have the target of four million tons.

Looking at the same problem from another point of view, we know that the average acreage of land under food crops for five years is something like 240 million acres, or 24 crore acres, and we shall have to raise this 4 million tons from this 24 crore acres, which means really that we shall have to produce about half a maund extra per acre which also is not a very big demand to make. So, whether we look at it from the point of view of producing one maund extra for every 15 maunds that is produced to-day, or from the point of view of producing half a maund per acre, the figure is not such as to terrify us. But I know that averages are sometimes very deceptive, and I am sure it will require much determination and much application to secure this additional four million tons.

For this purpose the Government have decided to give aid to agriculturists for various purposes. One of the needs of agriculture is irrigation and it is proposed to help small irrigation works like surface wells, tubewells, digging tanks, repairing or digging channels, putting up small equipment for drawing water from rivers. In this way we expect that we should be able to add considerably to the present production by means of additional irrigation.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Have you got any planned scheme for using sub-soil water?

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: We are working out a plan. As a matter of fact that plan is being prepared and I am thinking of sending the Agricultural Development Commissioner to the various Provinces to fix up targets year by year in consultation with the Provinces to see to it that in course of time these targets are reached.

The first thing is about irrigation. The second item is to supply manure at relatively low cost to the cultivators to enable them to increase their production. The third thing is to give them seeds of improved variety so that a larger yield may be secured.

We also propose to help in bringing under cultivation land which on account of deep-rooted grass is not fit for cultivation to-day by helping parties to cultivate them with tractors and such other mechanical implements.

It is hoped that with all these methods of encouragement, it will be possible to raise the four million tons.

The Government propose to bear a part of the cost of these schemes. The idea is that if a particular scheme costs Rs. 100, Rs. 50 should be made available by the party benefited by it. Of the balance of the Rs. 50, Rs. 25 should be contributed by the Provincial Government and Rs. 25 by the Central Government. This is applied to all provinces except the three smaller provinces of the North-West Frontier Province, Orissa and Assam, in the case of each of which the share of the Government would be two-thirds or half, which is payable by the Provincial and Central Governments jointly. We hope that with this contribution there will be sufficient encouragement given to the cultivators to come forward and increase their produce.

Cultivator's Income

When I was thinking of raising the question of prices of foodgrains, I felt we would be much more profitably employed in thinking out means of raising the produce per acre and increasing the income of the cultivator in that way and also solving the food problem incidentally. I knew that the cultivator in the past may have suffered on account of economic forces over which he had no control. But to-day that is not the position. To-day the cultivator is getting what in fairness he can claim, and I hope that with these schemes for increasing the production, it will be possible

for him to increase his income from his land.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: Have you done anything for manuring? What practical steps have Government taken?

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: As regards manuring, there are two kinds of manure which can be used. There is the farmyard manure which can be used in the form of compost and chemical fertilizers which are produced in factories. Propaganda is being carried on and practical demonstrations are given for producing compost from the refuse matter which ordinarily goes into waste and very often is the cause of ill-health and insanitation.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: And burnt also!

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: Yes, in many places cow-dung which can be converted into fertilizers is burnt, but that is complicated by the question of finding alternative fuel for the poor man. My own belief is that if all that is wasted to-day could be utilised by way of manure, the cultivator would be able to get more than what he would lose by way of fuel from his cow-dung.

SETH GOVIND DAS (Central Provinces Hindu Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): What about bullocks? This is a very knotty problem?

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: That is another question and a very much larger question. I was thinking and confining my remarks this afternoon to the question of cereals and grains and not to go into the question of other kinds of foodstuffs.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: "Grow More Food" comes under that!

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I would have liked to deal with more milk, better bullocks, if I had time, because that is a subject in which I personally feel very very interested. But at the present moment I will content myself with saying that the Agriculture Department, apart from what it is doing for increasing the production of cereals by the methods which I have just indicated, is not negligent of improving the breed of cattle and cattle husbandry generally.

To Encourage Cattle Breeds

We have in hand many schemes for improving the yield of milk from our cows and also for improving the breed of cattle. It must be recognised that in a country like India, which is largely agricultural and where agriculture depends upon bullocks very considerably, we cannot afford to have cattle which will give either only milk, or cattle which can be used only for draught purposes. We need cattle which will serve the double purpose of giving good quantity of milk and doing a great deal of hard work with the plough, etc. The object of the Department is to encourage these breeds and considerable experiments have been made in this respect and we are trying to help provide dairies and *goshalas* to improve the breed of the cattle and to improve the milk yield of the cows.

I have not dealt with other items of food because I thought I had better concentrate on the question of cereals and foodgrains in this debate. But I may give this assurance that none of these has been neglected and we are conscious and we are anxious to improve the yield of milk, to improve the yield of ghee, to improve the quality of the bullocks, to increase the quantity of sugar which may be made available to our people.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD: The prices have gone up!

Sugar Prices

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: In regard to the price of sugar, we find that in the case of sugarcane, land has been diverted from sugarcane to other crops which were found to be more profitable than sugarcane and consequently the quantity of sugar that was produced had gone down.

One of the tests, as I said, for judging whether prices of a particular commodity should be raised or not is whether in actual practice the production of that particular article is going down or is increasing or is stationary. If it is increasing or stationary, there is hardly any case for increasing the price. If it is going down, then the question does arise and we will have to consider the extent to which the increase should be given.

We find in the case of sugar that in the last few years land under sugarcane had gone down by more than 13 per cent. We also found that the quantity of sugar produced during the last few years compared with what was produced in the last season, had gone down in the last season by over 13 per cent. It was for this very reason that we have cut down the allocation of sugar to the various provinces by 13 per cent. and unless that previous figure is reached it will not be possible to increase the allocation to the provinces.

The long-range programme has contemplated the establishment of a number of factories. I forget the figure (I think it is about 24 or 25, but I am not sure). There are fresh factories to be established in the provinces to enable the quantity of sugar produced to be raised from about 9.48 lakh tons, which was raised last year to about 14 lakh tons. We have to wait and see when all these factories begin to function and when we are able to get this larger supply of sugar.

As I have said, the most important thing in the matter of food is to increase our production of foodgrains and everything that we required for our food purposes and this cannot be achieved by the Government of India or for that matter by the Provincial Governments without the co-operation of the cultivators, the producers, the labourers and also the general public and we require also scientific knowledge for this purpose.

We are anxious that this question of shortage of food should be solved and solved within the quickest possible time. The only way in which it can be solved is to produce more and more within this country. We cannot, as I said, depend on imports. Imports are undependable. Imports also mean something to be given in exchange.

Up to now India has been an exporting country and the exports used largely to be agricultural produce and raw materials. It was in exchange for these that we used to get manufactured goods from other countries. If now we have to import not only manufactured goods but also our foodstuffs from foreign countries. I do not know how we shall be able to pay for them.

As I said earlier, this year we are importing more than Rs. 91 crores worth of foodgrains. If we go on at this rate, I doubt whether we shall be able to go along for any length of time over this path. And, therefore, the only course left to us is to increase our production and for that purpose the co-operation of all is required.

Government is willing to give aid to the extent I have just indicated. The Provincial Governments are expected to pay their share of the aid and we hope that the cultivators will see that it is after all profitable to invest the 50 per cent. of the cost. I was calculating the cost of an ordinary well in my province, say at about Rs. 600 or 700. The share of the agriculturist in that would be about Rs. 300 or 350. One well is expected to irrigate about six acres and if on each acre we get, say one or two maunds extra, which is what is expected to be produced as the result of the improvement irrigation, then the agriculturist would get something like 12 maunds extra and we can easily see that in a few years' time (say in four or five years' time) he will have earned enough from this extra produce to cover what he has invested.

Taccavi Loan

BABU RAM NARAYAN SINGH (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): But there is no money with the cultivator to invest.

THE HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: We have suggested to the Provincial Governments and some Provinces are prepared to advance the share of the agriculturist also and to realise it in course of time, in instalments, something in the nature of a taccavi loan. So the difficulty which my friend apprehends may not arise, but, of course, I cannot promise that it will be done in every case, because it means, in that case, that the Governments—both Provincial and Central—will have to find practically the entire amount of the cost. I cannot

(Continued on Page 414)

RATIONALISATION OF COAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION



MR. C. H. BHABHA LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NATIONAL FUEL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF INDIA AT DIGWADIH, NEAR DHANBAD, ON NOVEMBER 17.

Mr. C. H. Bhabha Lays Foundation Stone of Fuel Research Institute

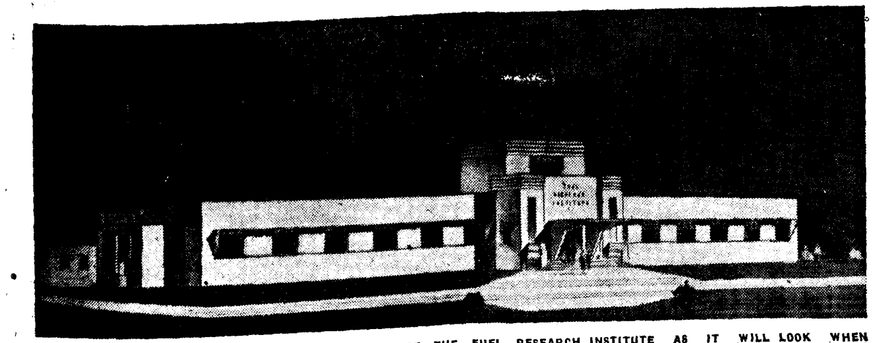
THE imperative need for immediate action in order to rationalise the production and consumption of coal and to conserve supplies, was emphasised by Mr. C.H. Bhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power in the Interim Government, laying the foundation stone of the Fuel Research Institute, the second in the chain of India's National Laboratories, at Digwadih, near Dhanbad, on November 17.

Mr. Bhabha pointed out that the consumption of coal, both by private enterprise and by Government, had been wasteful and hoped that planning for a rational utilisation of Indias' coal resources would soon engage the attention of the Central Government. Such planning, in his opinion, should strike a balance between Central authority and pioneering endeavour, adjusting the two so that the first supports and stabilises the second and the second vitalises the first.

At the outset, Mr. Bhabha expressed his deep sense of regret at the unavoidable absence through illness of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who was to have laid the foundation stone of the Institute. He said:

Our total coal resources are reckoned at 60 billion tons and India is second only to the United Kingdom as producer with 30 million tons annually. Coal is at present mined in Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces, Eastern States and the Hyderabad State, with smaller amounts from Assam, Baluchistan, Central India, Orissa, the Punjab and Rajputana. Before the war our coal exports amounted to over two million tons annually. It seems doubtful, however, in view of the growing demands of the Indian industry, whether it is at all desirable to maintain exports at any such level hereafter. There is a growing body of responsible opinion in the country which maintains that all stocks of our coal should be conserved for industrial needs, for the manufacture of heavy chemicals and dye-stuffs, and generally for the progress and promotion of heavy industries.

"India is, to-day, on the threshold of a programme of ever-widening industrial development. This development is a matter of very existence for this country and for the welfare and uplift of the masses of this land. Obviously, this programme cannot be implemented without an appropriate balancing of forces—which means national planning—planning to organise, co-ordinate and correlate, even, on occasions, to control—our activities. Fuel, being one of the fundamental contributory factors to human welfare and progress, must of necessity be brought under such planning. Coal is the most important fuel both for domestic and industrial purposes, and is besides the basic raw material on which a number of other industries depend. Many of our basic



AN ARTIST'S VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK OF THE FUEL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AS IT WILL LOOK WHEN COMPLETED.

industries have yet to be organised and developed in order to meet our needs fully. When such full development comes about, there will undoubtedly be a heavy strain on our coal resources and we should, therefore, from now on visualise the critical condition in which we shall find ourselves before long.

"India's iron industry has grown so quickly that she is now the second largest producer of iron ore in the British Empire, yielding place only to the United Kingdom. It must be remembered that our iron industry is based on the greatest resources of high grade iron ore in the world.

"For all these purposes, coal and more coal will be required. That is where planning comes in, with its scientific and technical research, to help us in the utilisation and conservation of coal, in the finding of substitute fuels, and in such other allied aspects.

Total Coal Resources

"We should examine critically if the different grades of coal we are at present using for various purposes are really necessary for these purposes and further investigate how best we may utilise lower grade coals for purposes for which we are now using good quality coals. We should also develop such vital industries as drugs, dye-stuffs, plastics, etc., which depend on the by-products of the coal industry and increase the efficiency of mining in such a manner that the maximum output may be obtained.

"A comprehensive survey of Indian coals in respect of their physical and chemical characteristics needs to be carried out urgently. At present there is a great dearth of information bearing on the properties of Indian coals and no planning can be done without such information. It is here that the Institute, the foundation stone of which I have the honour to lay to-day, will be found not only extremely useful but almost a matter of urgent national necessity.

"Our total coal resources may perhaps be spread over a measurable distance of time to feed the growing demands of our industries. But our resources in respect of good quality coal, and metallurgical coal in particular, are definitely anything but satisfactory. Our annual production of metallurgical coal is about 13 million tons of which only 4 millions are actually used for strictly metallurgical purposes. That means, more than two-thirds of the total output of our metallurgical coal is used for purposes other than what they should be. This is, indeed, a serious position which requires urgent attention and quick correction. Iron and steel are so fundamental to our economy and our need for increasing production is so great that we cannot permit this prodigal use of metallurgical coal for other purposes to continue for any length of time. We should without delay adopt necessary measures to prevent this wastage.

"I think it should be of necessity provided that the use of the best mines of coal should be avoided as far as possible. The Government themselves are also the biggest consumers of coal, metallurgical coke particularly, in the form of the need of their Railways. Their consumption of coal has been all these days as wasteful as that of others and, obviously, they should set an example of efficient utilisation by electrifying the track, at least in the vicinity of coal-fields. Conversion into electricity harnesses more of the latent power in coal and large thermal stations in the coal-fields can use low-grade coal which is in so great an abundance and so wastefully neglected. These stations, besides helping to electrify the Railways, will undoubtedly promote urban and rural prosperity.

"Hydro-electricity is yet another important matter to which we must give increasing attention in our national planning. Increased use of electricity in industry will, besides having its own special advantages, retrieve our position as regards good quality coal and avert a serious shortage that may otherwise occur. The present installed capacity of hydro-electric generating plants in India is 0.5 million kilowatts. Very soon this is expected to be increased to over 3 million kilowatts as a result of the various multi-purpose river valley projects such as the Damodar Valley Project, the Mahanadi Valley Project, the Kosi Project, the Tungabhadra Project, and similar other projects that are designed to harness the water resources of the country for irrigation, power and other useful national purposes. All this large additional electrical energy should be employed to bring into being electro-metallurgical and electro-chemical industries on a huge scale for this country.

"Already, hydro-electricity has been responsible for large-scale industrialisation in some parts of the country, notably in Mysore, Travancore and Bombay, all of which would, otherwise, have suffered and not risen to their eminent industrial positions in the country owing to the absence of coal resources around these areas and the prohibitive costs of transport of coal from Bihar and Bengal to these parts.

Railway Collieries

"It has been increasingly evident that various administrative measures are essential to make the planning of fuel with particular reference to coal a great success in this country. Various suggestions have been recently made in this connection, of which special mention must be made of the proposal for the State acquisition of mineral rights with a view to the eventual nationalisation of the coal industry and of the incorporation of a National Coal Commission to take over the ownership and administration of the Railway collieries and to discharge various executive functions of public control over the industry. These are indeed wise suggestions in the interests of a national fuel policy which need careful consideration and quick decision.

"Nationalisation of such an important industry as coal cannot be brought about overnight, despite its

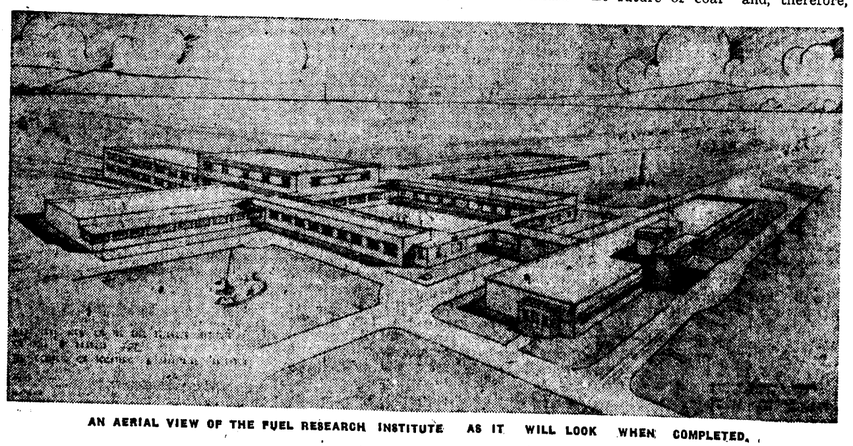
acknowledged necessity and advantages. The industry has numerous ramifications which must be taken into account in determining the type of planning that we have to embark on in the interests of national welfare. It is fundamentally the striking of a balance between Central authority and pioneering endeavour—adjusting the two so that the first supports and stabilises the second and the second vitalises the first. Planning, as involving this twofold responsibility, is essential to any activity of civilised man—in fact it is the hall-mark of civilisation. All planning does not, of course, conform to this ideal, but planning must be judged by this standard.

"Considering the coal problem in this light, I am sure it will be realised that the creation of conditions that will ensure promotion of individual enterprise is as important as bringing the industry under State ownership and State control in the interests of increased production and conservation, controlled consumption and distribution of food, has, as you are well aware, brought in its wake untold disaster. It is only of late that we have realised our grave defects and are adopting the necessary remedial measures. Although we are not yet out of the woods, in the matter of food, I can assure you that with continued vigilance and proper realisation of our duties, we shall be successful in our fight with regard to the problem of food.

"Unfortunately, in the matter of fuel, we have hardly done anything so far. Indeed, there has not even been a sufficient realisation of the importance of fuel in this country. Surely, we cannot let another tragedy befall us in this field before we shake off our lethargy and indifference. It is imperative that we should act now, lest it should be too late. I am glad that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Mahindra

"In this task of ours, scientific and technical research has a great role to play. I hope the Fuel Research Institute of India, as the central organisation for research on fuels, will lastingly serve this and succeeding generations. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research deserve to be warmly congratulated on this new endeavour of theirs. Let us hope that this new Institute will show us how to control, conserve, and develop our fuel resources in a manner that will serve the best interests of the country, not only in our own generation but also in the year to come.

"The *Economist* of London recently observed that while the political future of the world was being decided in Paris, its economic future was going to be decided in Washington. The scientific future of the world may also be decided in Washington; but I have every hope and faith that the scientific future of coal and, therefore, of



AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE FUEL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AS IT WILL LOOK WHEN COMPLETED.

the industry as a whole. Besides, numerous other problems like labour, mechanisation, avoidance of waste in mining, prices, transport, etc., call for urgent attention, and any solution we arrive at in respect of these has to be fitted into the final plans. I am sure the problem of coal will soon engage the earnest attention of the National Government and the various suggestions put forth in the interests of the industry and in the interests of national welfare will receive all the consideration they deserve.

Coal, Food—Fuels of Life.

"Dr. Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar has very aptly compared the importance of coal in our life with food. Both coal and food are the necessary fuels of life. Food supplies energy to the human body and coal supplies energy for the industrial activities of the country. Both are of great importance for our existence and it is a great tragedy that so far we have neglected them both. Our neglect of

Committee on Coalfields Inquiry, and other responsible bodies and individuals have endeavoured to focus the attention of the country on this vital matter and have suggested various measures that need to be adopted in order to solve our problem of fuel.

"In the matter of coal, one important feature stands out prominently against the others, and it is that, we are going to be judged in our actions by what we leave to posterity. If in our life-time, through complacence or selfishness, we almost exhaust all our coal resources, we leave to succeeding generations only industrial and economic bankruptcy. If, on the other hand, through foresight, careful planning and economic methods of utilisation and conservation, we minimise our demands on the coal resources of the country, consistent with our national needs, we leave to them an era of progress and prosperity. It is, therefore, for us to sow in our time the seeds of progress and prosperity for the coming generations.

all our leading industries may be decided in Bihar.

"I am quite confident that Bihar, with its past record, will play its rightful part in the promotion of the activities of your Institute which is so essential for the welfare and progress of the country".

DR. BHATNAGAR'S ADDRESS

The paradox of India's coal position was referred to by Dr. Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, in his opening address at the ceremony, India, he said, is the second largest producer of coal in the British Commonwealth, with an output of over 30 million tons per year. Yet the country's industrial development has not progressed beyond one-twentieth of her capacity. She has extensive deposits of the mineral; yet, she has hardly touched the outermost fringes of the numerous industries based on coal and its products. Again, while she has large

reserves of high grade iron ore—there are more than 3,000 million tons within 150 miles of the coal-fields—she is not so rich in metallurgical coal. At the present rate of output and consumption her reserves of hard coking coals can hardly last 50 years.

Emphasising that coal is the food that maintains industrial life, Dr. Bhatnagar deplored the great waste which follows unscientific methods and absence of research. Small or 'slack' coal which forms a third of the mined output and is at present put to no use, can be utilised with the help of modern scientific methods of combustion and briquetting. Many inferior coals of high ash content, of which India's resources are unlimited, can be upgraded and efficiently utilised through research and development of appliances. Lack of proper standards and specifications is another reason for wasteful mining methods.

Finally, the recovery of by-products from high volatile coals and the establishment of coal-tar industry are highly essential for national progress and well-being. Instead of employing primitive methods and losing valuable products of coal, India must develop the by-products industry for the future prosperity of the fuel industry and the nation.

A Comparison.

Sir Shanti Swarup compared the progress achieved by progressive nations through research and investigations. In the U.K., he mentioned, attention is directed, among other things to chemical conversion of coal-tar and coal products. Of these, he pointed out, gassification, hydrogenation and cracking of tars and oils and the Fischer-Tropsch process for the production of synthetic petroleum are of special significance to this country. In the U.S.A. numerous organic acids have been obtained by the oxidation of coal which are finding increasing importance in plastics, dyes and drugs manufacture. The fascinating Russian investigations on underground gassification of coal are of special importance to this country where underground destruction of coal by spontaneous fires has resulted in colossal losses. In this revolutionary process, Dr. Bhatnagar said, the earth itself is used as a huge retort which is heated by the fire that burns in its bowels, and gas is produced economically.

The first notable step taken by India in the direction of co-ordinated research on fuels was the constitution of a Fuel Research Committee in 1940. This Committee had been responsible for several research schemes, such as the coking and blending of coals and their washability. The Committee's efforts, Sir Shanti Swarup observed, have now borne fruit in the birth of a Centraal Institute for Fuel Research. The importance of research in this direction he recalled, has been stressed by the Indian Coalfields' Committee who have recommended the setting up of three Research Sub-Stations in the main coal-fields in addition to the Central Institute.

The Fuel Research Institute is being set up in the heart of Bihar's industrial area and will be located in Digwadih on 150 acres of land donated by the Rajah of Jharia, Babu Shiva Prasad Singha. Digwadih is about ten miles from Dhanbad, and about the same distance from Shindhri where a large fertiliser plant will be erected in the near future. Jamshedpur and Calcutta are about 65 and 175 miles respectively from this place.

The functions of the Institute are to make a survey of Indian coals and to carry out researches on processing with a view to manufacturing metallurgical coke, and investigations on low-temperature carbonisation and tar distillation for producing dyes, drugs, plastics, explosives and synthetic liquid fuels.

The work of the Institute is divided into a short-term and long-term programme in accordance with the urgent and future needs of the country in respect of fuels. Its short-term programme includes a quick physical and chemical survey of Indian coals; washability tests on full-scale samples from seams for improving ash contents of coking coals and for separating them from non-coking coals; coking and of blending tests on selected coal seams; investigations into low-temperature carbonisation; gassification for manufacture of hydrogen for ammonia and for manufacture of industrial gases; and research on road tar in view of the road-building programmes of the country.

The long-term programme includes detailed survey of all Indian coals; investigations on carbonisation and coking properties; researches on deashing; researches on by-products of both low and high temperature carbonisation with a view to utilising them for plastics, dyestuffs, drugs and pharmaceutical, liquid fuels, lubricants and grease industries; briquetting; hydrogenation and oxidation of coal, etc.

The buildings of the Institute and the Laboratory equipment are expected to cost Rs. 14 lakhs. Annual recurring expenditure for the first five years will be about Rs. 2½ lakhs.

The Fuel Reseach Institute, along with the other four National Laboratories, is expected to advance India's scientific and industrial progress. The first of these Laboratories, the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute is under construction in Calcutta, and the foundation stone of the Metallurgical Laboratory was laid by the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Education Minister, at Jamshedpur on November 21. Two more, the National Physical and Chemical Laboratories, are to be established shortly in Delhi and Poona respectively.

Sales Possibilities of Indian Manufactured Goods in Canada

A list of manufactured products with good sales possibilities in Canada is given by the Government of India Trade Commissioner, Mr. M. R. Ahuja, in a report submitted by him to the Government of India. He emphasises that there is at present no definitely established attitude in the minds of the Canadian retail consumer towards Indian manufactured goods other than the prevailing sentiment favouring Empire goods both from the East and the West. This gives the Indian producer an excellent opportunity of making the term "Made in India" synonymous with quality goods.

"Although price is a major factor in merchandising many of these goods, yet it must always be remembered that the Canadian consumer is accustomed not only to uniformity in standards and quality, but to the continuity of supply as well," Mr. Ahuja writes: "In some Indian export articles, there is a distinct value in maintaining the old traditional styles, patterns and colours, but in others a certain amount of "Canadianisation" in style and colour is absolutely imperative in order to meet with the consumers' requirements. The total sales potential of the Canadian market may not warrant such radical changes, yet it must be considered that the buying habits of the people of the United States are similar to those of Canada, thus enhancing market possibilities many times over."

The Trade Commissioner warns that India should not make the same mistake as Japan, which is known as a producer of cheap tawdry imitations. She should have available for export goods of a high quality in order to maintain and preserve the proud traditions of the skill of Indian craftsmen. The only way to test market possibilities is by the way of samples and the best way to study the exact requirements of a market is by trying to counter-sample goods already in the market. The Trade Commissioner's office is willing to co-operate and assist manufacturers in any manner possible including the following:

(a) to test the Canadian market by means of trial consignments, and

(b) to forward to the Indian manufacturer exact specifications and samples of such goods as he may be able to manufacture for export.

When the Indian exporter sends samples to the Trade Commissioner's office the fullest information relating to price, discount, terms of payment, mode of transport or shipment, method of marking and packing, the gross and net weight in pounds, including measurement in cubic feet of the packages, crates, boxes, cases or bags, should be given. Price should be quoted C.I.F. Canadian port, and at least F.O.B. steamer Indian port.

Among the list of articles given which can be sold competitively in Canada by Indian exporters are bamboo, wicker and cane goods, brushes, ceramics and glassware, cotton goods, cutlery, embroidery and lace, floor coverings, shoes and sandals, leather goods, novelty and gift goods and a few other consumption goods of a miscellaneous type.



MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NATIONAL METALLURGICAL LABORATORY OF INDIA AT JAMSHEDPUR ON NOVEMBER 21. PICTURE SHOWS MR. RAJAGOPALACHARI ADDRESSING THE GATHERING.

NATIONAL METALLURGICAL LABORATORY OF INDIA

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari Lays Foundation Stone

"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."

Here is the full text of Mr. Rajagopalachari's speech:

I thank you all for the honour you have done me in asking me to lay the foundation stone of the National Metallurgical Laboratory. To be associated in the promotion of scientific activities is an honour that I greatly value.

In the distant past this country was foremost in metallurgical industry and contributed much to human knowledge of metals and alloys. India was the first country to evolve the composition of some of the well-known alloys. Now in our own time too this country has the distinction of being one of the largest iron and steel manufacturing countries of the world. The Tata Iron & Steel Co., the Steel Corporation of India and the Mysore Iron & Steel Works have contributed to raising India to this place of honour. During the years of the war, India's steel production reached 2 million tons per year. Other metallurgical enterprises such as the manufacture of alloy steels, ferro-chrome, ferro-manganese, ferro-silicon and aluminium were also started.

But, the position is not one for complacency. Although we possess a sizeable iron and steel industry, we are backward in other aspects of metallurgical industry, which covers a very vast field. We are entirely dependent on other countries for high-speed tool and alloy steels, aluminium, magnesium, various ferrous and non-ferrous alloys and their products. In consequence, engineering industries, the manufacture of internal combustion engines, electrical industry, ship building, aircraft, chemical industries, and several other important industries, which depend on metallurgy for the supply of the necessary constructional material, have not grown up in the country.

India's Mineral Wealth

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. The mineral wealth of the country must be fully exploited. India is not far behind the richest countries in the world in respect of minerals of economic value. Not only clay, limestone, iron ore and gypsum but bauxomite

chromite, manganese ore, monozite, rutile and ilmenite are available in plenty. All these valuable minerals should be worked up for the growing needs of the country, and not just exported as hitherto. During the past 30 years India's export of manganese ore, a mineral which is almost entirely absorbed in iron and steel industry, ranged from one fourth to more than half of the total world production.

Cheap Electrical Energy

It has been estimated that in the near future hydro-electrical energy at the rate of over 4 million KW will be produced as a result of various hydro projects. A large part of this energy will 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. Our immediate requirements of 20,000 tons of aluminium, 5,000 tons of magnesium, 15,000 tons of copper, 60,000 tons of electric furnace steel per year, and large quantities of other electro-thermal products like alloy, steels, ferro-chrome, ferro-manganese, ferro-silicon, graphite and carborundum can be based on this cheap electrical energy.

Scientific Research

For the organisation and progress of industries, scientific research of a high order is an essential pre-requisite. Taking the lowest view of the matter, industrialists may take it for granted that scientific research pays. It helps to increase efficiency, lower the cost of production and to evolve new processes and new products. All experience in recent times has demonstrated that research, pure as well as applied, helps industries to earn very handsome dividends.

It is no good leaving these things entirely to Government or to anyone else. Excepting in a few isolated cases like the Tata organisation and perhaps the tea and jute interests of the country, industries in India, big and small, are not yet alive in adequate measures to the advantages of scientific research. Among the many factors that have been responsible for this state of affairs, there is the vicious circle that we have to face in all progressive endeavour. Without prosperity industry cannot afford research, and without research industry cannot prosper. This circle must be broken, somehow or other, and soon. The responsibility therefore falls on Government to help scientific research in the cause of national progress. The Council of Scientific and Industrial research has therefore founded a few Central National Laboratories.

It is not intended that these national laboratories should take upon themselves the functions properly belonging to individual or collective industrial concerns in respect of research. The nature of research work intended to be carried on in the National Laboratories is of the kind that is not ordinarily covered by the work of research that can be conducted by industries themselves, by individual concerns or on a co-operative basis. The Government has to be on the watch for new developments in scientific knowledge which may be of economic or social value to the nation. When such developments offer sufficiently attractive openings, the industries will in most instances probably be ready to take them up and develop them. But the Government has to take the initiative, whenever possible, in collaboration with the particular industry, in exploring new ideas on an adequate scale and, in the event of successful development, taking appropriate steps to secure the widest possible application of the results.

Metallurgical Research

Applied scientific research has often necessarily to be carried out in a big institution. The National Metallurgical Laboratory will work in the closest collaboration with all the existing research institutes. While carrying out such tasks as devolve on it in connection with metallurgical research, I trust it will endeavour to promote research by the industry itself, individually, or through co-operative organisations so that the metallurgical industry of India can soon come to rely upon its own strength and initiative. The metallurgical and other industrialists of the country will, I hope, give the fullest support to this most important national laboratory. When completed, it will cover all aspects of metallurgical research, fundamental as well as applied, and will carry out research on ores, minerals and refractories as applied to metallurgy.

I may quote from the scheme published by the Council:—

"Provisions will be made in the final plans of the National Metallurgical Laboratory for administration, including statistics, chemical analysis, physical chemistry, physics as it affects metallurgical problems, the examination, preparation and smelting of metallic ores, the melting, heat treatment and working of metals and alloys, research into the structure and physical properties and metals and alloys, the electro deposition and surface treatment of metals and research on refractories, together with facilities for the application of research results to commercial operating conditions and for the study of such conditions as they affect the quality of the products and the efficiency and economy of commercial production.

Tata's Contribution

"The National Metallurgical Laboratory will work in close collaboration with the other National laboratories particularly on long term research of a fundamental nature."

We are all very deeply grateful to the great proprietors of the Tata Steel Company for placing at our disposal all this site and the services available here in respect of power, water, gas and drainage. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of not only those assembled here but of all those men and women of India who are eagerly awaiting progress and prosperity.

We are on the threshold of a future of trials, heavy duties and great rewards. In the trials and in the duties that await us, scientists and engineers of the country have to take a very large part. They have great opportunities for service, far greater than they had ever before. They will see the whole country rallying round them, howsoever apparently divergent be the views and aspirations of political or other groups. Science is a great unifying force and may save us where religion as practised has not only not availed, but seems to hinder and divide.

Dr. Bhatnagar's Opening Address

REQUESTING the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari to lay the foundation stone of the Metallurgical Laboratory in Jamshedpur on November 21, Dr. Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar referred to the importance of fundamental research to industry in general and to metallurgical industry in particular.

He said: "To put the whole thing in a scientific nutshell, modern scientific research is one continuous spectrum. At one end of the spectrum lies research work of the purest academic type and of the highest quality; and at the other end the technical development of processes and equipment through the various stages and up to large-scale manufacture."

Continuing he observed: "Science does much besides providing new ideas and in many fields the distinction between fundamental and applied research has very little meaning. This is more so in the field of metallurgy. He illustrated his point by the disclosure that recent researches in atomic or nuclear energy have given rise to some revolutionary developments in the fields of metallurgy.

National Welfare

By various nuclear treatments, he explained, it is now possible to make atoms of any element radio-active. Very minute traces of this radio-active atoms may be used as tracers to follow the course of reaction or process such as alloying, annealing, polishing and hardening of metals and alloys. The introduction of these tracer elements will give an insight into these phenomena. Besides, thorough studies in the nuclear character and behaviour of about 70 to 80 metals, a new assessment of their properties has been obtained and it will not be long before they become as important as iron alloys. The effect of this would be that a good many metals which have hitherto been regarded as museum specimens will easily become important in industry.

Dwelling upon the key aspect of the metallurgical industry, Dr. Bhatnagar remarked that it is the mainstay of a large number of other industries that are essential for national

welfare and progress. He admitted that recent developments in the field of plastics have brought in their wake some of the strangest possibilities. But he pointed out that these do not make plastics the rivals of metallurgical products, for they have their own unique field of applications in which metals and alloys do not claim any share.

"Metals and alloys", he said, "still reign supreme in most of the heavy and light industries and in domestic requirements. Recent developments such as Duraluminium, Magnaluminium, various light metal alloys, Powder Metallurgy and Tireless Alloys have opened up new and fascinating fields of applications and the chances of plastics superseding metals have become fewer."

Plea for Technical Education

Regretting India's neglect of scientific research, which has led to her backward state in metallurgical industry, Sir Shanti Swarup pleaded for extension of technical education in Metallurgy in Indian Universities and of research both by the State and the industry.

He said: "The extractive and metallurgical industries depend for their very existence on scientific research. It is the realisation of this principle that has set the industry on firm foundations in every advanced country of the world."

Briefly reviewing the efforts that have culminated in the present function, Dr. Bhatnagar narrated that a Metal Research Committee was constituted in 1940 with Sir J. J. Ghandy as Chairman, under the auspices of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. In December 1940, at its first meeting, the Committee decided that a National Laboratory should be established at Jamshedpur for ensuring progress and expansion of the country's metallurgical industry.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research considered the need for establishing a chain of National Laboratories for research and accepted the recommendation of the Metals Committee to set up a Metallurgical Laboratory in Jamshedpur. The location of this Laboratory in the Steel Town of India was not merely a homage to the pioneers of India's metallurgical industries, but was necessitated by the need for close contact between the research workers and the industry itself, so as to adapt successfully research results to industrial practice.

Programme of Work

The National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, is the third in the chain of India's five National Laboratories planned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. It is intended to cover all aspects of metallurgical research, both fundamental and applied on ores and refractories and will have a pilot plant for investigations on smelting.

The Laboratory will be concerned not only with ferrous metals but also non-ferrous metals such as copper, aluminium, manganese, zinc, titanium and beryllium, of which India has abundant resources. Special mention must be made of the provision for research in the field of non-ferrous alloys such as aluminium-titanium, aluminium-magnesium and copper-beryllium.

In the final plans of the National Metallurgical Laboratory provision has been made for administration including statistics, chemical analysis, physical chemistry, physics as it affects metallurgical problems, the examination, preparation and smelting of metallic ores, the smelting, heat treatment and working of metals and alloys, research into the structure and physical properties of metals and alloys, the electro-chemistry of metals and research on refractories together with facilities for the application of research results to commercial operating conditions and for the study of such conditions as they affect the quality of the products and the efficiency and economy of commercial production.

The initial capital cost of the Laboratory buildings and equipment and apparatus is estimated at Rs. 43 lakhs. The recurring expenditure is expected to be about Rs. 5 lakhs in the first year. The House of Tatas have announced grant of Rs. 12 lakhs towards the establishment of the Laboratory. Messrs. Indian Steel and Wire Products and the Mining, Metallurgical and Geological Institute of India have also contributed Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively.

SIR HERBERT STEWART

Sir Herbert Stewart, lately Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has been appointed Agricultural Adviser to the Middle Eastern countries under the British Foreign Office with headquarters at Cairo.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN TANNERIES AND LEATHER GOODS FACTORIES

"THE bulk of the leather workers being *chamars* (belonging to depressed classes) wages in the tanneries are generally low. In Madras they range on an average, from 6 annas to 10 annas per day. At Cawnpore, also, the basic wages of the majority of workers on a time-rate basis are only from 6 annas to 10 annas per day. In Calcutta, where the general wage level is higher, time workers earn from 14 annas to Rs. 1-1-11 and piece workers (85 per cent of the total number of workers) from Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per day."

This is one of the findings of the Labour Investigation Committee in its Report on Labour Conditions in Tanneries and Leather Goods Factories. The Report, which was submitted by Mr. Ahmed Mukhtar, has been published recently.

The Report, which is based on an enquiry into sampled tanneries and leather goods factories in Cawnpore, Calcutta and Madras, adds that in all these centres dearness allowance was paid to the leather workers in addition to their wages. But a large percentage of the workers are indebted —100 per cent. in Calcutta, 69.3 per cent. in Cawnpore and 66.4 per cent. in Madras. The rate of interest, they pay, ranges from 12 to 150 per cent. per annum. Among the causes of indebtedness borrowings for consumption purposes stand out prominently accounting for 43 per cent. of all loans in Madras, while borrowings for marriages are responsible for 40.9 per cent. of the total debt in Cawnpore.

Working conditions are most deplorable in almost all the tanneries in all the three centres. Apart from the lack of sanitation and suitable drainage arrangements for the disposal of effluent, flushings and hoofs are thrown in different parts of the factories. Bathing and washing facilities are totally absent except in two of the larger tanneries in Madras and one in Calcutta. Even latrines and urinals are inadequate in some of the regulated factories and almost entirely absent in the unregulated ones. Flooring is *katcha* in all but the few largest tanneries and slippery in several places. Rest shelters have not been provided except in one large tannery in Madras, three in Cawnpore and one in Calcutta. Protective equipment such as gloves, rubber boots, aprons and respirators is given only in the large tanneries.

The provisions of the Factories Act are flagrantly violated in all the smaller tanneries of all the three centres, complains the Report. Hours of work are utterly unregulated and children are also employed in a fairly large number of these units. In the case of women, maternity benefits were paid only in one large tannery in Madras, says the Report. The names of women are not entered in the registers of tanneries at Cawnpore.

Welfare Centres

The larger tanneries and leather goods factories in all the three centres, have provided a few dispensaries and medical facilities, though not quite adequate to meet the needs of workers. The U.P. Government are running three welfare centres in the areas inhabited by the leather workers at Cawnpore. Schools for the education of workers' children are being maintained by a few of the larger tanneries in all the three centres, says the Report.

In conclusion, the Report recommends that there is a great need for a stringent and rigorous enforcement of the provisions of the Factories Act in all the tanneries, particularly those in Calcutta. Minimum wage legislation seems to be called for in this industry as workers are not properly organised. Housing, education, medical aid and similar welfare activities should also be undertaken on a large scale.

COAL IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Need for Centralisation and Co-ordination



MR. K. C. MAHINDRA

I come to you to-day to talk of coal. lat black, dirty, dusty lump with tremendous latent power and so vital to industry. Some may consider it bad to lace this mineral on so high a pedesal in this age of atomic energy; but oal is still King in the industrial phere and will, I think, so long as the arth yields it up. Whether you agree ith me or not about this, we would ll do well to remember that even with ull awareness hitherto of the vital nature of coal, there has been much wasteful exploitation in our country and public apathy on an unbelievable scale. Paradoxical though it may sound, the recent war has been fortunate in a way; for we have realised, as never before, what coal means to the national economy. The industrial distress which the shortage of coal produced has set us thinking.

I do not come to you as an expert, but as one who, though a layman, has had the privilege, along with my colleagues on the Indian Coalfields Committee, of undertaking an intensive survey of the country's coal resources and of the complex problems of the coal industry.

It is not a pretty picture nor a pretty story we found in the coal industry. A most valuable asset has been and is being frittered away indiscriminately, to the glory perhaps of not even one individual, but certainly to the misery of thousands.

The situation is one to provoke righteous anger, but we must refrain from being idealistic. The approach must be strictly practical and must aim to determine what is desirable for the industry and for the country as a whole and what, out of that, we can reasonably aspire to attain within 5, 10 or 15 years. This is the approach that will bring results, but it is not necessarily incompatible with the dictates of vital national interest or the need for securing social justice as between man and man.

You conceive of coal as something mined from the bowels of the earth and burnt in your boilers or your hearth But how much lies behind that simple statement. There are coals and coals, from the best to the black rock which during war-time many have vainly tried to burn. Imagine, too, thousands of workers toiling underground with pick and shovel, bodies glistening with sweat in the semi-darkness, blasting away with explosives, loading tubs and then, overground, into wagons; the rattle of goods trains speeding—how painfully slowly in our country—to their destinations. In the background, aloof, more or less, from this din and activity, sits the mine-owner and frequently behind him, again the owner of the mineral. In practice, so far in India, the consumer has, on the whole, refrained from any attempt to know more about the coal he burns or need burn. Coal is thus owned, exploited, mined, sold, moved and consumed, and it is only when each process flows naturally from another that sanity and stability can prevail.

The history of our coal industry during the last 25 years indicates that there are certain elements in it which tend periodically to create conditions of instability. And when stability goes, so does sanity. If I were asked to name the primary task before the country in relation to coal, I would refer to the need for a co-ordinated national plan embracing all aspects of the industry and suitable means for its proper execution. Conscious and purposeful planning and direction by the State are inescapable.

Let us then consider what the essential ingredients of such a plan should

By Mr. K. C. Mahindra, Chairman of the Indian Coalfields Committee.

A Broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on November 8.

be. Our starting point must naturally be the coal requirements of the country, for these must determine the extent of development both on the production and transport sides. Until the recent war, when dire necessity compelled, no real effort was made to ascertain what the country really needs by way of coal. It appears now that the country can absorb immediately over 30 million tons of coal per annum, but supplies are short by about 4 million tons. And we seem to be on the threshold of a programme of ever-widening industrial development. But our industrialisation plans will surely go away unless coal plays its vital role.

We must relate those plans to the availability of coal. On the basis of the data available, coal requirements are estimated to grow to about 39 million tons by 1956, an increase of 50 per cent. over what is now consumed. Doubts have been expressed about the country's ability to produce this coal. There is much misapprehension about our resources, but I can assure you that the fears and doubts are unjustified. We have enough coal resources to feed the growing demand over any measurable distance of time. But though our resources are comparatively large, we have not been blessed so plentifully with good coal generally and metallurgical coal in particular.

Coal has other important uses than as a source of power only. You cannot make iron unless you have a particular class and quality of coal; and of this our resources are very limited, about 750 million tons, which at the present rate of uncontrolled exploitation and use may not last more than 60 odd years. Coal, too, is the basis of rich by-product chemical industries of much interest and importance. In its consumption, therefore, there is need for a measure of regulation which aims at efficient and profitable use, not from the limited viewpoint of an individual consumer, but from the country's as a whole.

We must, therefore, first address ourselves to the task of determining what a consumer's fuel requirements really are and what they ought to be in the context of our resources, and to the complementary one of a detailed chemical and physical survey of our coal deposits. When we know what we really own, we can plan how best to use it.

Regulating Use of Coal

I referred a little while ago to metallurgical coal. Iron and steel are so fundamental, and our need for producing vastly increased quantities of them so obvious, that we ought not to allow the present prodigal use of that coal to continue. As soon as may be, perhaps within 5 or 7 years—for there are preliminaries to be completed—a complete regulation of the use of metallurgical coal must be introduced. There may emerge, too, eventually the need for regulating the use of other good coals. Industrialists would do well therefore to ponder over this possibility and provide in their plans for the use of other than the best classes of coal as far as possible.

Government are the biggest consumers of coal through the railways. Their consumption of coal has been as wasteful as that of others. And they can set an example of efficient utilisation by electrifying the track in the vicinity of the coalfields particularly. You harness more of the latent power in coal when you convert it into electricity and large thermal stations in the coalfields can use low grade coal. These stations, besides helping to electrify the railways, conjure up visions of growing urban and rural prosperity.

With the country's needs of coal known, the next step is to produce enough. We raise now nearly 30 million tons of coal per annum and need to increase it to about 42 million tons by

1956. Nearly 80 per cent of our production is in Bengal and Bihar. But there has been much ugly development; coalfields are never a pretty sight, but in Bengal and Bihar uncontrolled and haphazard development has produced conditions of the worst possible type. Much blame must attach to Government for allowing these conditions to develop over many years in the face of persistent warnings.

If you concede the need for planned development, you must first remove the obstacles to sound planning. Of these, the most important seems to be the private ownership of coal rights in the Permanently Settled areas. This has been responsible, in a very large measure, for the existing conditions and the first essential, therefore, is for the State to acquire coal rights. This has been talked about for many years, but action is now needed. The amount of compensation payable may not exceed Rs. 6½ crores. Once the State becomes the owner of mineral rights in these two most important provinces, it will become easier to draw up and work to a plan of orderly development and to remedy the many serious defects of the present situation.

Orderly development must aim to produce the quantities of coal, of different classes, estimated as needed by the country, and in the areas most conveniently situated in relation to consuming centres. With reference to metallurgical coal, which I have said must be conserved, this principle would necessitate a considerable curtailment of output, possibly of the order of 3 million tons. A good deal of the increase in production must come from the Bengal-Bihar fields, though other fields, including some hitherto untapped ones, will need to be intensively developed.

Labour and Other Problems

Problems of labour, mechanisation, the avoidance of waste in mining, prices, transport and a host of others clamour for attention. Coal-mining labour, with some bright exceptions, has had a poor deal hitherto and the labour difficulties of the mine-owners need not cause surprise. But we must now strive to provide for the labourer better living and working conditions and a wage based on social considerations; these alone, if anything, can secure an efficient and settled mining force. But even so, future development will need to rely to an increasing extent on mechanisation and conscious direction of this is necessary. Coal must be mined with the least possible waste *in situ*. And maximum extraction is only possible if, amongst other things, there is a wide resort to sand-stowing for conservation. For this, we shall need to transport, chiefly by aerial ropeway, over 40 million tons of sand.

I talked of stability in the coal industry; so long as private enterprise remains, stability is irrevocably tied up with a reasonable return on capital. We must, therefore, have stable and profitable prices, which will take into account the increased wages and amenities of labour.

During the war, and even before at certain times of the year, the railways have been a seriously limiting factor on coal production and consumption. Even now, their capacity does not extend beyond the transport of 26 or 27 million tons of coal per annum. Vastly increased movement capacity must be created and quickly if industrialisation is not to founder on the rocks of inadequate rail capacity.

Early Decision Needed

There, sketchily, is the programme before the country. Its execution presents many difficulties, the main one being constitutional. In the absence of Central legislation, coal is a Provincial subject, though the Central Government temporarily exercises certain powers. A plan covering so vast a field as that I have described can hardly be implemented by numerous Provincial and State agencies. There is vital need for centralistion and co-ordination and I can only hope that a dispassionate study will convince our Constitution makers of this.

There is no suggestion that the financial interests of the Provinces and States should be prejudiced; but tasks that can be done well only by centralisation should be entrusted to a Central agency. We shall need then a Central Department of Fuel and Power under a Minister with Cabinet rank, to deal with coal and other sources of power. The detailed executive functions of public control are perhaps best entrusted to a National Coal Commission, organised and incorporated on business lines, for it is an essentially business field that Government is entering. Such a Commission may well be the body that, as in the United Kingdom, will manage the coal industry if and when the industry is nationalised. Nationalisation will surely come in India, too, in due course. But essential preliminaries must first be completed.

The fundamental fact which has emerged from the Indian Coalfields Committee's survey of coal problems is the need for planning as well as for public control in several respects. But the time-factor is most important and we must all join in a plea for early decisions.

EXPANSION OF FACTORY INSPECTORATE

Recommendations of New Delhi Conference

PROPOSALS to expand the Factory Inspectorate throughout the country and to extend the functions of the Chief Adviser's Organisation were made at the Conference of the Chief Inspectors Factories held in New Delhi from November 18 to November 21, 1946.

The Conference, which was presided over by Sir Wilfred Garrett, was attended by Chief Inspectors of Factories from the Provinces and the States of Gwalior, Baroda and Travancore and a representative of the Chamber of Princes.

The President, welcoming them, spoke of the necessity of a staff of Inspectors which was fully aware of the social implications of its work, and was determined to do it, and of the necessity of extending the Inspectorate to include Doctors, Chemists, and other professions and women (with or without these qualifications). In particular, the advantages of team work by all these types were emphasised as the only method that can produce results in the wider field of industrial health, accidents and welfare which must be the province of Inspectors in the future.

Chief Adviser's Organisation

It was agreed that the Chief Adviser's Organisation would be of value to the Inspectors in the Provinces and States. This organisation could be made a centre of propaganda for the education of the employers and the workers in the meaning of, and the necessity for Factory Law. A standard throughout India of safe working conditions and amenities in factories could thereby be developed. The Organisation could also undertake the training of young Inspectors and at the same time serve as a centre where all Inspectors should, from time to time, meet one another to advise and co-operate with the Centre as well as to consult among themselves.

It could also function as a centre of information from which would go out the latest particulars gathered from the literature of foreign countries and from individual Provinces and States. Thus the Inspectors could be kept up-to-date in this information. Towards this end the Chief Inspectors agreed that they would help the Centre in collecting information relating to unusual accidents, new types or methods of fencing, new processes or new hazards, *e.g.*, gases, fumes, dust, etc., observed new schemes of ventilation, lighting, etc., interesting welfare and details of interesting prosecutions.

Preliminary Work

There was considerable discussion as to whether the museum should not be situated in one of the large centres of Industry where it would be available to the greater number of industrialists, workers and persons interested. As collection of exhibits and other preliminary work will take a number of years, it was decided that immediate start should be made in Delhi and that the permanent location of the museum should be reconsidered in about 5 years.

It was agreed that under present conditions, one Inspector for every 150—200 factories should be considered as a suitable standard for the strength of Factory Inspectorate, but that in some provinces or States it may be necessary, in view of the widely scattered location of the Industries, to decrease the number of factories per Inspector to maintain a high standard of inspection.

NEW SCHEME FOR DISTRIBUTION OF IRON AND STEEL

Allotment to the Public Doubled

WITH a view to ensuring a fair distribution of iron and steel, of which there is a great shortage in the country, the Government of India have decided in consultation with the Provinces, to introduce immediately a new scheme of allotment. In this scheme, the allotment to the general public has been nearly doubled in comparison with what has been available to them since the end of the war.

According to the scheme, all the available iron and steel will be divided into two quotas, one for the railways and the other for industrial and civilian needs. The Railway quota will be operated by the Railway Board and the other by the Iron and Steel Controller.

India's Production

India's production of iron and steel for 1947 is estimated at 900,000 tons. Although capacity exists for 1,200,000 tons, failure of adequate supplies of metallurgical coal and the increase in labour troubles have lowered and are still hampering indigenous production. As there is a world shortage of iron and steel, imports into India during 1947 may not be more than 150,000 tons. Allotments for 1947 would therefore be: Railways—300,000 tons; Iron and Steel Controller—750,000 tons.

The Iron and Steel Controller's quota will be for specific allotments during 1947 of (1) 150,000 tons for industrial maintenance and packing purposes, (2) 210,000 tons to steel processing industries, (3) 80,000 tons for the development schemes of the Central, Provincial and State Governments, (4) 50,000 tons to the development of private industries, (5) 250,000 tons to the public including small-scale manufacturers of consumer goods in Provinces and States, and (6) 10,000 tons for export, which will be reduced to an absolute minimum and allowed only on the orders of the Government.

Allotment of Steel

The allotment to steel processing industries will be effected on the advice of the Director-General, Industries and Supplies, and with the co-operation of Trade Associations where they exist. The distribution of steel for industrial maintenance and packing will also be done mostly through Industrial Associations or Government authorities concerned with such industries. As regards Government development schemes, the Departments will send a programme of demands relating to various categories of steel required for each period of 1947. If available, steel will be alloted to cover all the programmes, otherwise the Controller will submit the case to the Government for priority decisions.

In order to aid private industry in the establishment of new factories and production units, a separate allotment has been made. The distribution of this will be made by the Iron and Steel Controller on the advice of Departments concerned.

The Electrical Commissioner, Simla, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, the Coal Commissioner, Calcutta, the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, and Development Officers in the Directorate-General, Industries and Supplies, New Delhi, will be the sponsoring authorities in respect of electrical installations, textile mills, collieries, iron and steel production and other industries respectively. These authorities will arrange the demands in order of priority and send them with their recommendations. If the demands exceed the allotment the Iron and Steel Controller will obtain a priority decision and distribute the available steel accordingly.

Iron and steel for the public will be allotted to individual Provinces and States after taking into consideration the pre-war distribution of steel, area and population and other factories. Normally, the allotment will be made available through the registered stockholders. Members of the general public requiring steel will have to apply to the provincial officer concerned for a permit. On the authority of the provincial permits steel may be obtained from the registered stock-holder named in the permit.

REORGANISATION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Decentralisation and Co-ordination of Work

A basic reorganisation of the Geological Survey of India is outlined in a statement placed before the Central Legislative Assembly by the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department, Government of India.

The steps so far taken for the expansion and reorganisation of the Survey, says the statement, are intended to form the first stage in its progressive development and are designed to enable it to take its place, along with other scientific organisations, in the planned economy of the country.

The experience of the Survey's wartime work, both in its success and in its failures, emphasised the point that the main function of the Survey should be the development of the country's mineral resources, which could be achieved only if it was founded on a sound scientific basis. It was accordingly realised that in planning the future work of the G.S.I. a careful balance must be maintained between fundamental geological work, based primarily on accurate mapping and laboratory research and activities concerned more directly with mineral development, such as drilling, mining and geophysical exploration.

Changes have, therefore, been effected in the organisation and functions of the different circles of the Geological Survey of India. The Survey had consisted of four Mapping Circles (North, East, South and West), and a Mineral Development Circle and an Engineering Geology and Ground Water Circle, the last two having an all-India scope.

The reorganisation, already effected, consists in the formation of 5 Mapping Circles, which now undertake that part of the work of the Mineral Development Circle and the Engineering Geology and Ground Water Circle, which is closely related to the work of the Mapping Circles themselves. They have, however, been formed at the centre, a Mineral Development Section and a Specialist Section for Engineering Geology and Ground Water. The latter of these two confines its attention to all major projects, while the work of the former is confined to drilling, exploratory mining and geological prospecting. These new Sections will collaborate with the Mapping Circles in their work.

The new arrangement allows a measure of decentralisation in the work of the Department in keeping with the fact that minerals are a Provincial responsibility.

Base Workshop

Besides the reorientation of these two branches of work, the Survey is contemplating the strengthening of the Geophysical Section which was recently started; and a separate drilling branch is being organised, as well as a base workshop. The laboratory is also being modernised and expanded, its personnel strengthened and new instruments being acquired from abroad. All these new Sections and branches have been set up with two purposes. Besides pushing forward their field investigations up to the stage at which commercial possibilities become apparent, they are also intended to give advice to the public.

Improvement in the assistance given to the public is the object with which the Mineral Information Bureau has been set up. A properly designed publicity organisation is being developed. The G.S.I. publications have been resumed and preparations for starting a quarterly journal, the *Indian Minerals*, are now in hand. Library and Statistical Sections have also been opened in the G.S.I. Office.

HEALTH AND WELFARE OF COLLIERY LABOUR

Mr. S. Lall's Statement in Council of State

"A Committee appointed by the Government of India in March, 1944, to survey the medical requirements of the Jharia coalfields recommended, *inter alia*, the establishment of central and regional hospitals with a view to improving the medical facilities for the miners."

This information was given in the Council of State on November 19, by the Hon'ble Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Labour Department, in reply to a question.

Mr. Lall said: The need for well equipped hospitals both in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields has been appreciated by Government and the question of construction of central hospitals at Dhanbad and Asansol and regional hospitals at Tisra, Katras, Chara and Searsole is being pursued with vigour by Government, the cost being borne from out of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. Plans for the central hospitals are being finalised and proceedings are in progress for the acquisition of sites for their construction. Construction work of regional hospitals has already commenced.

In view of the hospitalisation undertaken by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund, private colliery companies are not taking independent action for setting up centre or regional hospitals for the use of miners.

Periodical Inspections

Replying to another question Mr. Lall stated: The Chief Inspector of Mines and his assistant Inspectors carry out periodical inspections with a view to ensuring that the requirements of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, regarding sanitation, health, hours of work and rest intervals are complied with. The Inspectors of Labour Welfare employed by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund also carry out inspections to advise colliery owners regarding provision of welfare measures including housing. No inspections are carried out by the Central Government regarding education of the miners.

The annual reports of the Chief Inspector of Mines which embody the results of the periodical inspections carried out by the Inspectorate were not released to the Press during the war owing to shortage of paper, but will be released hereafter.





(ABOVE) THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IN THE WORKERS' TENEMENT BLOCKS IN BOMBAY. (BELOW) WORKERS' CHILDREN ENJOYING THEMSELVES IN THE PLAYGROUND PROVIDED FOR THEM.

CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES

Consent Given for Rs. 165 Crores During 9 Months

CONSENT for about Rs. 165 crores in respect of 678 companies was given during the period October 1, 1945, to June 30, 1946. (Figures up to September 30, 1945, were published in January, 1946) under the Control of Capital Issues Scheme according to the latest complete statistics available. The total amount applied for during this period was over Rs. 209 crores in respect of 897 companies and the amount refused over Rs. 33 crores in respect of 219 companies. The difference between the sum of these totals and the figure of amount applied for represents cases in which partial consent only was given.

The breakdown of these figures into industrial and non-industrial issues is given in the table below.

The refusal in respect of industrial issues amounted to a little more than Rs. 7 crores compared with about Rs. 26 crores refused in respect of non-industrial issues. A substantial amount of refusals under non-industrials was in respect of banks and due to the cutting down in consultation with Provincial Governments under the head "Agricultural Land Improvement."

In issuing consents, schemes are classified as "Immediate" or "Long Range." For the period under review the total amount allowed for immediate schemes totalled over Rs. 71 crores, while for long-range schemes the figure was over Rs. 93 crores.

Classified according to industrial and non-industrial issues, the figures show that for industrials, consent for about Rs. 41 crores was given for immediate schemes and for over Rs. 68 crores for long-range schemes. For non-industrials the figures were over Rs. 30 crores for immediate and about Rs. 25 crores long-range.

Share of Indian States

Of the permitted capital issues during the period October 1, 1945, to June 30, 1946, the share of the Indian States totalled Rs. 12.22 crores in respect of 54 companies. The total refusals amounted Rs. 2.42 crores in respect of 17 companies. Of the aggregate amount of consents the figure for long-range schemes was Rs. 6.76 crores in respect of 22 companies. The breakdown into industrial and non-industrial issues was: industrial issues—Rs. 10.23 crores and non-industrial—Rs. 1.98 crores.

In assessing the Indian States' share, it should be noted that the applications from the States relate only to permission for issue of recognition in British India. Any issue of capital exclusively in the State does not need the permission of the Indian Government's Examiner of Capital Issues. Therefore, the total capital issued by the States was presumably larger than the amount recorded under the Government of India Capital Issues Scheme.

During the period under review consent was given in respect of 418 companies involving an aggregate capital issue of over Rs. 109 crores for industrial purposes. Approximately 36 per cent of this (about Rs. 41 crores) was for immediate schemes and 64 per cent (over Rs. 68 crores) for long-range schemes.

These industrial issues are classified under 44 groups. Textile industry is at the head of the list followed by the Film Industry, Engineering, Iron and Steel Making and Mining and Quarrying. The following gives details of consents by various industries in British India and outside (Indian States) arranged according to the amount of capital permitted. Figures in brackets indicate amount of capital for long-range schemes:

Cotton Spinning and Weaving: Rs. 31.84 crores (Rs. 28.27 crores) for 89 concerns in British India; Rs. 1.70 crores (Rs. 1.22 crores) for 6 concerns outside.

Film Production: Rs. 7.31 crores (Rs. 6.05 crores) for 14 concerns in British India; Rs. 20 lakhs (the whole amount long-range) for 1 concern outside.

Engineering General: Rs. 5.75 crores (Rs. 4.12 crores) for 21 concerns in British India; Rs. 5 lakhs for 1 concern outside British India.

Iron and steel making: Rs. 5.57 crores (Rs. 3.9 crores) for 10 concerns in British India; Rs. 10 lakhs for 1 concern outside British India.

Paper and Straw Board: Rs. 4.32 crores (Rs. 3.17 crores) for 11 concerns in British India and Rs. 82 lakhs for 1 concern outside British India.

Vegetable Fats: Rs. 3.70 crores (Rs. 35 lakhs) for 22 concerns in British India and Rs. 90 lakhs (Rs. 75 lakhs) for 4 concerns outside.

Chemicals (Heavy): Rs. 3.47 crores (Rs. 3.29 crores) for 8 concerns in British India and Rs. 25 lakhs for 1 company outside.

Electrical Industries: Rs. 2.55 crores (Rs. 30 lakhs) for 12 concerns in British India and Rs. 85 lakhs (Rs. 45 lakhs) for 4 concerns outside.

Automobile Manufacture: Rs. 2.50 crores for 1 company in British India, an immediate project.

Fine Chemicals (including Pharmaceuticals): Rs. 2 crores (Rs. 74 lakhs) for 20 concerns in British India and Rs. 30 lakhs (the whole amount for long-range) for 1 concern outside.

Public Utility Companies: Rs. 90 lakhs (Rs. 41 lakhs) for 9 concerns in British India.

Sugar Manufacture: Rs. 1.88 crores (Rs. 1.29 crores) for 7 concerns in British India and Rs. 1.05 crores (Rs. 35 lakhs) for 2 concerns outside.

Construction concerns: Rs. 1.73 crores (Rs. 80 lakhs) for 9 concerns in British India and Rs. 19.50 lakhs (Rs. 4.50 lakhs) for 2 concerns outside.

Tobacco Industry: Rs. 1.08 crores (Rs. 30 lakhs) for 5 concerns in British India.

Food Preservation

Food Preservation and Dehydration: Rs. 1.75 crores for 11 concerns in British India and Rs. 13.72 lakhs (Rs. 4.50 lakhs) for 2 concerns outside.

Woollen and Worsted Mills: Rs. 70.51 lakhs (Rs. 50 lakhs) for 3 companies in British India and Rs. 50 lakhs for 2 companies outside, the whole amount being long-range.

Jute Spinning and Weaving: Rs. 77.75 lakhs for 8 concerns in British India, all immediate schemes.

Rubber Manufacture: Rs. 28 lakhs for 2 concerns in British India and Rs. 75 lakhs for 1 concern (long-range project) outside.

Other industries for which permission was given for the issue of capital were oil mills, cycle manufacture, drugs and medicines, paints and dyes, soap, cement works, glass, potteries and porcelain, tanneries, plastics, breweries and milk products.

Of the total industrial issues Rs. 66.08 crores represents initial and Rs. 33.04 crores further issues for British India and Rs. 7.95 crores initial and Rs. 2.28 crores further issues for outside British India.

Consent was given during the period (October 1, 1945 to June 30, 1946) for Rs. 55 crores in respect of 260 companies for non-industrial undertakings. Approximately, 54 per cent of this amount (Rs. 30 crores) was for immediate schemes and 45 per cent (Rs. 25 crores) for long-range schemes.

These non-industrial schemes are classified under 4 major groups comprising 19 heads. The Trade and Transport Group heads the list followed by the Financial Group, the Agricultural Group and the Miscellaneous Services Group. The largest amount of permitted capital is shown

(Rs. in Crores)

	Amount applied for in Rs.	No. of companies	Amount allowed in Rs.	No. of companies
Industrial	120	446	109	418
Non-Industrial	90	451	55	260

under House-Building Societies which falls under the Financial Group, the *second largest* under Shipping and the third largest under Bus Services. The following gives details of consents, for British India and States, figures in brackets indicating the amounts permitted for long-range schemes:

AGRICULTURAL: Total consents: British India Rs. 6.41 crores and outside Rs. 71.94 lakhs.

(i) **Plantations:** Rs. 94.04 lakhs for 16 concerns in British India, Rs. 13.94 lakhs for 3 concerns outside —all immediate schemes.

(ii) **Agricultural Land Improvement:** Rs. 3.44 crores (Rs. 1.79 crores) for 19 concerns in British India and Rs. 25 lakhs for 1 concern (whole amount long-range) outside.

(iii) **Dairies:** Rs. 2 crores (Rs. 30 lakhs) for 12 concerns in British India and Rs. 33 lakhs for 2 concerns outside.

FINANCIAL: Total consents in British India: Rs. 17.17 crores and Rs. 71.95 lakhs outside.

(i) **Banks:** Rs. 1.68 crores for 41 concerns in British India and Rs. 71.45 lakhs for 6 companies outside.

(ii) **Insurance Companies:** Rs. 55.64 lakhs for 6 companies in British India.

(iii) **Managing Agencies:** Rs. 2.14 crores for 6 companies in British India.

(iv) **House Building Societies:** Rs. 12.74 crores (Rs. 8.44 crores) for 31 concerns all in British India.

TRADE AND TRANSPORT: Total consents in British India Rs. 22.10 crores and outside Rs. 50 lakhs.

(i) *Trading Concerns:* Rs. 2.04 crores for 24 companies in British India.

(ii) **Bus Services:** Rs. 7.50 crores for 33 companies in British India.

(iii) **Shipping Concerns:** Rs. 8.50 crores (Rs. 7.25 crores) for 3 companies in British India.

(iv) **Country-Craft and Inland Navigation:** Rs. 61 lakhs (Rs. 30 lakhs) for 5 companies in British India.

(v) **Aerial Navigation:** Rs. 3.35 crores (Rs. 1.10 crores) for 8 companies in British India and Rs. 50 lakhs (Rs. 25 lakhs) for 2 companies outside.

OTHER SERVICES: Total consents: British India Rs. 7.04 crores; outside Rs. 5 lakhs.

(i) **Cinema, Houses, Musical Halls and Theatres:** Rs. 5.23 crores (Rs. 4.45 crores) for 16 companies in British India; Rs. 5 lakhs for 1 company (long-range) for outside.

(ii) **Advertising Publicity Concerns:** Rs. 96.35 lakhs (Rs. 15 lakhs) for 7 companies in British India.

Of the non-industrial issues Rs. 44.22 crores were initial and Rs. 8.92 crores further issues for concerns in British India and Rs. 1.11 crores initial and Rs. 87 lakhs further issues for concerns outside British India.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN GLASS INDUSTRY

Prof. B. P. Adarkar's Report

"WITHIN the last five years, employment in the regulated glass factories in British India has gone up by 105 per cent. There has been virtually a scramble for skilled and semi-skilled workers, who are recruited from areas hundreds of miles away from the factories," observes Prof. B.P. Adarkar, Member, Labour Investigation Committee, in his Report on Labour Conditions in the Glass Industry. The Report was published recently.

The Report estimates that the number of workers in the glass industry in British India is about 28,000 while the total employment in the Indian States may be in the neighbourhood of 5,000.

The Industry, says the Report, presents an interesting panorama with *shishgars* manufacturing bangles and others making hollow-ware on small scale in the old traditional ways at one end, and huge glassware factories producing modern goods at the other. The operations of the former are governed by no law whatever.

About 6,000 workers are employed in the Firozabad cottage shops alone, of which about 2,500 may be children of 6 to 10 years of age. The joining, cutting, enamelling and painting shops employ on an average 5 persons each. In these shops, due to strong personal ties between the workers and employer, labour turnover is discouraged but due to the prevalence of the drink evil, absenteeism among the workers is high.

General Wage Level

The general wage level in the industry as a whole, points out the Report, has gone up by 100 per cent and more, although till 1942, wages did not show any appreciable increase. Only the wages of blowers began to rise from the first days of the present war and have gone up by 200 to 300 per cent so far. Most of the concerns are paying consolidated wages but some have kept basic wages separate from incidental wartime dearness allowance. Blowers' wages in 1939 were about Rs. 45 p.m. Now they are earning about Rs. 100 p.m.

Cases have come to notice where they had earned as much as Rs. 250 p.m. The earnings of blowers in factories equipped with semi-automatic blowing machines are about Rs. 60 p.m. These machines can be easily worked by the less skilled blowers. Helpers, neckmakers, firemen, etc., are earning Rs. 65 to Rs. 70 p.m., while before the war their average earnings per month seldom exceeded Rs. 30. Unskilled men were earning Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 in 1939 but at present they are getting Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 p.m. Similarly the average wages of women coolies have increased from Rs. 8 p.m. in 1939 to Rs. 24 p.m. in 1944.

Conditions are different in the cottage shops, adds the Report, cutters, painters, etc., are piece-rate workers, though sometimes after estimating the monthly output, cutters are put on monthly salaries. Men are earning Rs. 35 to Rs. 45 p.m. while children earn As. 12 to Rs. 1-8-0 per day.

The Factories Act applies to all glass factories using power and having more than 20 employees. In some Provinces it has been extended to factories employing 10 or more workers. It was, however, found that some of the provisions of the Act, especially in regard to working hours, holidays, safety and health, were not being fully observed. Children were being employed in some of the regulated factories. "Even in factories employing over one hundred women workers, no case came to our notice where *maternity benefit had been* paid." The factory inspectorate is everywhere too inadequate to the task set for it.

The Report, which contains a detailed survey of the actual conditions of the workers, points out in conclusion that the glass industry is still unfortunately one of those where serious evils prevail in spite of factory laws, and as far as the cottage industry, conditions in it seem to be actually worse. Prevalence of child labour in both the regulated factories and in cottage shops deserves, says the Report, immediate and particular attention.

DELHI TO HAVE CENTRAL WATERWAYS RESEARCH STATION

The establishment of a Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Research Station at Delhi was indicated in a reply given by the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power, to a question in the Council of State on November 7, 1946.

The proposal was still under consideration, said the Hon'ble Member, and has not yet been finalised.

The Research Station, the approximate cost of which has been estimated at Rs. 15 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 6½ lakhs recurring, will carry on research in various problems relating to river characteristics, behaviour and training, design of canals and canal works, navigation channels and navigation works. An experimental Station on a smaller scale has been for some years in existence at Khadakvasla near Poona.

It is proposed under this scheme to construct a small tank close to the Electric Power House on the right bank of the Jumna at Delhi. The waste water coming out of the power house will flow into this tank and will then be utilised on various experiments through a number of channels running out of the tank. The water will finally discharge lower down into the Jumna. A certain amount of pumping will probably be necessary to give sufficient head of water for various experiments.

INVESTIGATION AND SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

Labour Member on Scope of New Bill

"TRADE disputes, Sir, I submit, are in reality a recrudescence of the economic warfare between capital and labour, and in this warfare the community at large is no less affected than the employers and workmen engaged in the industry," said the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 1, while moving that the Bill "to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and for certain other purposes," be referred to a Select Committee.

He said, "the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, have in the main been reproduced in the Bill. But as the arrangement of the Act would become disjointed if amendments are introduced *ad hoc*, we have considered, it would be appropriate to re-enact the Act, as in this Bill, setting out the various provisions in their proper context.

Industrial Tribunals

"The Institutional changes introduced in the Bill relate firstly to the constitution of Works Committees consisting of representatives of employers and workmen, and, secondly, to the constitution of Industrial Tribunals consisting of independent persons who possess qualifications ordinarily required for appointment as Judges of a High Court.

"The functions of the Works Committees will be to remove causes of friction between the employers and workmen in the day-to-day working of the establishment and to promote measures for securing amity and good relations between the employer and workmen.

"The function of the Tribunals will be to adjudicate on disputes referred to them. These two institutions, I may point out, will supplement the machinery already provided for in the Act of 1929 for the settlement of trade disputes, namely, Conciliations Officers, Boards of Conciliation and Courts of Inquiry.

"The two new modes of settlement of industrial disputes, which will be effectuated by these two new institutions of Works Committees and Industrial Tribunals, will be unaided voluntary negotiation and adjudication. Reference to an Industrial Tribunal will lie not only where both parties to a dispute apply for such reference, but also where the appropriate Government considers it expedient, in public interest, to make such reference. Voluntary negotiation is not only by far the most satisfactory method for settling the differences between employers and workmen but, I am sure, you will agree, it should also be the normal method of settlement.

"As regards the other new mode of settlement of disputes, namely, adjudication I venture to imagine that none in this House will raise a controversy, in so far as it is to be optional. But as regards compulsory adjudication, as a method of settlement of disputes, I apprehend that opinion in this House may well be divided. The issue involved is fundamental and that is whether and if so, to what extent, Government should intervene in industrial disputes. This in turn, will raise the further question whether industrial disputes are purely a matter of private law of contract between the employer and his workmen. My answer, Sir, is that inasmuch as that the parties to industrial dispute are no longer limited to the aggrieved workmen and the aggrieved employer, and inasmuch as the causes of the industrial dispute are not limited to breaches of the express or implied terms of the contracts of service, industrial disputes cannot be treated as matters purely within the confines of the private law of contract.

"Trade disputes, Sir, I submit, are in reality a recrudescence of the economic warfare between capital and labour, and in this warfare the community at large is no less affected than the employer and workmen engaged in the industry . . . . The case for Government's intervention in industrial disputes with a view to promoting public interest is, I submit, incontrovertible.

"The question then arises within what limits should Government's intervention be circumscribed. Should Government content itself merely with providing machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes as in the Act of 1929, and leaving it to employers and workmen to make such use of it as they may wish to, or should Government go a step further and attempt to authoritatively regulate the relations between the employer and workmen, where they have themselves failed to settle their differences?

"The Act of 1929 does not provide for the enforcement of the findings of any authority that may be appointed for the settlement of trade disputes but leaves it to public opinion as the ultimate forum to express itself on the merits of the dispute. Pronouncements of public opinion on the merits of industrial disputes, valuable as they may be for promoting industrial peace, will not often prove effective in regulating the relations between employers and workmen.

Compulsory Adjudication

"The principle underlying compulsory arbitration is thus I submit, clear and unimpeachable, I may mention that more than anything else, the provisions of Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, empowering the Central Government to refer disputes to adjudicators and to enforce their awards, have enabled Government to deal effectively with industrial disputes during the war. And what is more, the results of the adjudication proceedings have in most cases proved satisfactory both to the workers and employers. The present Bill embodies the principles of Rule 81A, but in a more liberalised form. My submission, Sir is that neither the employers nor workmen have an unrestricted



MR. JAGJIVAN RAM.

right to wage trade disputes, if in consequence public interests are jeopardised: And where public interests are jeopardised I maintain that it is incumbent on Government to intervene with a view to securing readjustment of the relations between the employer and workmen, if possible by private negotiation and conciliation, and if necessary, by compulsory adjudication.

"I must make it clear that in providing for compulsory adjudication, our intention is not to oust or in any way minimise the importance of the methods of voluntary negotiation and conciliation in the settlement of disputes. Industrial disputes being disputes on interests rather than on rights, I need hardly stress that voluntary negotiation will offer more effective and lasting solution than conciliation or arbitration. Of all the institutions for the settlement of disputes provided for in the Bill, I would *myself attach the greatest* importance to the Works Committees.

"But some others might urge that in Works Committees is the possible danger of exploitation to the betterment of workmen by association with such Committees of persons not true representatives of the workers, but who are under the influence of the employer. It is for this reason that I have not made a *mandatory provision for setting* up Works Committees but only an enabling provision by which the appropriate Government could set up such Committees and this will doubtless be done only where the appropriate Government is satisfied that conditions exist for proper functioning of the Committees.

"Next to Works Committees, I would place reliance on the conciliation machinery for promoting industrial peace. It is only where conciliation has no reasonable chance of success, that disputes will be referred to adjudication, as being a necessary expedient for securing

readjustment of industrial relations in establishments where disputes have broken out.

"The importance we attach to conciliation as a mode of settlement of disputes is reflected in the provision that it will be compulsory in the case of all public utility services. Lest advantage be taken of the reference of disputes to conciliation machinery to procrastinate with a view to wearing out the opponent or to maintaining unjustly the state of affairs as existed before the dispute broke out, time limits have been fixed for the conclusion of conciliation proceedings—15 days in the case of Conciliation Officer and 2 months in the case of Boards of Conciliation.

"The principle has been well-established—to quote from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, that 'persons whose work is vital to the welfare of the community generally should not be entitled to enter into a strike before sufficient time is given to examine the merits of their grievance, and to explore the possibilities of arriving at a peaceful settlement'. It would, I submit, be both logical and legitimate to extend this principle so as to prohibit strikes and lockouts during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings.

"This Bill prohibits strikes and lock-outs during the pendency of conciliation proceedings and 14 days thereafter, as also during the pendency of adjudication proceedings and 2 months thereafter. Power has also been given to the appropriate Government to prohibit continuance of strikes and lock-outs as soon as a reference is made to a Board of Conciliation or an Industrial Tribunal. No elaborate explanation for these provisions seems necessary. It would suffice to say that the justification for these provisions lies in that the changes of settlement of dispute by conciliation or by speedy determination by adjudication will be gravely imperilled, if during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings the normal state of affairs as existed at the commencement of the dispute was not restored. Lest these provisions may prove detrimental to the workers, a safeguarding provision has been made prohibiting alteration during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings of the conditions of service to the prejudice of the workmen."

At this stage the Hon'ble Member pleaded for an enlarged and elastic definition of public utility services.

Expressing his hope that the motion would commend itself to the House, he pointed out that the subject of the Bill was the result of considerable discussion between the representatives of workers, employers and of Governments, Central and Provincial. It had been examined in detail, he said, by the Standing Labour Committee and its Sub-Committee, in both of which the Hon'ble Mr. N. M. Joshi "our veteran Trade Union Leader", participated.

The proposals contained in the Bill, he added, were further discussed in the Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference. In conclusion he declared, "The Bill, as it is presented to you, represents reasonable synthesis of the various view-points expressed on the subjects by various interests concerned."

HOW CANADA CAN HELP IN DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES

Mr. M. R. Ahuja's Interim Report

WHAT types of capital goods and what kinds of technical assistance can India obtain from Canada?

An answer to this question is contained in an interim report on "Industrial Assistance from Canada in the Development of Indian Industries" submitted by Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Government of India Trade Commissioner in Toronto. The report, which gives brief details relating to individual items of equipment manufactured in Canada, overall plants that may be obtained from that country, suggests methods of securing those plants, possibilities of Canadian co-operation in industrial development and of engaging Canadian technical staff, has been compiled in co-operation with Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce.

The Trade Commissioner reports that Canada can design, fabricate equipment and construct many types of plants complete. For some types of plants Canada finds it economical to import some items of equipment for an overall plant, but in general, such items would not constitute more than 15 per cent. of the total of all equipment as measured in dollar value. There is no Canadian company in existence which can undertake the complete overall engineering, fabrication, purchasing, construction, erection and operation of plants, because Canada had not so far made any attempt to export overall plants. But this condition, the Commissioner points out, need not prevent the obtaining of overall plant from Canada as one or more organisations can be formed to take care of any project that may be sought in Canada.

Cost Factor

The report then goes on to describe the nature, cost factor and time of delivery of 20 categories of overall plants that may be obtained from Canada. These are acid plants, alcohol plants, most types of boilers, cement factories, chemical plants, coal-mining machinery, dairy plants, diesel-electric power plants, gas producing plants, hydro-electric power stations, ice plants, oil extraction plants, oil refineries, paper mills, ship-building, steam electric power plants, steam generating plants, sugar factories and machine tools. The prices of these plants compare favourably in most cases with those obtaining in the U.S.A. or the U.K. In some cases they are higher, namely, in the case of coal-mining machinery, dairy plants, gas producing plants, oil extraction plants, oil refineries and sugar factories equipment. The time of delivery of these plants ranges from 4 months (minimum) in the case of boiler plants to 2 years (maximum) in the case of paper mills.

The Trade Commissioner suggests methods by which these overall plants can be obtained from Canada by private manufacturers in India. A Canadian company, it is suggested, may be organised to undertake the project or if the plant is of a definite type, a Canadian manufacturer may be found to produce an overall project. Indian importers and manufacturers interested in further details are requested to write to the Trade Commissioner, Royal Bank Building, Toronto, Canada.

The report also mentions plants not obtaining in Canada, among them being cotton mills, biscuit factories, clay and pottery factories, glass factories, hosiery manufacturing plants, iron or steel mills, jute manufacturing plants, match factories, rayon silk plants, spinning factories, textile mills, weaving plants, woollen mills and yarn factories.

The names of about 650 individual items of equipment manufactured in Canada are also given in the report. Among the more important of these are accumulators, boilers, canning machinery, forgers and furnaces, motors and motor generators, packaging machines, presses and printers' machinery, road machinery, saw mills, screws, slotting machines, steam generating equipment, tannery machinery, tractors, trucks, vibrators, weighing machines, winches and wrapping machines.

Canadian Technical Staff

On the question of prospects of Canadian co-operation in establishing plants in India, the Commissioner refers to three classes of Canadian industrialists interested in the proposition, viz., (1) those who would not supply designs, processes and personnel unless they could retain control of such plants, (2) those interested in assisting India to set up plants who would contribute some capital and (3) those who are interested in assisting India by contributing engineering designs, processes and operating personnel. Enquiries for detailed information should be sent to the Commissioner, for individual study.

On the question of engaging Canadian technical staff for working in Indian industries, the Commissioner points out that in the event that overall plants may be placed in Canada, technical personnel and operating staff could be organised by a system of planned training whereby top skilled personnel could be sent to India and replaced by new trained men at home. Most Canadian manufacturers would welcome Indian engineers and would do everything possible to see that they obtain all possible help and information. Among the industries investigated which are willing to help trained Indian personnel are cement, engineering (electrical), engineering (mechanical), engineering (structural), fertilisers, food preservation, glass, leather manufacture, locomotive construction, paper manufacture, ship-building and steel manufacture.

WORKMEN'S STATE INSURANCE BILL

Object and Organisation of Scheme

THE establishment of a central organisation called the Workmen's State Insurance Corporation is contemplated by the Workmen's State Insurance Bill, which has been introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly.

The Bill intends to legislate for a unified scheme to cover health insurance, maternity benefit and employment injury. If passed into law, it will entitle nearly 2 million workers in British India to medical treatment during illness, disablement and confinement in the case of women, to a cash allowance while certified sick and incapable of working, to a maternity benefit for a period of 12 weeks and to periodical payments in the case of disablement or death by employment injury, payments in the case of death being made to dependents. It may be noted that the provision of medical benefit and that of a cash allowance during sickness are new features under this Bill, while it introduces compulsory national insurance in regard to maternity benefit and workmen's compensation.

Statutory Corporation

The Scheme will apply to workmen (of either sex) in all perennial factories, except any which may be exempted by Provincial Governments. Contractors' labour employed in or in connection with those factories will also be included. It will be financed, in the main, by contributions by employers and workers.

Health Insurance is a concurrent field of legislation, with the executive authority vested in the Provinces. With a view to securing uniformity of administration essential for the successful working of an all-India Scheme like this, it is proposed to set up a Statutory Corporation to administer it. The affairs of the Corporation will be managed by a Central Board consisting of representatives of central and provincial governments, the Central Legislature, employers, workers, and the medical profession.

A Standing Committee drawn from among the members of the Board will act as the Executive Committee. The Central Government will have a limited measure of control over the administration of the Corporation. It will exercise control, for example, in the appointment of the principal officers and the auditor, in the approval of budget, etc.

Medical Care

The Corporation will collect premia from employers and workers and disburse sickness cash, maternity and disablement benefits. It will not, except in very special cases, establish its own hospital and dispensaries. With a view to integrating the Scheme with the expansion of medical and health services envisaged by the Bhore Committee and their co-ordination in a national system, it has been provided that medical care and treatment to insured persons should be made available in Provincial Government institutions and the certification of eligibility to various benefits should be entrusted to the Provincial medical officers.

The Corporation may, when circumstances permit, also undertake to promote measures for the improvement of the health and welfare of the insured persons and for the rehabilitation and re-employment of disabled and injured workmen.

SHORTAGE OF WOOLLEN GOODS IN INDIA

ALTHOUGH India's woollen industry received great stimulus during the war and the present production is more than thrice the pre-war output, indigenous production supplemented by imports would not be sufficient to meet the requirements of the country.

Enquiries made in the Department of Industries and Supplies show that while defence requirements have gone down appreciably, the quantities available this year for civilian consumption are: woollen, worsted and mixture piece-goods, 4.5 million pounds; shawls and lohis, 0.84 million pounds; and blankets and rugs, 6 million pounds, as against the estimated requirements in these categories of 8 million pounds, 1.1 million pounds and 9.4 million pounds respectively.

The figure for piecegoods includes those manufactured by the small-scale industry from machine-spun yarn, but does not include hand-spun, hand-woven goods.

It should also be noted that India's capacity for manufacturing lightweight fabrics is low and so production in yardage would be considerably lower than what is indicated by the above figures. Before the war the total production, which was mainly in heavy types, was about 8 million pounds only.

Lightweight Fabrics

Although imports are gradually increasing, the shortage is expected to continue for some more time or until Indian mills produce sufficient quantities of lightweight fabrics. The present capacity of Indian mills is mainly in heavy counts and the average weight per yard of Indian production has been 16 to 18 ozs. till now. On account of climatic and other conditions, India requires fabrics weighing on the average 8 ozs. per yard. There is thus a great need for developing production of lightweight woollen fabrics.



MR. M. HASHIM.

I.L.O.'s COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

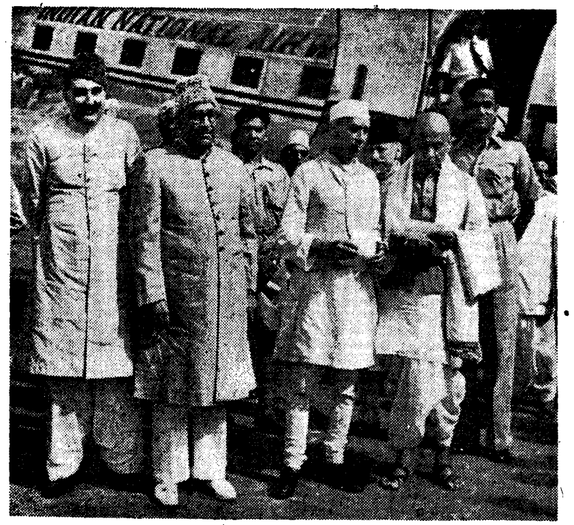
MR. M. HASHIM of the Finance Department, Government of India, has been invited by the International Labour Office, Montreal, to be a member of the Committee of Experts, which will meet in Montreal on December 2 with a view to reviewing employment conditions of the staff of the I.L.O. Mr. Hashim is leaving India shortly to attend the session of the Committee.

The Staff Questions Committee of the I.L.O., on whose recommendations the Committee of Experts is being convened has accepted the principle that international officials in all intergovernmental organisations should enjoy substantially equivalent conditions of employment and should receive the same emoluments in terms of real values for the same or comparable work.

Employment Conditions

The Committee of Experts will now review the existing conditions of employment including in particular the salary scales and the job classifications of the I.L.O. and make recommendations regarding such changes as seem appropriate in the light of the needs of the International Labour Organisation.

The Experts Committee consists of six members, one nominated by the Governing Body of the I.L.O., and five others nominated respectively by the Governments of U. K., U.S.A., Brazil, France and India. India, which is the third largest contributor to I.L.O. is the only Asiatic country represented on this Committee.



FOUR MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE CALCUTTA AERODROME DURING THEIR RECENT VISIT TO BENGAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE CALCUTTA AND NOAKHALI DISTURBANCES. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MR. ABDUR RAB NISHTAR, MR. LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL, IN THE BACKGROUND BETWEEN PANDIT NEHRU AND SARDAR PATEL IS MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD.

SITUATION IN BIHAR AND BENGAL

Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar's Statement in Council of State

REPLYING to a short notice question put by the Hon'ble Mr. Hossain Imam in the Council of State to make a statement on the situation in the Provinces of Bihar and Bengal, the Hon'ble Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar (Leader of the House) said:

Sir, I feel considerable diffidence in making a statement on the subject to which the Hon'ble Member's question relates. Some of the reasons are obvious. The Government are not yet in possession of full details about the happenings that have formed one of the saddest chapters in the history of this country. It is not yet possible to give any accurate idea of the damage that has been done to life and property in various parts of the country. Besides, one of the Provincial Governments affected has appointed an Inquiry Commission, whose members include some of the most eminent men in the judiciary of this country, to enquire into the disturbances, and I should naturally hesitate to say anything which may possibly embarrass those engaged in this enquiry.

One must also cautiously avoid saying anything that may start a controversy and further accentuate bitterness which it should be the object and endeavour of all of us to remove. Since, however, the Leader of the other House made a statement the other day in reply to a short notice question of a similar nature, it would, I think, be unfair to the Hon'ble Members of this House if I refused to answer the present question.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, a conflict between strongly cherished political ideologies caused a certain amount of controversy resulting in strained relations between the two communities. In July last the growing tension manifested itself in the form of communal rioting in Ahmedabad in the Bombay Province. This proved to be the first of a series of tragic events, some of them of colossal magnitude. After a few more incidents at various places there occurred the unfortunate tragedy of Calcutta resulting in huge loss of life and property to all sections of the population.

A disturbance on a big scale soon followed in Bombay and still continues in the form of murderous attacks on individuals. Then came news of serious trouble in Baniabad in the Muzaffarpur District of Bihar, a Province which had already attracted the notice of leading and responsible public men, including Mr. Gandhi, for its growing spirit of general lawlessness. Towards the middle of October disturbances broke out in Naokhali in Eastern Bengal.

One cannot but feel extreme pain over the happenings in that area where it is estimated that between 200 and 300 innocent persons lost their lives. This was bad enough; but unfortunately certain news agencies and a section of the Press indulged in such gross exaggerations and presented their exaggerated versions in such a lurid light that even responsible leaders of public opinion were misled and some of them issued panicky and inflammatory statements making matters much worse. This propaganda had the effect of increasing tension throughout the country, leading soon after to killing, looting, arson, forced conversions, rape and abduction of women on a big and organised scale over a wide area in the Bihar Province.

Visit to Riot-Affected Areas

At this stage, as Hon'ble Members of this House are no doubt aware, four Members of the Interim Government, including myself, decided to visit the riot-affected Provinces of Bengal and Bihar. In Calcutta we met the representatives of the Bengal Government and influential leaders of both the communities and an effort was made to set up a peace committee to advise the Bengal Government with regard to the measures necessary for the restoration of peace. A general strike was threatened at Calcutta during those days but fortunately better counsel prevailed and before we left we were informed that the idea had been given up.

What we saw in Bihar was beyond our imagination. The tragedy that has occurred in that province is unparalleled in peace time. We had originally planned a very brief visit to Patna; but the conditions we saw made it imperative that at least two of us should prolong our stay in Bihar and tour the countryside. Accordingly the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and myself stayed behind and did what we could to help in checking the prevailing lawlessness.

There are various estimates about the loss of lives and property during this mass uprising of one community against another in Bihar. For obvious reasons it is impossible to give any accurate figures, but reliable evidence indicates that the number of those killed is somewhere in five figures and the damage to property would amount to several crores. The situation in Bihar is reported to be improving, though fresh outbreaks of violence have occurred in certain parts of that unhappy province.

Tragic Events

A few days back and not very far away from Delhi there occurred another instance of communal frenzy when a huge mob of villagers turned a religious fair at Garhmukteshwar in the U.P. into a scene of mass murder, arson, loot and abduction of women. Another Member of the Interim Government, the Hon'ble Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, visited Garhmukteshwar and other affected areas.

A serious aspect of this long chain of tragic events is the problem of rehabilitation. In East Bengal the task of rehabilitating the unfortunate victims is reported to be proceeding with the cooperation of the Bengal authorities and Mr. Gandhi. The immense problem of the refugees and rescue of abducted women in Bihar and elsewhere has, however, yet to be tackled. It is reliably stated that there are over a hundred thousand homeless persons huddled in refugees' camps—in some cases without a roof over their heads—and in the houses of some private persons in Patna and a few other towns of Bihar. Food, clothing, medical help and proper shelter are their immediate needs. When these have been provided, the mass of refugees will present quite a difficult long-term problem.

This is, in short, a tale of tragic happenings which have brought shame on this country in the eyes of the civilised world. It is time that all those who are in a position to influence the public made a serious and whole-hearted effort to impress on the people of this country the basic fact that no party can secure its political objective by killing, looting and arson. It would be sheer madness for any one community to think that it can wipe off the other by resorting to such methods.

An Appeal

As Qaed-e-Azam Mr. Jinnah emphasised in a recent public appeal we may have our political differences but it will help neither party to try to resolve them by killing innocent neighbours and their women and children or burning and looting their houses.

The most important contribution that we all can make towards the restoration of peace in this country is to refrain from doing or saying anything that may further create controversies or embitter feelings.

I appeal to the Hon'ble Members of this House, the elder statesmen of the country, to use their great influence in putting out the flames of this orgy and restoring peace and goodwill in the country. We in this country claim to be the inheritors of great and noble civilizations and it is up to us to see that by our deeds we do not bring disgrace on our traditions of culture, humanity and chivalry. It is only by adhering to these noble traditions that we can ever hope to reach our cherished goal of true freedom. May God guide us to the right path.

CEILING PRICES OF PAPER

A revised schedule of ceiling prices of different varieties of imported papers was issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies and published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated July 13, 1946. That schedule was to have come into force on August 15, 1946, but certain representations were received in the meantime from importers which required detailed examination, and the operations of that schedule was suspended from time to time, the last period of suspension expiring on November 14, 1946. As a result of the examination a fresh schedule of ceiling prices has been published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on November 15, 1946, from which date it has been brought into force.

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD ON THE BIHAR SITUATION

REPLYING to a short notice question put by The Hon'ble Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru in the Council of State on November 20 on the Bihar situation, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Food Member) said:

Sir, it was not my intention to make any statement at this stage which would lead to any controversy or counter-questions and in that respect I fully reciprocate the feelings of the Leader of the House that we should not make any statements or say anything which leads to further acerbation of feeling, which is bad enough all over the country at the present moment. I would also have followed the Leader of the House in not making any statement of my own which would add to the difficulties but, unfortunately, statements have been made even on the floor of this House which lead to an impression, which is certainly left on my mind, that things have happened in Bihar which are out of all proportion to, and beyond all comparison with, things which have happened in other parts of the country, particularly in Bengal.

Knowing Bihar as I do and knowing what has happened there, I cannot subscribe to that statement and I must say that things, bad as they are, regrettable and deplorable as they are—and I condemn all these things with the greatest emphasis that I can commend—I cannot say that things there are any worse than what they are in Eastern Bengal or what they have been there for the last more than 4 or 5 weeks.

Rehabilitation Problem

In the first place, the situation there was brought under control within 3 or 4 days or 5 days at the most, and I believe the situation could have been brought under control earlier still if military aid had been available sooner and if the attention of all people all over the country, including Mahatma Gandhi, had been drawn to it earlier and he had announced the fast which he did announce after getting information about events there which had a great salutary effect on the people in that province.

In the second place, I desire also to say that at the present moment things are perfectly quiet, and although we received a telegram yesterday that some trouble had arisen in another corner of the province, Government have received information since then from the Government of Bihar which says that everything is quiet there. So, this isolated incident which has occurred after 10 or 11 days since the last events in the worst affected district has not affected the province as a whole and I hope it is only an isolated incident which will have no repercussions or any bearing in other parts of the province.

As regards rehabilitation, there is a large body of refugees concentrated in various camps in the towns of Bihar and also in some villages and I say this on the authority of what I saw there that they are taking all possible steps to give them food, to give them clothing, and to give them shelter so long as they are there and the next step will be to ask them to go back, and I hope the influence of all members here as well as outside will be exercised in favour of inducing the refugees to go back to their respective places now that peace has been restored and calm prevails; and the sooner that is done the better it will be not only for those refugees but for all concerned.

Another point which I wish to emphasise is that in the matter of giving relief to the sufferers, the Government of India is not directly concerned. It can only come in as an adviser to the Provincial Government. But I would suggest that the influence of the Government of India as also of the individual members should be exercised in such a way as to bring about some sort of parity in the matter of damage that has been done. Some sort of parity has been brought about by the mob but now that relief is being organised and the rehabilitation problem will be taken up, I hope the two Governments mainly concerned, the Government of Bengal and the Government of Bihar, will exchange notes, will find out what they are doing each in its own province to help these poor people, and in this respect I would appeal to all Members to exercise their influence with their respective Governments or the Government with which they have influence to induce them to act in that way.

As regards the future, I can only join in the appeal which has been made by the Leader here and by others outside this House that all should join in bringing about a calm atmosphere and the preaching that is going on day in and day out, in the Press, on the platform and elsewhere, by whomsoever it may be, should cease. Unless that ceases there can be no hope that peace will be restored quickly or at all, and I am, therefore asking all concerned to observe a certain amount of silence in this matter and to see that nothing is said which leads to a further deterioration of the situation.

The Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, has placed on the table of the Central Legislative Assembly a batch of 13 Reports, submitted by the Labour Investigation Committee of the Government of India.

The Reports are on the following industries:

Indian Match Industry, Municipal Labour, Port Labour, Jute, Cotton Textiles, Tanneries—Leather Goods Factories, Tram and Bus Services, Printing Presses, Sugar Factories, Non-Gazetted Railway Services, Cotton Ginning and Building Industry, Engineering and Central Public Works Department.

The publication of these Reports brings the total number of the Committee's Reports, so far published, to 32.

PANDIT NEHRU ON POSITION OF INDIANS IN MAURITIUS

"THE Government of India are not aware of any racial discrimination against Indians (in Mauritius) in the exercise of their legal rights," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in reply to a question in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 12.

Referring to the education of Indians in Mauritius, he said, "The common medium of instruction is Creole or a corrupt form of French. Indian languages are used occasionally. In the higher schools the teaching is conducted in English. The use of French and of the vernacular is allowed where it is found necessary."

Representation in Legislature

In reply to another question he described the political status of Indians in Mauritius in the following words:

"According to the report of Mr. Ridley, who visited Mauritius in 1940, there were two nominated Indian members in the Legislative Council which consisted of the Governor, 8 *ex-officio* members, 9 nominated members and 10 elected members. There was no Indian elected member. Indians in Mauritius number about 270,000, that is, 64 per cent. of the total population.

"There were two Indian representatives on the Municipal Council of Port Louis, although Indians own no less than two-thirds of the property in the Municipality.

"The Township Boards at Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill are nominated by the Governor. There was an Indian Member in two of the Boards. But this did not satisfy the needs and aspirations of the Indian residents, and the introduction of a more democratic system was being demanded."

Replying to yet another question he said that the wages of labourers in Mauritius ranged between one rupee four cents to one rupee fifty cents only. In July 1946 an island-wide increase of 25 per cent. was sanctioned by the Minimum Wages Board.

MR. A. V. PAI'S STATEMENT

A similar question had been asked in the Council of State on November 7, in reply to which the Hon'ble Mr. A. V. Pai, Commonwealth Relations Department, said: Indians in Mauritius do not suffer from any disabilities based on racial grounds. There is no statutory discrimination against them. They have exactly the same rights and privileges as any other section of the population. Such disabilities, as they have, arise from their economic position.

The bulk of the Indian population consists of labourers and the real problem is about the wages and the price of sugarcane.

The Commission of Enquiry which was set up to enquire into the disturbances in Mauritius in 1943 were of the view that the wages were unduly low and that this was the primary cause of the disturbances. In communicating their views on this report to the Secretary of State for India the Government of India drew particular attention to the fact that the economics of the sugar industry should be enquired into as on this depended the question of wages and other problems affecting the bulk of the Indian community. Final conclusions on the economic of the sugar industry have not been reached, but the Government of India understand that the Government of Mauritius have taken action to raise the standard of life of the labourers.

A Minimum Wage Ordinance is in force in Mauritius since 1934, and minimum wages for labourers on sugar estates have been fixed from time to time under that Ordinance. The Government of India have been informed recently that minimum wages boards for various industries have been set up and that action has been taken to improve the trade union movement and to strengthen the workers' position.

EUROPEAN REFUGEES IN INDIA

Scheme of Financial Aid

"The total number of Refugees evacuees and stateless people of European extraction who came to India is, approximately 12,000," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in replying to a question in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 15.

He continued, "On an average, about 6,900 evacuees have received assistance during each year since the scheme of assistance came into force."

"A sum of approximately Rs. 1½ crores has been spent on these evacuees from the beginning of the War up to the end of 1944-45. This expenditure is not however, debitable to the Government of India. The amount spent on Balkans and Maltese evacuees is debitable to His Majesty's Government and that spent on Polish evacuees to UNRRA."

"Financial assistance is still being given to Poles, Maltese and Balkans, etc., since they are as yet unable to return to the countries from which they were evacuated."

INDO-RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

"It may be stated that the conversations with M. Molotov were very friendly and he expressed his willingness to exchange diplomatic representatives with India. It was proposed that this matter should be gone into further in Moscow in December next."

This statement was made by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 12, in replying to a question on the appointment of Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon as envoy, Pandit Nehru's "personal travelling Ambassador to Western countries."

Then Pandit Nehru said: The question of appointing Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon to explore possibilities of establishing diplomatic relations with certain countries in Europe has been under consideration. It was considered desirable to make an informal and semi-official approach at first before a formal approach was made. Meanwhile, he was asked to meet various representatives of foreign Governments in London and elsewhere on behalf of the Vice-President to convey the greetings of the Interim Government and to state that we desired to develop friendly relations with those countries.

In view of the food scarcity in India, it was decided to approach the Government of the U.S.S.R. and to request them to send wheat or rice to India. This request was sent direct to Moscow and as M. Molotov, the Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., was then in Paris for the Peace Conference, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon was requested to pay a personal visit to him to convey this request as well as the greetings of the Interim Government. He carried with him a personal letter from the Vice-President to M. Molotov. Mr. Krishna Menon is now functioning as an alternate delegate with the Indian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Krishna Menon has been working in an honorary capacity and has been paid only his travelling expenses. While acting as a member of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, he will receive the same allowances as other non-officials on the Delegation.

Following the yearly refresher course in methods of inspection and storage held in New Delhi during the last three years, the Central Food Department has planned to hold similar courses in the several regions of India during the next 12 months, which will be open to the trade as well as to local officials. In addition to problems connected with storage, attention will also be paid to the improvement of standards of quality, methods of sampling, analysis and grading of foodgrains.

The first regional course lasting about a fortnight, will commence at Ajmer during the first week of December, and will be followed by courses at Bombay, Calcutta, Cuttack, Lahore, Lucknow, Madras and Raipur. It is hoped that the regional courses will meet the need for a large trained personnel in inspection and storage, as well as secure a better understanding of the difficulties of each region and their solution.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE CONDITION OF INDIANS IN MALAYA AND BURMA

THE steps taken by the Government of India to ameliorate the conditions of Indians in Malaya since the cessation of hostilities were described by the Hon'ble Mr. A. V. Pai in reply to a question in the Council of State on November 7.

The condition of Indian labourers in Malaya soon after the re-occupation of that country was reported to be unsatisfactory. This was due to the conditions arising out of the war in general and hardships caused during the period of Japanese occupation in particular.

The chief needs of Indians including Indian labourers immediately after re-occupation were medical relief, provision of food and clothing, cash relief and provision of passage to India. These were the main concern of the military administration and of the civil government that later took over the administration of the country.

The Government of India have supplemented the efforts of these administrations as far as possible. They sent a Medical Mission consisting of 9 doctors with Assistants, equipment, and medical supplies. This Mission treated about 36,000 Indians mostly labourers.

Congress Medical Mission

The Government of India also assisted the Congress Medical Mission to proceed to Malaya and provide medical relief in that country. Exports were arranged of about 120 bales of cloth, old and new, for free distribution among labourers. Unfortunately in view of the internal position in India, we could not arrange to export any foodstuffs. It is understood, however, that the military administration arranged for the provision of food as far as possible. The Government of India also distributed cash relief through their Representative and Welfare Officers to deserving Indian families both of the middle class and the labour class.

As regards passages, the acute scarcity of shipping space has been the limiting factor. Passages were arranged for a large number of Indians in returning military transports. About 8,000 Indians have so far been provided with passages. It is reported that there are still about 20,000 Indians waiting to return to India. The Government of India now propose to direct a ship on the Indian Register immediately to ply between Madras and Malayan ports to bring them back. Deserving cases selected by the Representative have been provided with free passages at the expense of the Government of India.

Resettlement in Malaya

Replying to another question the Hon'ble Mr. A. V. Pai pointed out that while the question of settlement or resettlement of Indians in Malaya was part of the general economic question engaging the attention of the Malayan Government, the Government of India's concern mainly was to see that in facilities that were being provided for the rehabilitation of the population the Indians in Malaya were not discriminated against.

Indian evacuees who came to India on the occupation of Malaya by the Japanese have been provided with facilities to return to that country. Deserving cases have been given free passages. There is no scheme at present for granting capital advances to individuals or allotting plots of land for cultivation to Indians who desire to settle in Malaya or to any others. The Malayan Government's first task has been to provide relief for destitutes including Indians and in this matter the Government of India have supplemented the work being done by the Malayan Government.

On the political side the question of framing a revised constitutional plan for Malaya is at present engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government. The question of citizenship in which the Indians are interested is also linked with this plan.

Emigration

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in replying to a question in the Assembly revealed that about 3,500 evacuees labourers and about 58,000 others had left India for Burma and Malaya.

He added: A request for the supply of 1,600 labourers for food production was received from the Government of Malayan Union but was refused.

The emigration of skilled workers from India is governed by Chapter IV of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922. The emigration of unskilled labourers to Malaya and Burma was banned by the Government of India in 1938 and 1941 respectively. Evacuee unskilled labourers proceeding to Burma have, however, been exempted from the operation of the ban. It is not intended to lift, or relax, the bans unless satisfactory conditions in respect of work and wages and status are assured by the Governments of Burma and Malaya. The conditions which the Government of India would desire the Governments of Burma and Malaya to ensure are still under consideration.

INDIA'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH U.S.S.R.

Replying to a question by Mr. Manu Subedar the Hon'ble Mr. I. I. Chungdrigar, Commerce Member, in the Central Assembly on November 7, said that the future of India's economic relations with the U.S.S.R., was under the consideration of the Government of India. The fullest assistance and facilities had, however, been given to the Soviet Trade Agency in India for the procurement of U.S.S.R. requirements from this country, *e.g.*, raw jute, jute goods and tobacco.

As regards the import of food from Russia, a direct appeal was made at the United Nations Organisation Conference earlier this year. Approaches had also been made to the U.S.S.R. through the Soviet Trade Agency in India as also through diplomatic and other channels with a view to exploring the possibility of foodgrains being made available from this source.

The Commerce Member also stated that no mission had been invited from Russia to India nor had any mission gone from India to Russia to discuss common economic matters.

In reply to another part of the question, the Commerce Member said that while no specific barter agreements had been entered into with the countries mentioned by Mr. Manu Subedar (namely the Government of China, the Administration of Japan, Siam, Viet Nam, Indonesian Republic, Argentine, Persia and Afghanistan) arrangements had been negotiated with Indonesia, Siam and the Argentine Governments for the release of certain specific commodities required by them with a view to securing for India release of foodgrains wherever possible from these sources.

The Commerce Member also gave an assurance that the Government would take such action as might be considered necessary, whether by barter agreement or otherwise, for ensuring that adequate supplies of such commodities as are required for the satisfaction of India's needs are made available.

IMPROVED FARMING METHODS

In reply to a question in the Central Assembly on November 6 by Sardar Mangal Singh whether Government had considered any scheme for introducing an improved method of farming in the Centrally Administered Areas, Sir P. M. Kharegat, Secretary, Agriculture Department, said that it had been decided recently to take up pilot experiments in co-operative or joint farming in the Delhi Province to determine the type of farm management most suitable for adoption on a large scale under local conditions. The question of preparing a scheme for this purpose was under consideration.

A scheme to introduce mechanical cultivation in selected areas in Baluchistan was also under examination.

There was no proposal, he said, at present of making co-operative farming compulsory or to enact legislation for this purpose.

DELHI POLYTECHNIC: EDUCATION MEMBER'S STATEMENT

THE Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Education, received a deputation of students of the Delhi Polytechnic and has authorised the following Communique to be issued:

The affairs of the Delhi Polytechnic are receiving the closest attention of the Government. It is the intention of the Government to develop the Polytechnic into a first class institution. Satisfactory progress has been made towards the execution of the first phase of this plan.

All-India Diploma

A Governing Body has been constituted with experts, official and non-official, and with the representatives of business and industry. It is hoped that the Polytechnic will develop on right lines under the guidance of this Governing Body.

It has been decided to award a number of scholarships for practical training to the students of the Polytechnic who qualify in the final examination. The value of each scholarship is Rs. 50 per month and is tenable for a period of one year. The number of scholarships will at present be limited to 50 per cent. of the qualified students.

Every effort is being made to get the All-India Diploma in Engineering recognised for recruitment to superior Engineering Services. The Institution of Engineers (India) have been requested to accept this Diploma in Engineering for exemption from Sections A and B of Associate Membership Examination. It is understood that the matter is now being considered by the Council of the Institution at its meeting in Bombay.

The matter of recognition of some of the Senior Departments—Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Technology and Commerce—of the Delhi Polytechnic has been referred to the Delhi University and is under active consideration by the University authorities.

Special Examination

For the benefit of those students of the Polytechnic who had for certain reason not taken the last examination the Principal has arranged now to hold a special examination to commence on January 2, 1947.

The Principal has also been able to make arrangements for providing suitable hostel facilities for students who intimate their intention to take up this examination. The Hon'ble Member hopes that the students who kept away from the last examination although qualified will take advantage of the special facilities which are now extended to them.

APPOINTMENT OF WAR SERVICE CANDIDATES

THE Government of India are not yet in a position to offer appointments to war-service candidates whose selection for appointments in the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police and the Central Non-Technical Services began at the end of last year. This is mainly because of the decision of the Secretary of State to stop recruitment to war-reserved vacancies in the I.C.S. and the I.P., said a Press Communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on November 20.

New Services

Government have already announced their intention to offer to Indian candidates deemed suitable for appointment to war-reserved vacancies in these services apointment in services which it is proposed to create when the I.C.S. and the I.P. are wound up; but it will take some time to complete arrangements for the establishment of these new services. Until these offers are made appointments cannot be offered in the Central Non-Technical Services, because a number of candidates for the I.C.S. and the I.P. are also candidates for appointment in the Central Non-Technical Services.

Government recognise, however, that candidates will naturally wish to know the results of their candidature: and they have therefore decided to publish, in the three attached lists, names, in the order of merit recommended by the Federal Public Service Commission, of candidates recommended by the Commission as suitable for appointment to the I.C.S., the I.P. and the Central Non-Technical Services.

Civil appointments will not be offered to candidates, who have accepted permanent commissions in His Majesty's Forces and whose appointments have been gazetted, but with this exception it is proposed to offer to candidates from these lists whose selection is finally approved by Government appointments up to the number required in an appropriate service.

Applications Under Consideration

Publication of the names does not, however, constitute any guarantee of appointment. The applications of some candidates are still under consideration and the lists are consequently not final; when all the applications are disposed of, interpolations may have to be made in the order of merit now published. Moreover, before appointing any candidate Government will require to be satisfied about his physical fitness and his suitability for appointment in other respects.

Revival of Cattle Shows

THE All-India Cattle Show Committee has decided to revive the All-India Cattle Show, the Regional Shows and the All-India Poultry Show in 1947.

These shows, which were of great interest to livestock breeders in the country, had to be suspended during the war on account of transport and other difficulties. The Committee has taken the earliest opportunity to meet the wishes of the pure-bred livestock breeders. It will not be possible to revive the Southern Regional Show in 1947 on account of food shortage and other considerations.

Western Regional Show

The Western Regional Show is to be held in Hyderabad (Sind) on the Cantonment grounds opposite the Imperial Hotel from January 8—12, 1947, and preparations are already in hand. A large number of Challenge Cups will be competed for and good cash prizes awarded.

The following breeds of cattle, sheep and goats will be exhibited there:

Cattle: Bhagnari (Dajjal), Dangi, Gir, Kankrej (Wadhair), Red Sindhi, Tharparkar (Thari....Buffaloes: Jaffarabadi (Gir), Kundi (Sindhi), Mehsana, Surti. Sheep: Bibrak, Bikanair, Harnai, Kathiawar, Kuka. Goats: Bari, Kamori, Lehri, North Gujrat, Surti.

The Northern Regional and All-India Cattle Show will be held at Delhi from February 10—15, 1947, and an All-India Poultry Show will be held in conjunction with it from February 10—12, 1947. The exact site for the show will be decided shortly. Competitions for Championship and supreme Championship will be held as usual. In the Poultry Show the breeds to be exhibited will be the same as in 1942.

The following breeds will be exhibited at Delhi:

Cattle: Bachaur, Bargur, Bhagnari (Dajjal), Deoni, Dhanni, Goalao, Hallikar, Hariana, Hissar, Kangayam, Ken Katha, Kherigarh, Khillari, Krishnavalley, Lohani, Malvi, Mewati, Nagori, Nimari (Khargoni), Ongole, Ponwar, Rath, Red Sindhi, Sahiwal, Siri, Tharparkar (Thari). Buffaloes: Murrah, Nili, Ravi. Sheep: Balkhi, Bhadarwah, Bikanair, Gaddi, Gurez, Hashtnagri, Karnah, Lohi. Goats: Barbari, Betal, Chigu, Dalra-Deen Panah, Gaddi, Jamnapari, Sirli.

A Prospectus giving full details can be obtained free from the Secretary, All-India Cattle Show Committee, 27, Park Area, Karol Bagh, Delhi.

At the invitation of His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur a team of Australian polo players, with 20 of their own ponies, will shortly visit India.

A series of matches will be played at Jaipur against His Highness's team during February and it is also hoped to arrange a tournament there under the auspices of the Indian Polo Association, in which teams from other States will take part.

INDIA'S POST-WAR EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari on Sargent Report

A statement on the action taken or proposed to be taken on the principal recommendation of the Sargent Report on post-war educational development in India was made in the Central Assembly on November 4 by the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Education, in reply to a question by Mr. Madandhari Singh.

The Hon'ble 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 N.-W.F.P. have now prepared their first five-year programme of educational expansion.

Five-Year Plans

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 finalised plans are expected very shortly.

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 6-14:

The Provincial and Central schemes of basic education cater both for boys and girls except in Sind and N.-W.F.P. whose plans have not yet been finalised. Bihar, Orissa, Madras, the United Provinces 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; the remaining Provincial Governments have not made it 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.

Rate of Progress

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, amount 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 4 Engineering Colleges).

Total Capital Expenditure

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 Rs. 3 crores in capital and Rs. 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 Institution. 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 the five-year period on technical education will involve an expenditure of about Rs. 23 crores (capital Rs. 16 crores and recurring Rs. 7 crores).

3. Adult Education:

The expenditure proposed by Provincial Governments on Adult Education in the first quinquennium is

HIGHER STUDIES IN HEALTH SERVICES

Fifty-four students have been selected for advanced training abroad in health services and arrangements for placing them in institutions in U.K. and U.S.A. are in progress.

This information was given in reply to a written question in the Central Assembly on October 30 as to what action the Central Government proposed to take on the principal recommendations of the Bhore Committee Report.

The House was further informed that candidates were also being selected for higher dental training and training in industrial hygiene and nutrition. The staff of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Calcutta has been increased to provide for 60 public health students a year and other specialised courses. The Bhore Committee's recommendation for the establishment of an all-India Medical Institute has been accepted in principle and a committee will be appointed to advise the Government on the steps to be taken to establish the institution.

A Bureau of Standards for medical institutions has been set up, which will supply model type designs for hospitals to Provincial Governments and serve generally as a clearing house for information relating to the design and equipment of medical institutions.

Rs. 2.10 crores which is about 2.2 per cent of the total expenditure on all provincial education schemes.

4. 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 to teach 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.

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.

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 reorganise 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 reorganising the Marris College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow on an all-India basis is also under consideration in the Department of Education.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Jogendra Narayan Majumdar, Barrister-at-Law, Senior Standing Counsel, Bengal, to be an Additional Judge of the Calcutta High Court with effect from November 11, 1946, up to the beginning of the High Court's annual vacation of 1947, said a Press Communique issued by the Secretariat of the Governor-General (Public), on November 7.

TEXTILES AND SUGAR EXPORT ALLOCATIONS

In reply to a question by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal in the Central Assembly on November 7, regarding the amounts of sugar and cloth permitted to be exported to countries abroad, the Hon'ble Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, Commerce Member, laid two statements on the table of the House. The first one gave cotton piecegoods allocations for the half year, July-December 1946, which were as follows:—

Countries	*Figures in tons*
Aden, including Yemen,	
Hadramaut	475
Saudi Arabia	190
Ethiopia	300
Eritrea	40
Afghanistan	1,520
Arab States in the Persian Gulf	475
Australia	1,500
British East Africa,	
Nyasaland	1,800
Northern Somalia	20
British West Africa including	760
Nigeria	
Ceylon	1,095
Cyprus	40
Netherlands East Indies	95
Iraq	660
Mauritius	280
New Zealand	140
North and South Rhodesia	90
Persia	340
Portugese East Africa	15
Seychelles	40
Sudan	710
Turkey	40
Nepal	1,040
Tibet	280
British Pacific Islands	30
Burma	1,700
Other Far Eastern teritories	570
French Colonies	750
Total ..	14,995

The second one gave sugar export allocations for the sugar year 1946-47 (1.12.46 to 30.11.47), which was as follows:—

Countries	*Tons*
I. Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms	
(a) Bahrain	3,274.8
(b) Trucial Coast	1,998.0
(c) Muscat	302.4
(d) Kowait	2,106.0
(e) Gwadur	60.0
Total ..	7,741.2
II. Neighbouring Countries	
(a) Afghanistan	7,200.0
(b) Nepal	1,405.3
(c) Sikkim	230.4
(d) Bhutan	198.0
(e) Tibet	216.0
(f) French Possessions in India	462.4
Total	9,712.1
Grand Total ..	17,453.3

In reply to another part of the question on the steps which Government have taken to prevent unauthorised export of these articles through smuggling, the Commerce Member stated that the administrative machinery at ports and land custom stations provided for prevention of unauthorised exports and the Defence of India Rules under which the export control regulations had been issued, and which had been continued in force by Ordinance XX of 1946, provided penalties against violation of the Rules.

Telegrams are now accepted for Davao City and Butuan (Agusan) in the Mindanao Island and Rosario (La Union), Pozorrubio (Pangasinan) and Alcala-Pangasinan in Luzon Island in the Philippines, said a Press Note issued by the Communications Department, Government of India, on November 26.

PRICES OF BRITISH TEXTILE MACHINERY

In reply to a question by Mr. Manu Subedar, in the Central Assembly on November 7, regarding monopoly and price pooling arrangements in the United Kingdom in regard to machinery for textiles and printing trade, the Commerce Member stated as follows:

As no single factory in U.K. makes complete textile spinning plant, the output of almost all such factories is pooled and handled by Textile Machinery Makers Ltd. There is thus monopoly as well as price pooling arrangement in this line.

The Evershed Commission in the United Kingdom is however investigating the cost of production of spinning machinery where the question of monopoly price being exhorbitant will be examined. In the cases of Textile Winding and Beaming machinery, Lancashire Looming and Finishing Machinery which are made by groups of independent firms, there is neither monopoly nor price pool. In none of these cases is there any evidence that Indian orders are highly priced. The Board of Trade is, however, prepared to investigate fully any specific cases of heavy quotations put forward. As regards printing trade, there is no evidence of monopoly or price pool arrangement.

In reply to another part of the question asking whether many classes of imports are cheaper from U.S.A. and hard currency countries than from the U.K., the Commerce Member said:

It is difficult to get exhaustive information immediately but in several instances supplies from U.S.A. and hard currency countries have come to India cheaper than from U.K., while in some other cases, supplies from U.K. and hard currency countries.

WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN TROOPS FROM INDONESIA

REPLYING to Sardar Mangal Singh in the Central Assembly during the question hour on November 4, Mr. G. S. Bhalja, Defence Secretary, said that Indian troops in Indonesia would be withdrawn by the end of November 1946.

In reply to another part of the question, Mr. Bhalja placed on the table of the House a statement showing the number of Indian Army Officers and Other Ranks killed, wounded and missing in Indonesian Operations since the cease fire order was given in the Far East, which was as follows:

Indian Commissioned Officers: Killed 11; wounded 15 and missing 2.
British Officers (Indian Army): Killed 20; wounded 35 and missing 2.
Viceroy's Commissioned Officers: killed 29; wounded 70 and missing 2.
I.O.Rs: Killed 906; wounded 1,564 and missing 206.
Totals for N.E.I.: killed 966; wounded 1,684 and missing 212.

ONLY 15 I.N.A. PRISONERS

Replying to another question by Sardar Mangal Singh the Defence Secretary said that the number of military I.N.A. personnel still undergoing sentences of imprisonment was 15 and the number of detained without trial was nil.

In reply to another part of the question, the Defence Secretary said that the number of prisoners of the Central Indian Horse still serving sentences was 9. The remaining portion of the sentences of these nine men had recently been remitted.

NON-COMMUNAL POLICY

In the Central Assembly on November 4, Mr. Ahmed E.H. Jaffar asked:

(a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state if Government have received any complaints during the recent weeks of concrete instances showing how Muslims are discriminated against in the Army?

(b) Do Government propose to make their policy and the position clear and remove all doubts by concrete action that no such policy of discrimination is in force and that Government's policy is not anti-Muslim in any sense?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja, the Defence Secretary, replied as follows:

(a) Government are not aware of any complaints made during recent weeks giving concrete instances of discrimination against Muslims in the Army. There have, however, been a few press reports of such discrimination which were investigated and found to be incorrect.

(b) I can assure the Hon'ble Member that the policy of Government is entirely non-communal and is in no sense anti-Muslim.

India's Subscriptions to International Organisations

IN reply to a question by Sardar Mangal Singh in the Central Assembly on November 8, regarding the names of international organisations together with the amounts of subscriptions which India pays annually to every organisation separately, the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, laid a statement on the table of the House. (given below).

In reply to another part of the question whether there was any recognised international organisation with its headquarters in Asia, the Finance Member said that the Siam Rice Commission had its headquarters at Bangkok.

I. Statement showing international organisations of which India is a member and to which India makes lump sum contributions.

S. No.	*Organisations*	*Amount Payable*	*Value in Rs.*
1.	*International Monetary Fund.*	U.S. $400 million, of which $40,000 has been paid in 1945-46 and the balance is payable when the Fund begins exchange transactions shortly.	Rs. 132.8 crores
2.	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.	U. S. $ 400 million, of which $ 40,000 has been paid in 1945-46 and $ 7,960,000 in 1946-47. A further sum of $ 72 million is payable on the following dates: 25-11-1946 $32 million 25-2-1947 $20 " 26-5-1947 $20 " The balance of $ 320 million will be an unpaid reserve liability.	Rs. 132.8 crores
3.	U.N.R.R.A.	Rs. 8 crores. (A further sum of Rs. 2 crores, as India's Second Contribution was voted by the Legislative Assembly during the last budget session. This will, however, be paid, only after a review of the position and consultation of the House)	Rs. 8 crores
4.	United Nations Organisation.	U. S. $ 1,097,750 to the Working Capital Fund. See also item 2 in (II).	Rs. 36.44 lakhs

II. Statement showing international organisations of which India is a member and which involve annual contributions.

S. No.	*Organisations*	*Amount payable per annum*	*value in rupees*
1.	League of Nations.	£106,500 (1946-47) Final.	14,20,000
2.	United Nations Organisation.	$ 944,065 (U. S.)	31,34,000
3.	Inter-Governmental Relief Committee on Refugees, London.	£2,700	36,000
4.	International Meteorological Organisation, Switzerland.	5,400 Swiss Francs	4,200
5.	Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation, Montreal, Canada.	65,333 Canadian Dollars	1,95,999
6.	International Commission for Air Navigation, Paris, France.	90,000 French francs	2,500
7.	International Telecommunication Union, Berne, Switzerland.	18,196 Swiss francs	14,160
8.	Universal Postal Union, Berne, Switzerland.	12,850 Swiss francs	10,000
9.	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Washington.	U. S. $ 2,12,500	7,05,500
10.	Inter-Allied Reparations Agency, Brussels.	1,195,745.40 Belgian francs	90,267
11.	Office International d' Hygiene Publique, Paris.	£1,256-5-0	16,750

S. No.	Organisation	Amount payable per annum	Value in Rs.
12.	International Labour Office.	Hitherto the contribution in respect of this Organisation has been included in the contribution to the League of Nations. The contribution to it as an independent organisation has yet to be decided.	
13.	International Technical Congress, Paris.	Not yet known	
14.	International Commission on High Dams, Paris.	£90	1,200
15.	International Emergency Food Council, Washington.	No subscription is payable by India.	Nill
16.	Siam Rice Commission, Bangkok.	Not yet known	
17.	International Railway Congress Association, Brussels.	£25	333
18.	United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Paris.	Not yet known	
19.	International Council of Scientific Unions.	£40 per annum from 1947	533
20.	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.	£200	2,667
21.	International Union of Geography.	Not yet known	....
		Total	Rs. 56,34,109

Restrictions on Entry into the Excluded Areas of Assam

"Members of the Constituent Assembly are certainly free to move about in the Excluded Areas of Assam. As regards the Tribal areas every facility will be arranged for all members of the Advisory Committee to acquaint themselves with the conditions in those areas. As regards Manipur and the Khasi States, enquiries are being made and a statement will in due course be placed on the table of the House."

This statement was made by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in replying to a question in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 15. Replying to another question on November 12, he made the following statement:

Regulation of 1873

It is a fact that under the Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873 no one other than officers on Government duty and British Indian residents of Manipur and the Naga Hills may go beyond a certain line in the Naga Hills without a pass. The territory in point is part of an Excluded Area and is therefore in the charge of the Governor of Assam acting in his discretion. The restrictions have already been relaxed in the case of members of any political groups wishing to visit the areas concerned, and the question whether they should be further liberalised or removed is under consideration.

Under Regulation V of 1896, which has been extended to the Hill areas of Assam, the Superintendent or Deputy Commissioner if satisfied that the presence of any person who is not a native of such area is injurious to the peace or good administration of the area, may for reasons to be recorded in writing order such person to leave the area within a given time.

Government are considering what steps should be taken in regard to or modification in this regulation.

According to a reply given by him to a question on November 29, the Central Government's budget estimates for 1946-47 provided Rs. 49,17,000 for the administration of Tribal Areas in Assam, towards which the Government of Assam made no contribution at present. The amount budgeted for expenditure from Central Revenues on development schemes was Rs. 5,000 for Agriculture and Rs. 62,500 Medical. A sum of Rs. 76,100 was provided by the Centre for expenditure on roads.

The precise financial implications of the comprehensive plans, now under consideration, remain to be worked out, pointed out, Pandit Nehru but the plans would involve expenditure of a much higher order to be incurred on education, communications, agriculture, forestry and medical schemes during the next five years.

Pilgrim ship *Akbar* arrived at Karachi on November 22. Two special trains for carrying the pilgrims to Lahore and Delhi have been arranged, and are expected to reach destination on November 24, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on November 23.

THE RAMAPADASAGAR RESERVOIR

Rs. 66 Crores Scheme

An indication of the extent to which the Government of India may be prepared to give financial aid to the Government of Madras towards releasing the Ramapadasagar reservoir project on the Godavari, was given by the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha Member for Works, Mines and Power, while replying to a question in the Council of State on November 7, 1946.

He said: The Government of India informed the Government of Madras on February 28, 1946, that, provided the scheme is duly approved with the concurrence of all interested, they will advance all such loans as may be required by the Government of Madras for this scheme. If it is found that the scheme will not be fully self-financing, the Government of India will also be prepared to provide a substantial contribution towards the portion of the capital cost which is not met from loan money. Any such contribution will, however, be taken into account when the aggregate share of Madras in Central grants for post-war development in general is settled.

The scheme has not yet been finalised, pointed out the Hon'ble Member, and the question of assistance which the Government of India may be willing to give towards the realisation of the scheme is still under consideration.

The Ramapadasagar project, which is in the charge of the Government of Madras, involves construction of a dam over a mile long and 393 ft. high with a total waterspread of 483 sq. miles and effective storage capacity of 5,20,000 million cubic feet of water. It is estimated to cost about Rs. 66 crores and may take 12 years for completion. The area likely to benefit is 23¼ lakhs of acres which will yield approximately one million tons of rice extra. The net additional revenue is estimated to be Rs. 2.35 crores per annum which will accrue to the Provincial Government. The amount of electrical energy produced will be of the order of 75,000 K.V.A. or so.

Details regarding the release of medical officers, specialists, dental officers and nursing officers of the British service were recently announced from G.H.Q.

General duty medical officers of Group 54 will be released in the U.K. between January 1 and 31, 1947; Group 55 between February 1 and 28, 1947, and Group 56 between March 1 and 31. Specialists of Groups 42, 43 and 44 will be released on the same dates as for medical officers of Groups 54, 55 and 56 respectively.

Nursing officers of Group 53 will be released between January 1 and March 31, 1947, and dental officers of Group 42 will be released in the same period.

FUTURE OF ALL-INDIA SERVICES

Recruitment Policy Explained

"THE considered policy of the Government of India is that non-Indians shall not be appointed to Government service except in very exceptional circumstances and then only on contract for the minimum period necessary. Appointment to the new services will be governed by this general decision of policy."

This statement was made by the Secretary, Home Department, Government of India, in the course of a reply to a question in the Council of State on November 12. In replying to a question in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 8, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Home Member, had made a similiar statement which contained also the following further indications of policy:

I.C.S. and I.P.

Whenever a Department proposes to employ a non-Indian in any post, it should simultaneously take suitable steps to train Indians to fill such posts; and all Departments should examine cases of posts at present held by non-Indians and the desirability of taking steps to replace those officers on termination of their present appointments, and submit a report of such examination at an early date to the Home Department.

In his reply in the Council of State on November 12, the Secretary, Home Department, made also the following declaration of policy:

The Government of India have no concern with the recruitment of Provincial Services. The Secretary of State has decided not to proceed with recruitment to war-reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police and is being urged by the Government of India to wind up these services at an early date.

A conference of Provincial Premiers was convened by the Hon'ble Home Member on October 21, to discuss arrangements to replace these services. The majority of Provinces were in favour of the formation of new all-India Services for the purpose. Details are being worked out in consultation with the Provinces and when arrangements are finalised a public annoucement will be made.

In replying to another question on November 15, the Home Member said that no scheme for winding up the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police had yet been formulated by the Secretary of State. In pursuance of the conclusions reached at the Premiers' Conference convened by him, the Secretary of State had been requested to expedite his proposals in this respect, to terminate forthwith his connections with these services and to fix an early date for this purpose. His reply was still awaited.

The total number of those who would be affected by these proposals was 1,022, which was the total strength of the I.C.S. cadre. The question of their re-employment would arise only after the scheme of new conditions of service had been framed.

NO INDIANS UNDER DETENTION IN GERMANY

—Pandit Nehru

"THERE are now no Indians under detention in Germany." The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made this statement in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 15, in reply to a question. He said, "Government is not aware of any restrictions placed on their freedom other than those imposed by the local occupation authorities on all civilians in Germany."

"Government is aware," he continued, "that these persons, in common with all civilians in Germany, have experienced difficulties and hardships." He assured the House, further, that the Indian Military Mission in Berlin which is in touch with every known Indian national in Germany, has been asked for full information.

Replying to a similar question on November 12, Pandit Nehru had said: "There are estimated to be 92 Indians at present in Germany of whom 69 have been hitherto traced. The Government of India are aware that conditions in Germany entail hardship for the entire civilian population of all nationalities. The Indian Military Mission in Berlin is taking all possible steps to relieve distress among Indian nationals in Germany; to secure them extra food and clothing when necessary and to assist them in every way possible. They are also making every effort to secure passages as quickly as possible for all those desiring to return to India."

While replying to a question on the same subject in the Council of State on November 13, the Secretary of the Commonwealth Relations Department, the Hon'ble Mr. A. V. Pai, gave the following assurance:

So far 69 out of 92 Indians who were thought to have been in Germany have been traced and every effort is being made to repatriate them to India. Indians who are in France or in other European countries in which the Indian Military Mission, Berlin, has no authority can approach the local British Consular authorities for assistance. The Government of India are making every effort to assist Indians abroad, both in regard to the provision of the necessaries of life and in the matter of their repatriation.

The Secretary of State had decided to stop recruitment to the I.C.S., but before this announcement 31 war-service candidates had been offered and had accepted employment in the cadre. The Secretary of State had sanctioned compensation grants amounting to £11,362-10-0 to these candidates. Since recruitment had been stopped, no further liabilities on this account would arise.

War-Service Candidates

Replying to a question on the subject of war-service candidates, the Home Member said:

Previous orders reserving all or a fixed percentage of vacancies up to December 31, 1945 in the various services still stand but the question whether and, if so, to what extent they should be modified is engaging my attention. The present position is, however, that even after all the suitable war-service candidates are absorbed in the posts for which they have been selected or in the case of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police the recruitment to which has been stopped, in equivalent posts, a large number of vacancies would still be available to candidates from other sources of supply. No fixed percentage of vacancies arising from 1946 onwards have been reserved in favour of 'war service' candidates but the orders issued by the previous Government will have the effect of allocating a proportion of such vacancies in Superior Services to war services candidates. As I have already said I am reviewing the whole question.

In replying to a question in the Central Legislature on November 8, the Home Member revealed that the certificate to the effect that "so far as is known to me the applicant has not taken part in any movement subversive of law and order is no longer required from the candidates for Government service".

In replying to another question on the same day the Home Member indicated that I.N.A. personnel and those who were incarcerated or went underground in connection with the political movement in 1942 would also be eligible for appointment.

Air mail articles for Germany are now accepted by post offices in India subject to the same restrictions as are applicable, from time to time, to surface mails for that country. Such articles will be carried throughout by air *via* the United Kingdom.

The air mail articles for Germany should bear the superscription "India-U.K.-Germany" and a blue air mail label should be affixed to the top left-hand corner of all such correspondence.

The rates of air mail fee will be as follows:

For letters and packets—Rs. 1-4 per half oz. or part thereof, in addition to ordinary postage.

For postcards—9 annas per postcard, inclusive of ordinary postage.

DIRECTORS OF TELEGRAPHS' CONFERENCE

Mr. Abdur Rab Nishtar's Address

"I am very glad to have the opportunity so shortly after entering into my present office of welcoming so large and representative a body of Engineers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, said the Hon'ble Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Member for Communications, in opening the Conference of Directors of Telegraphs of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department in New Delhi on November 18.

Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar said:, I believe that I am right in saying that although conferences of Telegraph Engineers such as these were held regularly in the past, there has been no conference since about 1930. It is therefore of particular interest to me to be present at the first conference of its kind which has been held for many years.

I have been informed that during the war there has been a very large expansion of the telegraph and telephone services maintained by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. I believe that I am right in saying that the total value of the telephone and telegraph plant owned by the Department has approximately doubled itself since 1942. I believe further that a large part of this increase consists of carrier telegraph and telephone apparatus which is highly complex in nature, and which requires special attention if it is to be maintained in efficient working order. The organisation of a conference of Telegraph Engineers, therefore, seems to me to be particularly opportune at the present time.

Unique Problems

I am informed by my technical advisers that the design and maintenance of a network comprising local telephone exchanges, trunk telephone lines, telegraph offices and long distance telegraph circuits, presents problems which are in many ways unique. All parts of such a network have to be regarded as parts of a whole.

A fault occurring in Madras on a telephone subscriber's line may directly affect the service given to a telephone subscriber in Delhi who wishes to speak to him. If, therefore, a good service is to be given throughout India to telephone subscribers and to the senders of telegrams, it is imperative for all parts of the network to be simultaneously in the highest possible state of efficiency.

The successful efforts of officers in one part of India to maintain the apparatus under their control in good working order will be frustrated if officers in some other parts of India are not equally successful in these efforts. This feature of telecommunications engineering is found far less prominently, or is not found at all, in other branches of Engineering.

For example, the fact that the roads in one Province are not good has no direct effects on the quality of the service given to the public by the roads in another Province, which may be properly maintained. Even with Railways, it is possible for one Railway system to be operated far more efficiently than another without being seriously or directly affected by the shortcomings of its neighbour. This, therefore, seems to be a very strong reason for making a conference such as this a regular feature of the administration of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

It is clear to me that the service which is offered to telegraph and telephone users all over India can only be improved and maintained at a high standard of efficiency if telecommunication engineers all over the country maintain constant touch with one another, so that their efforts may be co-ordinated towards the goal of maintaining a uniform and high standard of efficiency throughout the network.

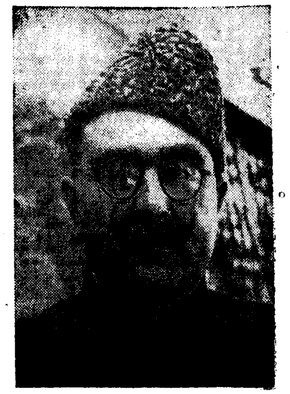
Great Volume of Work

I understand that the great volume of work which was carried out by the engineers of the P. and T. Department during the war was done partly at the expense of the regular and efficient maintenance of the apparatus which already existed, and that this fact, coupled with the natural difficulty of obtaining spare parts and replacements during the war, is one of the causes of the present somewhat unsatisfactory service which is being rendered to the public. I believe that the Chief Engineer has something to say to you on this point, and I will therefore leave further comment on it to him. I have no doubt that the agenda for your conference includes items covering this matter.

Demands of Public

I understand, moreover, that the paramount need for providing telecommunications facilities for the Fighting Services during the war made it impossible for the demands of the general public to be met to anything like the extent that would have been desirable. I am told, for instance, that in practically every city and town in India where there is a telephone exchange, there are large waiting lists of members of the public who want telephones, but cannot be given them because the telephone exchanges have not sufficient capacity. It seems to me that this is a matter to which you should give a very high priority in your deliberations. You should do your utmost to find ways and means of meeting the current demands of the public to the maximum possible extent and in the shortest possible time.

I have no doubt that one of your many difficulties is the shortage of



MR. ABDUR RAB NISHTAR.

trained and experienced staff of all ranks. This is a natural result of the war, when large numbers of untrained or partially trained staff had to be brought into the service in order to meet the immediate needs arising from the war. You will have to find a means of training untrained staff and of completing the training of partially trained staff.

What I have said so far relates of course only to the very urgent necessity of improving the existing services offered to the public and meeting their immediate demands for increased services, particularly in places where there are already telephone systems.

Post-War Plans

There is, however, an enormous potential ground for the expansion of telecommunications services in India, and the provision of telegraph and telephone services where none exist at present. The provision for this expansion forms part of the post-war development plans of the Government of India.

The P. and T. Department has already outlined the nature of the development which it is intended to bring about in Postal, Telegraph and Telephone services. You will find, however, that there is a vast difference between preparing a sketch plan of this nature, which simply indicates the target to be aimed at, and the translation of the plan into actual telephone exchanges, telegraph offices and lines of communication. The easiest part of the work has been done. The most difficult has barely been started. It will need all your combined intelligence, professional ability and forecasting capacity to prepare detailed plans for the development of telecommunications, and to direct the work of installing the

(Continued on Page 411)

NATIONALISATION OF CIVIL AVIATION

Home Member's Speech in Central Assembly

CONCLUDING his speech on behalf of the Government, in reply to Sardar Mangal Singh's Motion for the Nationalisation of Civil Aviation, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Member for Home, Information and Broadcasting, said "that accepting the principle of nationalisation is one thing but to put it straightaway into practice without caring for the consequences, without considering its implications and without examining the pros and cons of the business is not nationalisation but, I should say, it is the liquidation of Government altogether. Therefore, on behalf of the Government I can only say that the amendment of my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall is the proper amendment because it gives Government time required to consider the whole situation."

Here is the full text of the Home Member's speech:

"Sir, I propose to say a few words. Not being accustomed to long and unimportant speeches, I wish to point out at the outset that the Member in charge of this Department, has not yet put his foot on solid ground. You all know that the Government that you see here has taken charge of running the administration of office under very difficult circumstances. We have taken office under a shadow of a great tragedy that has ever happened in this country. Just after the great Calcutta tragedy—17 days after it—we took office. The happenings in other parts of the country are known to you.

Hazardous Undertakings

"We must put our foot on solid ground before we rush into dangerous waters. We must govern or learn to govern before we enter into hazardous undertakings. We must know what nationalisation of such important business means financially, from the point of view of administrative ability and efficiency and many other things. We are asked to remember that the Government is put to test or they are on trial for the undertakings given to the public. Nobody remembers these undertakings more than those who have made them.

"We know our undertakings and we know our responsibility and, therefore, we do not want to be hustled and we do not want to be pushed into things before we know that what we undertake is a solid thing. Therefore, I can only say at the present moment that the policy of Government has not yet been formed.

"You know the coalition Government has only been formed a few days ago. After that the Leader of the House also has been engaged in an undertaking of which I should not say much, but it is a very hazardous thing and a very dangerous thing. He has taken a very grave responsibility and he cannot avoid it. Many of us would like to know and rush to places where there is danger. Therefore we have yet to create stable conditions in this country before we undertake dangerous or hazardous undertakings or undertakings involving risks and we must think before we do anything of the kind.

"May I appeal to the House—I am a novice and I have no experience of Legislatures, but I feel very much disturbed—and I must confess that many of you have not realised that this is not the same House which it was before and we have a long list of business to go through. If you see the list of business, you will find that all important items are put aside and we have not done much business.

"There are only four official days in this Session in which we have to transact all this business. All the important Bills are still pending. That is not the way in which business can be conducted by a House which wants the Government immediately and straightway to take to nationalisation of big industries. Therefore, what I say is that accepting the principle of nationalisation is one thing but to put it straightway into practice without caring for the consequences, without considering its implications and without examining the pros and cons of the business is not nationalisation but, I should say, it is the liquidation of Government altogether. Therefore, on behalf of the Government I can only say that the amendment of my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, is the proper amendment because it gives Government time required to consider the whole situation."

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION

THE Government of India announce that they have ratified the Convention on International Civil Aviation which was signed at Chicago on December 7, 1944. The instrument of ratification will be deposited in Washington on March 1, 1947, in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Assembly of the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation at Montreal in May this year.

The Convention is, in effect, a revision of the International Convention for the Regulation of Aerial Navigation which was signed in Paris in 1919, to which India was a party and which has provided the model for international regulations and principles since the first world war.

Technical Regulations

It provides for the freedom of flight of aircraft of contracting States over the territory of other contracting States, with the exception of aircraft engaged on scheduled air services. Apart from this, the Convention elaborates the principles governing international air navigation, including, for example, measures to facilitate air navigation, conditions to be fulfilled by aircraft, and application of national laws.

Like the Paris Convention it is accompanied by a series of Annexes prescribing technical regulations and standards on a large number of matters including, for example, rules of the air, airworthiness of aircraft, licensing of personnel and air route systems.

The Convention also provides for the establishment of a permanent International Civil Aviation Organisation, to take the place of the Provisional International Civil Organisation, which has already been established with its seat at Montreal, and on which India is represented as a Member of the Council—by Mr. K. M. Raha.

With the simultaneous depositing of the instruments of ratification by a number of signatory States on the 1st March, 1947, it is expected that the Convention will come into force in April, 1947.

MR. ABDUR RAB NISHTAR'S SPEECH

(Continued from Page 410)

apparatus and erecting the lines.

You will not be able at a single conference to do more than suggest a general policy of action. The exchange of views started at the conference must be maintained throughout the year, so that future conference (I hope that these conferences will become an annual event) will be able to carry on the work started by this one.

You have a large agenda before you and not too much time in which to dispose of it. I shall not therefore take up any more of your time now, except to say that I hope your deliberations will be fruitful, and that I shall await with interest a series of constructive results of your conference.

I believe that the Director-General and the Chief Engineer have something to say to you before you begin your deliberations.

EXPANSION OF CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

AN expenditure of Rs. 14.39 crores on development of telegraph and telephone communications, a capital outlay of slightly over Rs. 2 crores on expansion of the Bombay telephone system and nearly Rs. 18 lakhs on the expansion of telephone switch boards in Calcutta were among the items relating to Transport and Communications Departments, which were approved by the Standing Finance Committee which met in New Delhi on November 19 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member.

The expenditure of Rs. 14.39 crores is in respect of the telecommunications development scheme which was approved at a revised cost of Rs. 16.24 crores by the Standing Finance Committee in February 1943. The scheme has undergone certain modifications with the result that the cost of the scheme is now estimated to be Rs. 14.39 crores. The bulk of the scheme has been completed and it is proposed to wind up the scheme on March 31, 1947, at a total estimated expenditure of Rs. 14.39 crores.

Bombay Telephone System

A scheme for the expansion of Bombay telephone system of 6,400 lines was approved by the Standing Finance Committee in February 1946 at a total estimated cost of Rs. 64 lakhs. At that time further expansion of the system was contemplated and on examination of the anticipated requirements it is estimated that to meet additional demands up to the year 1950 an expansion of 18,200 lines will be necessary. The total non-recurrent outlay is estimated at Rs. 2,07,77,000 and the annual recurring expenditure at Rs. 30,55,000. The project is expected to pay its way in the third year, and the revenue income in the fifth year is anticipated to be Rs. 18,03,000, more than the annual recurring expenditure.

Switch Boards in Calcutta

The Standing Committee also approved a capital outlay estimated at Rs. 17,87,400 and an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 9,88,600 for the development and improving the Calcutta telephone system. During the war, development in respect of Calcutta District exchanges was restricted to new connections required by the Defence Services and Government Departments or their nominees. Demands for new telephone connections from the general public were not met, and at present there are about 9,200 pending applications for new connections.

Measures for increasing the capacity of existing manual exchanges are therefore considered immediately necessary to tide over the period up to the automatisation of the Calcutta network which is not likely to begin before 1949. Accordingly it is proposed to install additional manual equipment of 5,200 exchange lines to meet the outstanding demands and relieve the present overload. The scheme now proposed is expected to result in a substantial profit to the Government.

The Committee in agreeing to the Bombay and Calcutta expansion schemes stressed the point that possibilities of manufacture of telephone equipment in India should be more actively explored and steps taken to promote indigenous manufacture.

Increased Demand for Centrifugal Pumps

India's demand for centrifugal pumps is likely to be between 150 and 300 per cent of her pre-war imports. Indigenous manufacturers should, therefore, draw up plans for expanding their works and send them to the Central Government. This was the general feeling expressed at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Pumps and Water Fittings held recently in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director-General, Industries and Supplies, Government of India.

After discussing the types of pumping machinery required to meet the immediate future needs of the country's agriculture and industry, the Committee concluded that the present production of hand pumps was sufficient and that no further development was called for. The manufacture of deep well bore-hole pumps could be included in the long-term development plan, but the production of reciprocating steam pumps and boiler feed pumps was not economic at present, the demands being low.

With reference to centrifugal pumps, the pre-war import of which averaged at 6,000 per annum, the Committee felt that the Central Agriculture Department should ascertain the future demand for such pumps on the basis of the agricultural and industrial plans of the Central and Provincial Governments. The manufacturers were asked to form themselves into an Association to investigate the question of standardisation and types of pumps produced, and for putting their case for protection to the Tariff Board.

Mr. J. N. Compton, at present officiating as Chief Mechanical Engineer on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, has been appointed to succeed Mr. E. Ingoldby, C.I.E., as Chief Controller of Standardization, Railway Board, in an officiating capacity, when the latter proceeds on leave preparatory to retirement early in January, 1947, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Board.

INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE MANUFACTURE

India's requirements of internal combustion engines for the next five years are estimated at about 5,000 per annum. Owing to the demands being much larger than production in India, it is not considered advisable to restrict imports of engines and component parts. The position may, however, be altered after some time. In the meantime, the manufacturers of internal combustion engines in India should represent their case to the Tariff Board. These were some of the conclusions reached at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Internal Combustion Engines, which met recently in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Director-General, Industries and Supplies.

It was also decided at the meeting that the manufacturers would furnish full particulars of component parts they would require from Indian Ordnance Factories which would investigate if such manufacture could be carried out. The Director-General promised to remove bottlenecks in the supply of imports of machine tools and specialised components required by the industry.

As regards improvement of the quality of engines produced in India, it was decided to evolve a scheme for the inspection and sealing of engines made in India so as to ensure minimum standards of performance.

PETROL RATIONING

The Government of India have announced that the unit value of petrol coupons would be doubled with effect from November 1, 1946. This step has been taken in view of printing difficulties which have rendered it necessary to economise in the issue of coupons. Thus for any given ration half the number of coupon units will be issued as would have been issued but for the doubling of the unit value.

The volume of motor spirit released for civil consumption in India as a whole next quarter would be roughly ten per cent more than in the current quarter. The additional petrol will be allocated at the discretion of Provinces and States but the basic rations of private cars and motor cycles, which, as the public are aware, have already been doubled in the current quarter, will not be affected.

Leaving by air on December 5, 1946, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, K.C.B., Flag Officer Commanding Royal Indian Navy, will proceed on a three-day tour of inspection of Bombay.

While in Bombay, Admiral Miles will visit the R.I.N. Detention Quarters, the Colaba Hospital and the Reserve Fleet.

Admiral Miles recently returned to New Delhi after a ten-day tour of Cochin, Trincomalie, Madras and Karachi. In Karachi he was present at the opening by the Governor of Sind of the Napier Fleet Club for ratings of the Royal Indian Navy.

HOME MEMBER'S APPEAL TO EDITORS

Regulating News of Communal Disturbances

THE responsibility of the Press in the communal temper prevailing in the country was discussed at a conference convened on November 10 by the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Member for Home, Information and Broadcasting, to which editors of newspapers in Delhi and members of the Central Press Advisory Committee were invited.

The conference, on the motion of Mr. Altaf Hussain ("Dwan"), set up a committee consisting of Messrs. Devadas Gandhi, J. N. Sahni, Altaf Hussain and Kirchner to revise the Convention recently adopted by the Standing Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors Conference in order to secure maximum support of the Press.

Communal Bitterness

Addressing the Conference, Sardar Patel referred to the communal bitterness as evidenced by the series of happenings, beginning with the Calcutta tragedy followed by Noakhali and Bihar, involving considerable loss of valuable lives and property, necessitating the use of troops as also the visits by the Viceroy and Members of the Interim Government, and drew attention to the fact that this feeling of insecurity was spreading to other areas as demonstrated by more recent events in and near Delhi. Though normally the military and the police have a large part to play in putting down the disturbances, the Press could help more by nipping the mischief in the bud. Only a few weeks ago the Press had formulated a convention whereby it imposed voluntary restrictions upon itself like non-publication of names of victims or assailants, confining itself to factual news, etc., but the convention has not proved effective in practice, as certain newspapers had indulged in displaying news and views in a manner which incited people to violence endangering the lives of millions.

Continuing Sardar Patel observed: "Popular Administrations cannot afford to encroach on the liberties of the Press, but at the same time they are entitled to its co-operation. I was dreaming of an atmosphere in which the Press would carry on without any irksome and irritating restrictions, and I am intent on realising that dream. But when attempts are being made to incite violence, endangering the lives of millions, no Government can remain unaffected. I want you to think out some agreed measure of restraint and discretion in publishing news and offering comments on topics of a communal nature, but if there is no agreement, Government will unwillingly be driven to the necessity of taking action, however unpalatable it might seem to the Press, public and Government alike. I earnestly appeal to you to extent your help and co-operation."

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Altaf Hussain suggested control of the Press all over India and not merely in Delhi. He said he had already advocated blacking-out of riot news, provided two conditions were observed:

(1) Hindu leaders condemned Hindu outrages and Muslim leaders condemned Muslim outrages;

(2) That in quelling disturbances a fair proportion of mixed troops should be employed.

Mr. J. N. Sahni suggested holding an emergent meeting of the Standing Committee of the Editors' Conference to which editors of Muslim newspapers might be invited in order



SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL.

to revise the convention in the light of experience.

Further speeches tended to emphasise the need to permit newspapers to publish factual news in a balanced manner. The idea of censorship of news was deprecated.

Mr. Kirchner emphasized that newspapers must voluntarily refrain from publishing *ex-parte* statements which were often based on hearsay.

Mr. Devadas Gandhi supported the suggestion to reconstitute the Central Press Advisory Committee so as to include representative Muslim opinion which would take upon itself the responsibility for writings in the Muslim section of the Press.

Mr. B. Shiva Rao also supported the reconstitution of the Central Press Advisory Committee for the specific purpose of dealing with the communal situation which had been allowed to grow worse because of a feeling of insecurity propagated in a certain section of the Press. He objected in particular to a film on the Bombay riots being displayed in cinema houses.

Mr. C. R. Srinivasan (Editor, Swadesamitran) assured the support to Government of responsible sections of the Press in any reasonable measure. He hoped Government would not hesitate to come down on the irresponsible section whenever freedom of the Press degenerated into licence.

Need for Restrictions

Winding up the proceedings, Sardar Patel referred to the almost unanimous feeling for the necessity of restrictions. It was also generally agreed that such restrictions should be voluntary restrictions on the part of the Press in order to deal with the communal situation in the country. It was true that utterances of some public men were the sources which occasionally fed the Press with communal poison, but while the voice of public men only reached a few thousands, the writings of the Press reached millions. Hence the responsibility of the Press was much greater.

Referring to the suggestion that a certain proportion of mixed military should be employed in quelling the disturbances, the Home Member paid a tribute to the Commander-in-Chief for having kept the Army away from the communal virus and said that that achievement should not be spoiled by suggestions such as the one made by Mr. Altaf Hussain. It would be calamitous if the communal virus were to go into the Army which must remain united if India was to be served well.

Continuing, Sardar Patel referred to the general feeling expressed in his correspondence about the ineffectiveness of the present administration and said: "I am being asked what I as the first Indian Home Member am doing. A paralysis has overtaken the administration due principally to the transitional nature of the present regime. For a time it was decided not to do anything which would spoil the chances of a coalition. Now that it has at last been achieved, we cannot afford to waste any more time while men, women and children are being done to death. Nobody would be so callous as not to realise the gravity of the situation. The shocking events that have happened since the great Calcutta tragedy must have made it quite clear to all that no party can gain its political objective by resort to force or violence. The present situation is one which brings discredit on India and we have to remember that the British too cannot be solely blamed—it is natural that they should wish to hand over power without incurring the charge of partiality or irresponsibility. Let us all put our shoulders together in putting down this madness which brings discredit to the country.

"Today we are functioning in a different atmosphere from what prevailed during the war. National representatives are in power, provincial autonomy is in full operation, and public opinion is receiving full expression. Government are entitled to your co-operation and are prepared to give effect to your agreed conclusions. This is my last appeal to you and I hope I shall have a satisfactory and ready response. It is no use saying we must wait till we have an all-India plan. Start a good thing from Delhi and it will spread outside in no time. But if you fail, there would be no alternative for us but to begin to govern."

Ad Hoc Committee's Report

On November 12, the *Ad Hoc* Committee submitted the following report:

"The Ad Hoc Committee is unanimously agreed that as long as the present emergency created by widespread communal disturbances lasts, the Press should not only refrain from publishing matter calculated to aggravate communal tension but should contribute in a positive way to the restoration of peaceful conditions in the country. To this end the Committee recommends the following code for adoption by newspapers and news agencies throughout India:

"News of communal disturbances will continue to be received from the following sources:

(a) The Central and the Provincial Governments or the local authorities concerned.

(b) The recognised news agencies

(c) Newspapers' own correspondents.

In publishing news received from the above sources, editors should take steps to ensure that the following principles are observed:

(a) That the presentation is factual and objective.

(b) That the communities of assailants or victims or casualties in particular incidents are not indicated either directly or indirectly.

(c) That casualty figures are neither mentioned in headlines nor otherwise prominently featured.

Photographs

"Casualty figures received from any of the three sources indicated above may, however, be mentioned in the text of messages, giving the source in each case. When official figures regarding a particular incident are not available, it should be clearly stated that figures given from other sources have not been officially confirmed.

"Great care should be exercised in the publication of photographs in view of the fact that photographs of a sensational character are liable to inflame communal passions. In no circumstances should photographs showing dead bodies of victims of violence be published.

"Statements by individuals or political organisations bearing on the communal situation and/or purporting to be accounts of specific communal incidents, shall not be circulated by news agencies or published by newspapers unless passed for publication by a central body set up for the purpose by Government. In constituting this body the Government is requested to consult the Ad Hoc Committee in the selection of its personnel.

"This, however, will not apply to statements made by Members of the Interim Government or Ministers of Provincial Governments.

Expression of Views

"While newspapers should be free to express their views on the political aspects of the communal question, no comments either editorially or otherwise should be published which directly or indirectly encourage or condone lawlessness or violence.

"Insulting or abusive language should be avoided in particular where important leaders are concerned, or in references to the various sections of the people.

"No cartoon which offends directly or indirectly against the spirit and the letter of the above shall be published."

A Fair Trial

The Government of India consider the formula to be inadequate to meet the requirements of the situation but are prepared to give the scheme a fair trial, and trust that, if in its working, it proves inadequate, the Press themselves will reconsider it and formulate a more effective alternative. Should this unfortunately not materialise or Government themselves find that it is not being properly implemented by all, they would have no alternative but to resort to such measures as they deem expedient.

Information has been received from the Indian Government Trade Commissioner in East Africa that 5,000 tons of potatoes are available for export from East Africa, shipment being made in monthly instalments commencing from the end of July 1946, said a Press Note, issued by the Commerce Department. Government of India, on October 25.

Imports of potatoes, except for seed purposes, from East Africa are at present covered by Open General Licence No. VII and licences are not required for their import from that country. Importers are requested to place orders as early as possible with a view to securing the whole quantity available.

COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE PRESS

A Press Communique issued by the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, on November 14 stated:

After discussion with representative editors in Delhi, the Government of India have appointed the following Committee to advise the Press on the publication of material likely to inflame communal passions:—

1. Mr. B. J. Kirchner.
2. Mr. Devadas Gandhi.
3. Mr. Altaf Husain.
4. Mr. J. N. Sahni.
5. Mr. Desabhandu Gupta.
6. Mr. Ali Sabri.

These gentlemen have been authorised to nominate alternates in the event of their absence.

This Committee, which is an *ad hoc* body for the limited purpose and period for which it may be required, will advise regarding the desirability or otherwise of publishing material which needs scrutiny in the light of the principles recently enunciated in Delhi and already published in the Press. The Government of India have agreed to an attempt being made on these lines to eradicate inflammatory material from the Press and will give the new Committee all the assistance they can.

FOOD DEBATE

(*Continued from Page* 383)

promise that that can be done in every case and I believe that there will be many cases in which it would be necessary for the Government to invest the entire amount. There will be many cultivators forthcoming who will invest either their own money or money raised otherwise in the hope that they will be able to recover what they have invested within four or five years at the most.

I, therefore, feel that although we have nearly passed through the present crisis and although we may not expect to be in the brightness of full sunshine, we have just begun to see streaks of light and I am hoping that we shall be able to pass through the darkness of this crisis and emerge into full sunshine very soon. But we cannot ignore the perennial problem of shortage of food in this country and the only way to meet it is to increase our own production.

I appeal to all members of this House, to all the Governments concerned, to all cultivators, to all producers, to scientists and technicians, both in Government service as well as elsewhere outside Government service, to help in this work of increasing our food and saving the country from having to face this kind of calamity again.



LADY WAVELL ADDRESSING THE FOURTH TUBERCULOSIS WORKERS' CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 23. (L. TO R.) MR. GHAZANFAR ALI KHAN, HEALTH MEMBER, LADY WAVELL, LT.-GEN. R. HAY, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA, AND SIR SHRI RAM.

ROLE OF NON-OFFICIAL BODIES IN COMBATING DISEASE

Lady Wavell's Address to Tuberculosis Workers

"THOUGH plans for health development are a responsibility of Government, non-official bodies, such as ours, must render all possible help by producing material on specific aspects of the general problem," observed Her Excellency the Viscountess Wavell, opening the Fourth Tuberculosis Workers' Conference, in New Delhi on November 23. The Conference was held at the New Delhi Town Hall under the auspices of the Tuberculosis Association of India. Over 100 delegates from all parts of India attended the three-day session.

Lady Wavell said: "The Tuberculosis Association of India now exchanges ideas and compares notes with workers from many foreign countries. Thus valuable information is disseminated to workers throughout the world.

"The recent Conference of Health Ministers held in Delhi shows that the problem of public health is receiving the earnest attention of the authorities in this country. Though plans for health development are the responsibility of Governments, non-official bodies—such as ours—must render all possible help by producing material on specific aspects of the general problem. So, here I stress, the great importance of your deliberations.

"Tuberculosis—I am told—is responsible in India for an annual mortality exceeding 500,000 and for the infection of 2,500,000. At the 1945 Conference, the desirability of obtaining and adhering to certain minimum standards of efficiency in all Tuberculosis Association Institutions was discussed. I do feel that this great Association should stand for some definite degree of care and comfort to those patients it so nobly serves. In equipment and buildings, this should be possible: in personnel, I fear it is bound to be more difficult.

Health Member's Assurance

"Your discussions, and still more the decisions you take during the next three days, may prove of far-reaching influence."

The Hon'ble Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Member for Health, Government of India, who presided, gave the Conference the assurance that "the Government of India would always give every possible help and support to the fight which your Association is carrying on against a terrible enemy of mankind." He hoped that in the expansion of the health services, now being planned, "we shall be able to make adequate provisions for the prevention and cure of the disease; which it is the special object of your Association to eradicate from this country."

Earlier, Lt.-Gen. R. Hay, Chairman of the Tuberculosis Association of India, welcoming the delegates said that with the end of the war trained medical personnel engaged in war work would now be gradually available for fighting the disease and ill-health. He expected that tuberculosis, "India's Public Enemy No. 2", ranking next only to malaria, would receive in all quarters the attention it deserved. He added that the discussions held on important subjects and the decisions taken at the last Conference in March, 1945, were communicated to the Provinces and States which were of great value as material contributions to the anti-tuberculosis campaign in the country.

Dr. P.V. Benjamin read a paper on "Tuberculosis Campaign," which was followed by discussion in which a number of delegates participated.

A number of other papers were also read and discussed.

Subscriptions to the 2½ per cent. Loan 1954, having amounted to Rs. 35 crores including the amount taken up by Government, the list was closed for further subscription, said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on November 15.

PLAN TO RAISE STANDARD OF LIVING OF VILLAGERS

Krishnamachari Committee's Recommendations

A wide and varied programme of development to be organised and executed with substantial Government assistance, to produce an "economy of abundance" is envisaged in the report, recently published, of the Prices Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Sir V. T. Krishnamachari.

The programme includes anti-erosion and soil conservancy measures; irrigation and drainage schemes; agricultural improvement by bringing the results of research home to the people, supplying improved seeds and manures and adopting better methods of tillage; more scientific storage; regulated markets and co-operative marketing societies; introduction of subsidiary industries on a nationwide scale after careful surveys of local conditions; reform of land tenures and of land revenue systems generally and protection to the agricultural labourer. Government assistance should take many forms—subsidies; free distribution of seeds and manures; loans with or without interest, etc.

The Sub-Committee emphasises that isolated measures or groups of 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 mobilised in support of the policy.

Guarantee of Fair Price

Among measures of assistance, the guaranteeing of a fair price for the produce of agriculture plays a most important part. The agriculturist in India is economically defenceless and suffers from age-long disabilities and he cannot be expected to adopt improved methods unless he is assured that their cumulative effect will be an increase in his income. Only a minimum guarantee of prices can give him this assurance.

The Sub-Committee defines a 'fair-price' as a price which, after meeting the costs of production, would leave a representative producer, an income sufficient to maintain him and his family at a standard of life equivalent to that enjoyed by comparable classes of the population.

The Sub-Committee recognises that, at present, reliable statistics of costs of production and family budgets are not available. It therefore suggests for adoption, pending the collection of data under this head, a rough and ready test of 'fairness'. This is the parity between agricultural and industrial prices that existed in the quinquennium 1924-25 to 1929-30 which is generally accepted as a period during which conditions in this respect were most satisfactory. The parity should be between agricultural prices on the one side and on the other prices of commodities that enter into the cost of production and prices of articles that enter into the cost of living, such as cloth, kerosene, salt, gur, sweet oil, iron and steel (agricultural implements), bullocks, manures, cattle feeds such as oilcakes, and fodder and such other items as may be regarded as representative of the variable items in costs of agriculture and cost of living.

The Sub-Committee makes specific proposals for agricultural prices (i) during the period of control, and (ii) for a short period about 3 years after controls are removed. For the former, it suggests parity prices on the basis described above and for the latter, parity prices subject to a rock-bottom minimum. This, according to some members, would be the actual price for wheat in Lyallpur in the quinquennium referred to above, other members suggest 25 per cent. above this price. A section of the Sub-Committee recommends that, at no time in the future, should prices be allowed to go below this level.

Maximum prices as a measure of fairness to consumers is also suggested. For administrative and other reasons, the Sub-Committee proposes that the scheme of price fixation recommended by it should be introduced in the first instance only for important foodgrains —rice, wheat, jowar and bajra and among commercial crops for cotton, jute and sugarcane. The only effective manner in which the Government can support prices is by freely entering the market when necessity arises. The Sub-Committee has suggested the machinery suitable for conducting such operations and discussed also the basis for financing them.

Reserve Stocks

The question of reserve stocks has also received detailed consideration. It is contemplated that between 1½ to 3 million tons will have to be held as reserve stock for the whole country. The Sub-Committee recommends the setting up of an All-India Agricultural Prices Council as the final authority for this purpose. This body will consist of representatives of the Central Government, Provinces, and States joining together, by agreements freely negotiated, to formulate and support an agreed price policy.

Provinces and States have everything to gain from stability in agricultural prices. Land revenue, their most important source of revenue, will become more assured; resettlements will have a more logical basis, and irrigation and other schemes, abandoned in the years of falling prices, will become practicable. At the same time, problems of financing of agriculture and crop insurance will become easier of solution. The Sub-Committee is confident therefore that voluntary co-operation of States and Provinces and the Centre will be forthcoming in support of their proposals.

There are two different stages comprised in the programme: (i) the determination of "fair price" and (ii) the supporting of it. The first is to be entrusted to a quasi-independent "expert" tribunal and the second to a Commodity Corporation financed by the participating Governments on an agreed basis. The Sub-Committee has bestowed much thought on the principles that should regulate the working of the Corporation in the hope that their suggestions will be of assistance to the Council when established.

The Aim Explained

The Sub-Committee strongly recommends that, pending the establishment of the Council, immediate steps should be taken in three directions: Firstly, an organisation should be brought into existence under the Central Government to collect data on costs of production, yields per acre, etc., in different areas and for different crops. Secondly, there should be a sustained drive for providing scientific storage accommodation for crops all over the country in collaboration with Provinces and States and trading and other interests. Thirdly, marketing should be organised in all parts of India—there should be a wide network of regulated markets and co-operative marketing societies of farmers.

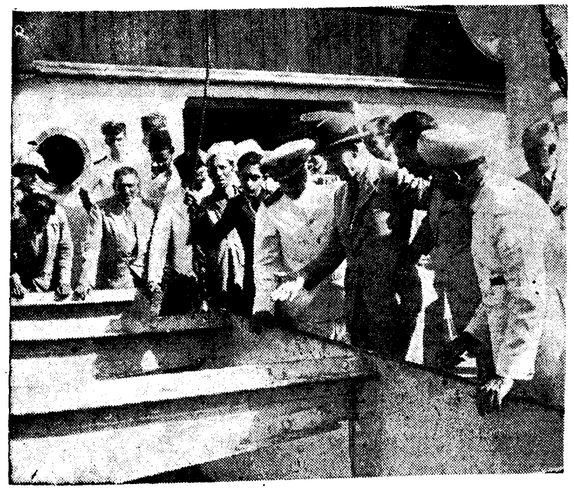
Explaining the context of the proposals made by the Sub-Committee, Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, the Chairman, says: "The aim is to raise to the highest possible level the standard of living of all classes of the population dependent on agriculture. This can only be achieved by all the Governments in India steadily pursuing a dynamic policy of revitalising all the interrelated sides of rural life—a policy which will radically change the outlook of the villager and give him 'the will to live better'."

SUGAR PRICE INCREASED

The Government of India have agreed to increase with immediate effect the ex-factory price of sugar from Rs. 16-10 to Rs. 20-14 per maund in all Provinces, except the Punjab and N.-W.F.P. where the price will be Rs. 24 per maund. To cover the difference in price on existing stocks of sugar, the Sugar (Temporary Excise Duty) Ordinance 1946 has been promulgated to-day imposing a special excise duty of Rs. 4-4 per maund on all sugar in factories, or with wholesale dealers, or retail dealers who buy or sell sugar wholesale, stated a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India.

The Ordinance provides for "assessing officers" or other persons duly authorised in writing to enter any place where sugar liable to the excise duty is kept, and call for and inspect accounts, books or documents and secure such other information as they consider necessary.

The penalty for the contravention of any of the provisions of the Ordinance, is imprisonment extending to one year or fine or both.



DURING HIS RECENT TOUR OF BOMBAY, H. E. LORD WAVELL PAID A SURPRISE VISIT TO THE HAJ PILGRIM SHIP 'KHOSRU'.

FACILITIES FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

MR. A. D. AZHAR who was deputed by the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India to visit the Hejaz in connection with certain matters relating to the Indian pilgrims met His Excellency Shaikh Abdullah Suleiman, Finance Minister and Sheikh Mohammad Sarur Sabban, Director General, Finance, and Haj Affairs, and also had audience with His Majesty King Ibn-i-Saud and discussed with them the question of providing facilities to the Indian pilgrims.

They all promised help and His Majesty the King showed special interest in the welfare of Indian pilgrims. At the end of the interview the King asked Mr. Azhar to convey his good wishes and salaams to the Indian Muslims and his promise that his Government will do all it can to provide facilities to the Indian pilgrims.

Mr. Azhar had a successful tour in the Hejaz and will be soon submitting his recommendations to the Government of India as a result of his study.

A Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on November 8 stated:

The following will be India's representatives to the Industrial Committee on Textiles which will open in Brussels on November 14, 1946:

Mr. M. K. Vellodi, Deputy High Commissioner for India and Mr. A. S. Ivengar, Director of Labour Welfare, Bombay, representing Government; Mr. Shantilal Mangaldas, Ahmedabad and Mr. Naval H. Tata, Bombay, representing employers; Mr. Shamprasad Vasavada, Ahmedabad, and Mr. P. Ramamurthy, Madras, representing workers.



HAJ PILGRIMS BOARD THE PILGRIM SHIP 'KHOSRU' AT BOMBAY.

INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN BURMA

The Government of India have appointed Dr. M. A. Rauf, B.C.L. (Oxon), LL.D., Bar-at-Law, as their Representative in Burma. He will proceed to Burma shortly and take charge of his office.

Dr. M. A. Rauf is at present Judicial Member of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, Allahabad.

He was for a number of years a prominent member of the Rangoon Bar. In 1938-39, Dr. Rauf served as a member of the Riots Inquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Burma under the Chairmanship of Justice Brawnd to inquire into the causes of the anti-Indian riots of 1938.

While in India since 1942, Dr. Rauf has been participating in activities connected with the welfare of Indian evacuees from Burma.

As it has been represented to Government that there are still some evacuees who have not been able to take out Burma evacuee indentity certificates, the Government of India have decided that such identity certificates may be issued up to February 28, 1947, said a Press Note, issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on October 25.

As no certificates will be issued after that date, those evacuees who have not yet taken out the certificates are advised to apply for them to the District authorities concerned without any further delay.

As stated in a previous Press Note, taking out of an identity certificates does not make it obligatory on anyone to leave for Burma now or at any time in the future.

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES PAYMENT OF RS. 2½ CRORES TO NEPAL

THE Government of India have made payment to the Nepal Government of a lump sum of Rs. 2½ crores as capitalised value of Rs. 10 lakhs recently added to the standing yearly present to Nepal. This sum is expected to help the Government of Nepal in developing her industries, particularly through hydro-electric projects.

The Government of India has been making an annual present of Rs. 10 lakhs to Nepal in recognition of her great services rendered during the First World War. In 1945, the position was re-examined not only against the need for according generous recognition of Nepal's great assistance in the Second World War but in the light of India's own post-war reconstruction problem.

A most promising field of development which would be of benefit to both India and Nepal was in the control of the great rivers which issue from the Nepal Himalayas both for hydro-electric power and flood storage. The Government of India therefore decided to increase the annual present to Nepal from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs with the thought that the enhanced present capitalised up to 50 per cent. might be applied by Nepal to hydro-electric projects within Nepal and to the purchase of capital machinery for the further industrial development of the country. This decision was warmly received by the Nepalese Government and by all classes of the Nepalese people. The capitalised value of the annual addition of Rs. 10 lakhs is calculated at Rs. 2½ crores, and this sum was paid in July, 1946 to the Nepal Government.

The Standing Finance Committee, which met on November 19 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, particularly noted the point that the money was intended to be used for the development of Nepal which will benefit India also, and approved the payment.

India's Contribution to U.N.O.

The Committee also approved the payment by the Government of India of a sum of Rs. 36,42,763 as India's contribution to the Working Capital Fund of the United Nations Organisation and a sum approximately Rs. 31,00,000 annually as India's subscription to the Organisation. A recurring expenditure during the first and subsequent years of Rs. 8 lakhs approximately on India's delegations to United Nations Organisation was also approved. The Committee, however, stressed that the Indian delegation should closely watch the scale of U.N.O.'s budget and that steps should be taken to have the percentage of India's contribution reduced.

The Committee also approved an expenditure of Rs. 32,100 non-recurring and Rs. 1,30,000 recurring for 1946-47 and Rs. 2,17,300 per annum for subsequent years for intensification of educational training in the Frontier Corps.

The standard of education in the Frontier Corps of Militia and Scouts on the N.W. Frontier is low and as the Corps have to assume greater responsibilities for watch and ward to relieve the regular army of some of its present commitments on the North-West Frontier, the Frontier Committee recommended an intensification of educational training. The education of men of the Frontier Corps is expected to spread education in the Tribal Areas from which most of them are recruited and so contribute directly to the long-term policy of development of those areas.

MODEL DAIRY FARM FOR BALUCHISTAN

The Committee agreed to a sum of Rs. 12,33,000 non-recurring and Rs. 6,80,000 recurring for a period of 3 years for a scheme for the establishment of a model dairy farm in Baluchistan. This scheme is a part of the post-war development plan of Baluchistan and aims at improving and distributing livestock in rural areas.

Baluchistan which suffers from a grave shortage of milk and dairy products has according to a cattle census taken in 1945, only 57,097 breeding cows mostly of no fixed breeds which only give an average of 2 lbs. of milk daily. Allowing one-third of these cows remaining dry the average daily production of milk amounts to 96,000 lbs. which distributed over a population of 5,01,631 works out at about 3 ozs. per capita. At present, therefore, a major part of the rural population entirely depends on sheep, and goats for milk and dairy products. The lactation period of sheep and goats is however too short to enable them to satisfy the needs of the population for more than 3 months in a year, with the result that the Province of Baluchistan depends mostly on imports of ghee from Afghanistan Sind and Punjab. In cities there are a few poorly managed and badly housed private dairies stocked with the most miserable cattle, while one big town, Quetta, possesses no modern civil dairy farm.

In order to remedy this state of affairs, it is proposed to make a beginning immediately with establishing a model dairy farm at Quetta and to plan to establish future dairies with stock produced in this present dairy in the remaining towns in the Province as well as to distribute stock in rural areas. The Quetta dairy farm will have a stock of 500 milch cows as well as 150 dry cows in order to maintain the required number of cows in milk throughout the year. The farm is estimated to produce 4,000 lbs. or 50 maunds of milk daily as against 25,000 which is in daily short supply in the Quetta town at present.

The intention is to run the scheme as a self-supporting measure from the fourth year onwards.

WATER SUPPLY SCHEME FOR AJMER

A sum of Rs. 40,89,250 was agreed to as financial assistance to the Ajmer Municipal Committee for water supply, drainage and sewage disposal scheme of Ajmer city by the Standing Finance Committee which met on November 19. Half of the sum will be treated as grant-in-aid and half as a loan to the Ajmer Municipal Committee to be repaid with interest over a period not exceeding 30 years.

The existing water supply of Ajmer town allows less than 10 gallons per head per day. The city also lacks a proper drainage and sewage system and there is no adequate arrangement for disposal of refuse. This has been found to be a serious menace to the health of the inhabitants of Ajmer and to the pilgrims, both Hindus and Muslims, from other parts of India who come to Ajmer.

The Government of India, therefore, agreed in 1940 to assist the Ajmer Municipal Committee to meet the cost of schemes by making a grant of half of the cost and half by giving a loan to be repaid in 30 years. In view of the difficulty of obtaining building material required for the project during wartime, the scheme was postponed. With the improvement of the position, the scheme is now to be undertaken.

The present rate of compost manure production in India amounts to about one million tons per year, according to the quarterly reports of the Compost Scheme being operated in different Provinces and States under the Grow More Food Campaign sponsored by the Central Government.

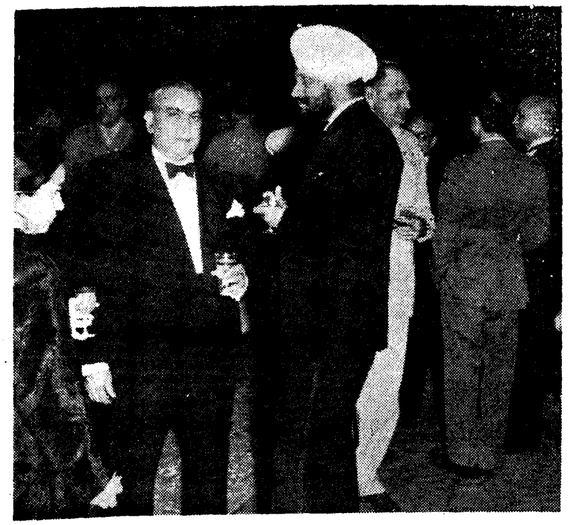
During the quarter ending June 30, 1946, 422 municipal centres in India produced 84,600 tons of compost from town refuse and sold 56,940 tons to cultivators. During the year 1945-46 about 300,000 tons of compost manure were prepared from the above source and 200,000 tons were applied to land.

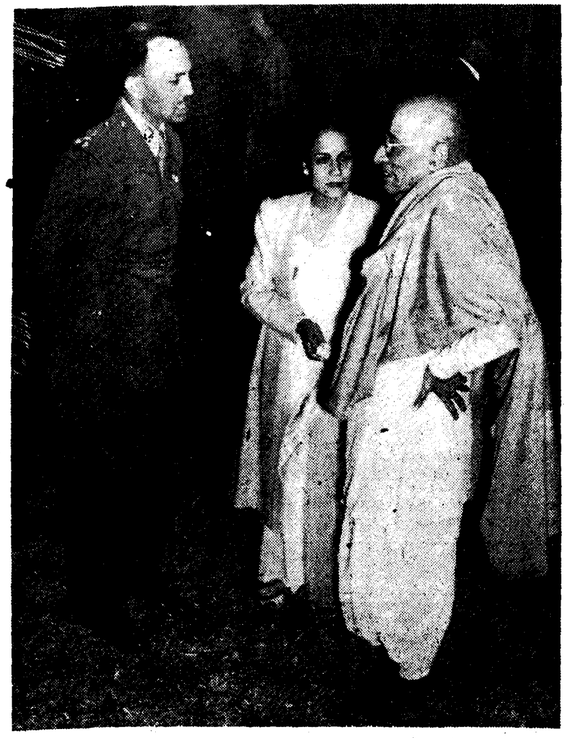
In addition to the production in the towns, about 700,000 tons of compost per year is being prepared from village refuse under the Village Compost Scheme, in which 5,000 villages are co-operating.

DELHI "AT HOME" TO N.W.A. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MINISTERS of the Interim Government prominent civilians and senior officers of the Fighting Services were present at an "at home" given by Brig. and Mrs. S. P. P. Thorat, on November 10 to meet the Chairman, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, and members of the National War Academy Working Committee. Brig. Thorat is Secretary of the Committee.

Among the guests were the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member; the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Education: H.E. Sir Mirza Mohamed Ismail; the Hon'ble Pandit H. N. Kunzru; Dr. Amaranatha Jha; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, Flag Officer Commanding R.I.N.; Air Marshal H. S. P. Walmsley, Acting Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India; General Sir Geoffrey Scoones; Lt.-Gen. T. O. Thompson, Director, Medical Services; Mr. G. S. Bhalja, Defence Secretary; the Dowager Maharanis of Baroda and Cooch Behar; Sir Gurunath Bewoor; the Hon'ble F/Lt. and Mrs. Rup Chand and Rai Saheb Bakshi Bhagat Ram Anand.





(Top) Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member, talking to Mr. V. Narahari Rao, Finance Secretary, Government of India, at the party.

(Below) Mr. C. Rajagopalachari (right) chatting with Brig. and Mrs. S.P.P. Thorat, the hosts.

IRAQI ARMY OFFICERS ENTERTAINED

At a tea-party on November 2, the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member in the Interim Government, entertained, at his residence, the Iraqi Army officers who were in Delhi as guests of the Indian Army. Among those present at the function were Sir Marshal H.S.P. Walmsley, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India; Maj.-Gen. W. F. Hasted, Engineer-in-Chief; Commodore J. Lawrence, Chief of Staff, R.I.N.; Mr. G.S. Bhalja, Defence Secretary and Mr. Mohamad Ali, Financial Adviser, Defence and Supply.

The Iraqi officers spent the day in sight-seeing. They visited the Juma Masjid, Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb and the Qutab Minar among other places of historical interest.

Later in the afternoon they went to the Viceroy's House where they were shown round the State rooms and gardens.

HOW TO OBTAIN PRIORITIES FOR PASSAGES TO U. K.

The Government of India have decided to discontinue the issue of priorities for passage to the U.K. This decision does not mean that shipping conditions have returned to normal, but, in consultation with shipping interests, Government have come to the conclusion that the improvement has been such that they would no longer be justified in withholding such passage accommodation, as is available, from the shipping lines which, in normal times dispose of it. This decision is in accordance with the views expressed to them on behalf of the public travelling by this route, said a Press Communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on November 8.

Bulk allotment of shipping will continue to be made by His Majesty's Government while the Sea Passages Board (India) will continue to co-ordinate the requirements of the various claimants. The civilian allotment each month will be placed at the disposal of a joint body representing the shipping lines which will allot accommodation to applicants through the medium of a Passage Pool.

Allotment of Priority

Up to November 30 the Civil Passage Controller will continue to receive applications and allot priorities for the rest of 1946 and the first half of 1947. From December 1, persons desiring to travel to the U.K. should apply to a Shipping or Travel Agent. The Agent will forward the names to the Secretaries of the Passage Pool who will register them for accommodation (after priority holders) in the order of application.

Allotment of priority made by Government up to the end of November for passage in the first half of 1947 will be intimated to the Secretaries of the Passage Pool and, subject to compliance by intending passengers with the conditions indicated elsewhere in this announcement, this will be honoured by them in the allocation of accommodation.

Persons allotted priorities who have refused offers of accommodation by the end of December will not be included in the list to be handed over to the Secretaries of the Passage Pool and if they still wish to travel, they must make fresh application to their Shipping or Travel Agents.

After November 30 intending passengers who hold priorities allotted by Government should confirm with their Shipping/Travel Agents not more than eight and not less than six weeks beforehand, the approximate date on which they wish to sail. If this is not done, it will not be possible for the Secretaries of the Passage Pool to comply with the priorities allotted.

It is emphasised that intending civilian passengers to the U.K. who have not applied for priority by November 30 should apply for accommodation to a Shipping or Travel Agent. Applications must not, in any case, be made direct to the Secretaries of the Passage Pool.

PASSAGES TO U.K.

Certain misunderstandings having come to light in respect of the recent Government Press Note regarding the discontinuance of priorities for passage to the U.K., it becomes necessary to emphasise the fact that the Civil Passage Controller is not concerned with passages for Service Personnel or their families.

These continue to apply for passage through the normal service channels as heretofore.

Working Class Cost of Living Index in Rangoon

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 principle groups of Indian workpeople, *viz.*, Tamils, Telugu and Oriyas, on a singleman basis.

The average cost of the same items in 1941 have been represented by the base figure of 100.

MONTHS	*Food*	*Fuel and lighting*	*Clothing*	*Miscellaneous*	*All items combined*
November, 1945	545	261	2,782	410	656
December, 1945	654	253	2,764	421	744
January, 1946	542	221	1.702	455	581
February, 1946	474	203	605	455	426
March, 1946	388	194	327	440	369
April, 1946	382	228	327	440	368
May, 1946	409	243	327	429	389
June, 1946	430	194	327	425	400
July, 1946	426	184	327	442	397

INDO-CEYLON TRADE

THE value of goods imported by Ceylon from British India in August, 1946, showed a decline as compared with the previous month, the figures being Rs. 6,474,540 and Rs. 10,456,464 respectively. The fall off was mainly in cotton piecegoods and cotton manufactures. Exports from Ceylon to British India also showed a decline of over Rs. 4½ lakhs, the figure for August being Rs. 1,937,408 compared with Rs. 2,414,751 for July, 1946.

Giving these figures in his latest monthly report, the Government of India Trade Commissioner in Ceylon states that India's share in Ceylon's total imports for August, 1946, was 11.12 per cent. as compared with 21.04 per cent. in July, 1946 and 14.87 per cent. in August, 1945. In the eight months' period ended August, 1946, the value of British Indian imports to Ceylon was Rs. 112,915,607 as compared to Rs. 121,479,879 for the 8 months' period ending August, 1945. The largest item of imports for 1946 as in the previous year was cotton piecegoods the value of which was Rs. 19,106,378 followed by dried fish valued at Rs. 11,109,003.

The Trade Commissioner draws attention to complaints which continue to come in about Indian business methods, the most common of which relates to the great disparity between the sample on the basis of which the order is obtained and the goods actually supplied, which at times are reported to be defective and even unsaleable. This has led to somewhat cautious approach by Ceylon traders towards Indian connections. The Commissioner emphasises that it is of utmost importance that Ceylon importers should have the fullest confidence in the business integrity of Indian exporters as goodwill above all is necessary for the retention and the development of the market.

Another grievance on the part of the Ceylon importers relates to the difficulty in obtaining samples from the Indian manufacturers or the high prices demanded for them. He points out that the general practice of all industrially advanced countries is to send samples to create interest in the prospective buyers. It is suggested that Indian firms should also start sending suitably qualified representatives who would etablish good and lasting contacts. Publicity for their wares in Ceylon journals has also not been taken on by Indian concerns and Indian exporters desirous of developing market in Ceylon are advised to see that their goods are well-advertised.

An important point in marketing of Indian goods, the Commissioner points out, is the need for attractive design and good quality, good packing and get-up. Such goods are generally in demand in Ceylon, and some perfectly good products have been handicapped by shabby and unattractive packing and labelling.

During the month, the Commissioner received a large number of enquiries. Those from firms in Ceylon related to the import of dried fish, sail cloth, stationery articles, toys and pocket stoves, safety matches, paints and varnishes, drugs, electrical goods, textiles and machinery.

RESTITUTION OF LOOTED PROPERTY

Procedure Regarding Submission of Claims

A PRESS Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 15 stated:

The Far Eastern Commission is considering the question of restoration to all Allied countries objects in the four categories listed below found in Japan which are identified as having been located in an Allied country at the time of occupation of that country and were removed by fraud or duress by the Japanese or their Agents:

(a) Industrial and transportation machinery and equipment.

(b) Gold, other precious metals, precious gems, foreign securities, foreign currencies, and other foreign exchange assets.

(c) Cultural objects.

(d) Agricultural products and industrial raw materials.

Restitution Claims

It is proposed that restitution claims in respect of any property coming within the above categories should be made by the Government of the Allied country from whose territory the property claimed was removed and restitution of such property would be made to that Government.

In order that restitution claims of Indians may be taken up with the Governments of the respective territories, the persons concerned are hereby invited to submit to the Commerce Department of the Government of India very urgently claims with full details regarding objects belonging to them and removed from:

(1) Empire territories, *i.e.*, Burma, Malaya, Straits Settlements, British Borneo and Hong-Kong.

(2) Non-Empire territories, *i.e.*, the Netherlands East Indies, Philippines, French Indo-China, Siam and occupied parts of China; and

(3) Indian territories, *i.e.*, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, parts of the Province of Assam, Manipur and other States in Assam which came under enemy occupation.

Claims in respect of (1), (2) and (3) above should be submitted in separate statements.

Those concerned are also advised that in order to avoid delay they should, besides submitting claims to the Commerce Department, also submit them with all available details direct to the Government of the country where properties were looted.

INDIA'S SHARE OF REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY

THE Government of India have made a bid to the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency at Brussels for the allocation to India of the following six plants from Germany by way of Reparations, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India, on November 2.

It is not known at this stage which of these plants will be finally allocated to India. Detailed inventories in respect of these plants are now with the Industries and Supplies Department (Planning Branch), Government of India (Jaisalmer House Annexe, Man Singh Road, New Delhi). Industrialists who are interested in these plants may, if they so desire, send their representatives to New Delhi to inspect these inventories.

A. C. A. Plant No.	*Name*	*Description of Plant.*
19	Hahn Tessky Indev Werke, Esslingen Neckar (Products—Single Spindle automatic Screw machines).	Machine Tools Plant.
5	Kloeckner - Humboldt - Deutz, Oberursel, Greater Hessen.	Diesel Engine Plant.
2	Bayerische Motorenwerke, B.M.W., No. 1, Munich, Bavaria.	Motor cycle and Aero Engine Plant.
14	Bayeriche Motorenwerke, B.M.W., No. 2, Munich, Bavaria.	—do—
1014	Norddeutsche Dornierwerke No. 2 Factory, Luebeck.	Aircraft Parts Plant (now manufacturing economy stores and household utensils).
9	Hensoldt & Soehne, Herborn, Greater Hessen.	Optical Instruments Plant

Claims for Property in Axis Satellite Countries

Indian subjects as also Rulers or Subjects of Indian States, resident in India, and firms and other bodies constituted under the laws of British India or of Indian States, who own property in Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary or Rumania, are invited to furnish not later than December 31, 1946, particulars of any claim they may wish to make for the restoration of, or compensation for loss or damage to, their property, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 16.

Favourable Consideration

It added: These particulars should be furnished to the Director of Commercial Intelligence, 1, Council House Street, Calcutta, in quadruplicate in the prescribed form which may be obtained from him on request together with notes for guidance. Applicants for these documents should indicate the country in which their property is situated. This procedure should be followed also by those who have already registered their claims with the Director of Commercial Intelligence.

All possible action will be taken to promote the favourable consideration of the claims which come within the categories for which the Governments concerned have accepted liability in principle under the terms of the several Armistices.

The arrangements for claims for loss or damage to Indian property in Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Siam will be announced later.

Food officials of Bihar, Bombay, Madras, the Punjab, Sind and the U.P. and of the States of Travancore, Cochin and Mysore met in New Delhi on November 20 under the chairmanship of Mr. Vishnu Sahay, Director-General, Central Food Department, to discuss grain allocations to the main deficit areas during the next three months. The food budget for the period November 1, 1946, to February 1, 1947, drawn up on the basis of present stocks, anticipated local procurement and expected imports was discussed and approved, though it was agreed that the overall food position still continued to remain unsatisfactory.

The conference discussed a provisional *kharif* plan for 1946-47 on the basis of surpluses and deficits declared by the provinces and States, on November 21.

Pilgrim ships Akbar and Englestan sailed from Jedda on November 12 with 1373 and 838 pilgrims respectively, said a Press Note issued by the Government of India on November 6.

CO-ORDINATION OF MUNICIPAL BODIES' WORK IN DELHI

Committee Appointed to Consider Arrangements

THE Government of India have decided to appoint a committee to consider what arrangements are necessary for co-ordination between the various municipal bodies in the Delhi urban area and whether a Corporation should be constituted, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Health, Government of India, on November 22.

There are at present five local bodies in the Delhi urban area, the Delhi and New Delhi municipal committees and the Civil Lines, Western Extension and Fort notified area committees and it is necessary to consider whether in the interest of more efficient municipal administration these various units should be amalgamated.

The municipal bodies in Delhi operate under the Punjab Municipal Act. It is recognised that the Punjab Act is more suitable for small towns than for large urban units, and that in large cities a Corporation, with a more advanced administrative and executive organisation, is needed for efficient municipal government. The Committee will consider whether the time has come to establish a Corporation in Delhi.

Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz, a retired member of the Punjab Civil Service, formerly Financial Commissioner, Punjab, and Chief Minister, Kapurthala State, will be Chairman of the Committee.

The following have been invited to serve on the Committee:

Sir Shri Ram, Sir Sobha Singh, O.B.E.; K.B. Habibur Rehman, O.B.E.; President of the Delhi Municipal Committee; Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A.; Mr. J. C. Roberts, member of the Civil Lines Notified Area Committee; Sir Arthur Dean, President of the New Delhi Municipal Committee; Mr. Qadeer-ud-Din Ahmed; K.B. Haji Rashid Ahmed; Mrs. Hannah Sen; Begum Anwar Ali; Chaudhri Gordhandas, Member of the Shahdara Municipal Committee. Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal; Deputy Commissioner, Delhi; and the Financial Adviser, Delhi Province.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Committee are as follows:

To consider and make recommendations regarding the steps to be taken to obtain a greater degree of co-ordination in the administration of the local bodies in the Delhi urban area, namely the Delhi Municipal Committee, the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Civil Lines Notified Area Committee, the Western Extension Notified Area Committee and the Fort Notified Area Committee and in particular to consider whether it is desirable and practicable to amalgamate the existing units and constitute a single municipal administration;

If it is recommended that a new municipal authority should be constituted, to consider and make recommendations—

(1) Whether (a) the Shahdara municipal area and (b) the Mahrauli notified area should be included in the jurisdiction of the new authority;

(2) whether any special administrative arrangements will be necessary for the area at present included in New Delhi municipality or any other area within the jurisdiction of the new authority;

(3) whether, having regard to the fact that the new authority will not have the right to levy terminal tax on goods carried by railway under the provisions of Section 143 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935, the new authority will have adequate financial resources and, if not, how such resources should be provided.

If it is recommended that a new municipal authority should be consitututed, to consider whether such authority should be a Corporation and to make recommendations in regard to:

(a) the constitution of the authority;

(b) the qualifications of voters;

(c) the nature of the main executive machinery and its duties and functions;

(d) the qualifications to be required for the chief executive posts and the remuneration to be attached to them.

LOWEST MALARIA INCIDENCE IN DELHI

Vigorous Anti-Mosquito Measures

AS a result of vigorous anti-mosquito measures the incidence of malaria in the Delhi urban area during 1945 was the lowest on record in relation to the population under control, states the annual report of the Malaria Institute of India for that year.

Anti-malaria campaign in and around Delhi has been carried on for about 10 years under the direct control and supervision of the officers of the Institute. The total number of cases diagnosed as malaria at the municipal dispensaries during the period June 1 to November 30 was 34,660, which was lower by 3,313 than the corresponding figure in 1944. D.D.T. was systematically sprayed throughout a belt extending along the eastern and southern periphery of the urban area. It was also applied from aircraft in the riverain section.

Malaria control schemes under the direction of the Institute were also in operation in the coalfields of Jharia, Raniganj, and Korea, etc.

Research Work

The Institute consists of two sections—Public Health and Research. The research activities were restricted owing to war conditions but training in malariology was imparted to a large number of persons. Six intensive courses, each of four weeks' duration, were held during the year, for medical officers and anti-malaria assistants numbering 146 of the Defence Services. In addition instructional courses of short duration were arranged for a number of other workers and officers from India and abroad, including two Chinese.

A number of publications dealing with various branches of malariology were published by members of the staff and advice on malaria control measures was given to a number of workers throughout the country.

A branch of the research section has been working at Coonoor and a Unit known as the Insecticide and Mosquito Repellent Enquiry, financed by the Indian Research Fund Association, carried out field experiments on various insecticides and repellents at Marianbari (Bengal).

Monkey malaria strains and J.S.B. stain, which was developed at the Institute and described by Dr. R. B. Manwell of New York as an important advancement in laboratory technique, were supplied to a number of workers in India and abroad.

Work on D.D.T.

A number of drugs such as Paludrine (M4888), Neoarsphenamine and various remedies containing indigenous drugs said to be effective in the treatment of malaria were tested on monkeys in the laboratories of the Institute.

Work on D.D.T. emulsion concentrate was continued. A number of concentrates received from other laboratories were tested. Experiments were carried out to study the residual effect of D.D.T. emulsion and oil solution in a number of villages in Delhi area. The Viceregal Estate was sprayed with 5 per cent. D.D.T. solution to see if cockroaches and flies could be controlled by indoor spraying and sandflies by spraying outside up to a radius of about 100 feet. The results were satisfactory.

GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION IN DELHI

New Houses Under Construction

IT was recently stated in the Central Legislative Assembly that the Government of India are constructing a number of residential quarters for their servants in Delhi. Thirty semi-detached bungalows and 200 quarters for officers, 2,000 clerks' quarters in New Delhi and 1,000 in Old Delhi, 1,000 peons' and daftries' quarters in New Delhi and 250 in Old Delhi will shortly be ready.

It is interesting in this connection to note how the demand for accommodation, both for residence and office, has grown phenomenally during the war years and after. Whereas in 1939, before the commencement of the war, office accommodation available consisted of 6,48,515 sq. feet at present it is 26,27,896 sq. feet Again, in 1939 there were 493 residences for officers and 3,422 for clerks, while at present there are 1,066 officers' residences including tents, 6,566 quarters for married clerks and 1,592 for unmarried clerks

But the present demand is such that there are still on the waiting list of the Estate Office 278 officers drawing a salary of Rs. 600 or above and nearly 17,000 officers below that level. Only in the category of unmarried clerks' quarters, there are 538 unoccupied allotments, which are being given to married officers in view of their pressing need.

Government Hostels

There are four Government hostels in New Delhi including the Western Court. The Western Court has 74 rooms, of which 34 are usually allotted permanently to officers and the rest to members of the Central Legislature during their sessions and temporarily to officers at other times. But these 40 rooms will not be available to officers after the current session of the Legislature is over, since they are reserved for members of the Constituent Assembly.

In the other hostels, namely, the Kotah House, the Pataudi House and the Western House, there are 328 rooms, of which at the moment 257 are occupied and 71 rooms are vacant. A certain number of these latter will be allotted to members of the Constituent Assembly and the rest will have to be kept vacant to accommodate casual visitors and members of Committees, who may visit Delhi at short notice.

Office Accommodation

When the hostilities ceased last year the total office accommodation occupied in Delhi and New Delhi was 22,10,962 sq. feet. But the transfer of a number of civil offices back to Delhi, necessitated as it was by post-war developmental urgencies, resulted in an additional demand for office space of 4,16,934 sq. feet. It was found possible to meet this demand mainly by utilising the barracks vacated by British and American troops.

In all, 12 barracks have been vacated in Delhi and New Delhi and they have been suitably allotted.

The American Officers' barracks on the Curzon Road have been converted into a hostel for members of the Constituent Assembly. Eight other barracks—namely, the American enlisted men's barracks (Curzon Road), American A and B Barracks, American Headquarters building and American Communications Headquarters on the Queensway, the British Signal B.O.R. barracks and Signal Officers' mess on the Mall Road and the B.O.R. barracks in the University (Old Delhi) —have been allotted for office and similar purposes. The Sergeants' Mess in the University has been assigned to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi for storing grain.

The two barracks on the University land, mentioned here, are now demanded by the Delhi University and the matter is receiving Government's attention.

In the compound of the Travancore House on Canning Road there are two barracks, the R.A.F. Officers' mess and the R.A.F.B.O.R's camp, The Travancore Durbar after first demanding the demolition of the former has since agreed to its being used now only for offices. Hence the mess has had to remain vacant for some time. The other barack is a small one having 27 small rooms for N.C.O's and barrack accommodation for 80 other ranks.

The dining and sitting halls of the mess have been allotted to the Indian Fighting Services Club, while steps are being taken to convert the rest of the barrack into flats for 22 officers' families. In view of this proposal for conversion, the barracks could not be used, meanwhile, for any other purpose.

Vacant Accommodation

The so-called vacant accommodation, about which one hears now and then, lies in some of the barracks on the Queensway, which, although allotted some months ago, have not yet been utilised. Those unoccupied places are the Resettlement Directorate for WACI's training centre, (25,729 sq. feet), Administrative Intelligence Room (14,375 sq. feet) and Agriculture Department—for fruit preservation—(4,000 sq. feet). These have not been occupied either because the offices to which they have been allotted have not obtained their equipment from abroad, which was intended to be placed in them, or because electric cables have not yet been laid in them. In any case, the Departments concerned are being asked either to occupy them soon, or to surrender them to other Departments.

Import Control Relaxations

Import control over a number of additional items, particularly non-ferrous metals, has been removed according to a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 30. These items have been placed in the Open General Licence No. VII, which will enable any person to import them without licence from sterling area countries.

Decontrolled Articles

Among the decontrolled articles are the following: Copper wrought including tape, foil and highly polished sheet specially prepared for making process blocks, lithographic sheets and copper perforated sheets; copper scrap whether ingotted or otherwise; lead ingot, pig; zinc or spelter unwrought including highly polished sheet specially prepared for making process blocks, lithographic sheet; tin wrought, including foil and wire; brass scrap; copper unwrought in the form of ingot or slab other than ingotted scrap; nickel in all forms; all copper alloy scrap; monel metal; tungsten metal powder and other tungsten products; molybdenum metal powder; domestic hardware excluding stoves; asphalt; carbon black, staple fibre and art silk waste.

Among other items included are: Paint boxes, colour boxes, tubes of water colours and aluminium paste. Some articles which are also produced in India, have been removed from the operation of this Licence and include, vinegar in botties and certain chemicals.

X'MAS GIFT PARCELS MAY BE SENT TO U. K.

As a special Christmas concession, members of the Armed Forces in India are to be allowed to send one special gift parcel to the United Kingdom and other Empire countries (except South Africa) without an export licence. Parcels must not exceed 11 lbs. in weight and must be posted only between November 15 and December 15.

These parcels may contain uncontrolled foodstuffs of which limited export on a commercial basis is allowed, surplus U. S. Army foodstuffs now being disposed of in India and certain specified items of controlled foodstuffs of which limited exports are allowed.

In addition, the parcels may contain silk material or articles manufactured from silk up to 5 lbs. in weight and woollen material or articles manufactured from wool up to 5 lbs. in weight. Such material or articles must have been manufactured in India.

These gift parcels will be admitted into the U. K. without an import licence. In the case of gift parcels addressed to other Empire countries the addressee may be required to produce an import licence before delivery if this is required under the import regulations of the country concerned.

"ARMED FORCES SHOULD BE TRUE SOLDIERS OF FREE INDIA"

THE following appeal to the people of India to make the Armed Forces their own and to encourage the best young men in the country to apply for commissions is made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, and Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member:—

"The Indian Army has in the past been largely cut off from the people. Between the two there have been barriers, and the sense of unity which should prevail between the Army and the civilian population has been absent. The Army has been recognised by everyone to be one of the finest armies in the world and all Indians have taken pride in its achievements.

"Nevertheless there has continued that barrier between the civilian population and the Armed Forces of the country, because of this the best young men in India have not offered themselves for commissions in anything like sufficient number. It has been found necessary to reject a high percentage of recent candidates because they did not possess the qualities necessary for leadership in the Army or the Navy or the Air Force.

National Army

"In the changing circumstances of today, when a National Government is at the helm of affairs and India is on the eve of freedom, the whole attitude to the Armed Forces must necessarily change. The Army must be treated like and must become a real National Army and all barriers between the Armed Forces and the civilian population must disappear.

"India believes in peaceful progress for the world and her efforts will be directed towards the ending of war. But till a great change takes place in world affairs and in the international situation, the defence of the country from the possibility of external aggression must be a paramount duty of the Government and for this purpose armed forces will be necessary. Those armed forces, whether they form part of the Army or the Navy or the Air Force, must be maintained at the highest level of quality and efficiency.

An Appeal

"A national Army and Navy and Air Force must be officered by the nationals of the country. It is essential that these officers should be of the highest calibre. The Interim Government regard it as a matter of supreme national importance that the Armed Forces should be completely nationalised and maintained at the highest level of efficiency. They consider it also essential that the Armed Forces should not be affected by party politics.

"We would appeal, therefore, to the people of India of all parties and communities to make the Armed Forces their own and to encourage the best young men in the country to apply for commissions in these Forces. In this national work the co-operation of all our people is necessary so that the Armed Forces of India should represent the best in India and should be true soldiers of Free India."

MAJ.-GEN. H. R. SWINBURN APPOINTED MILITARY SECRETARY, G.H.Q.

ONE of the participants in the defence of the famous Maginot Line in France and later a prisoner of war in German hands, Maj.-Gen. H. R. Swinburn, O.B.E., M.C., has been appointed Military Secretary at General Headquarters, India. He succeeds Maj.-Gen. R. C. McCay, who is now Peshawar Area Commander.

Entering the Army in the ranks of a territorial battalion of the Border Regiment, Gen. Swinburn later came to India and in 1918 was commissioned into the 15 the Royal Ludhiana Sikhs—now the 2nd Royal Battalion, the Sikh Regiment.

Gen. Swinburn went through the 3rd Afghan War (1919), and the Iraq Operations of 1920. In the Kurdistan Operations, 1922, he was wounded and awarded the M.C. for gallantry. He later took part in the Kurdistan Operations of the following year.

Completing his staff course at Quetta in 1930, Gen. Swinburn was a G.S.O. II at G.H.Q. for four years and was then appointed Instructor at the Staff College, Camberley, during 1937-38. He was Instructor at the Senior Staff College, Minley, until the outbreak of war in 1939 when he was appointed Chief Instructor, Army School of Intelligence, Minley.

As a G.S.O. I with the 51st Highland Division, British Expeditionary Force—the first British division to take over the defence of part of the famous Maginot Line and to fight under the French High Command—Gen. Swinburn remained behind in France after Dunkirk, fighting alongside the French till he was captured by Rommel's forces at St. Valery in the middle of 1940. For his services in this campaign he was awarded the O.B.E.

In captivity Gen. Swinburn remained in German P.O.W. camps and for the help he rendered to his fellow-prisoners he was mentioned in despatches.

After a short spell of duty as G.S.O. I on the General Staff and Director of Morale at G.H.Q., Gen. Swinburn was appointed Deputy Military Secretary in June, 1946.

NATIONALISATION OF INDIA'S ARMED FORCES

IN accordance with the policy of the Interim Government, as indicated in the Hon'ble the Defence Member's broadcast to the Armed Forces on October 9, the Government of India have now appointed a Committee consisting of the following to advise them as to the ways and means of nationalisation:—

Chairman:

The Hon'ble Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayengar, C.S.I., C.I.E.

Members:

1. The Hon'ble Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.
2. Mr. Mohammad Ismail.
3. Sardar Sampuran Singh.
4. Three senior Indian officers representing the three Services.
5. A senior officer of the British Service of rank not lower than Major-General.

The Secretary of the Committee will be a senior Indian Service Officer.

Terms of Reference

An officer of the rank of Major-General, Commodore or Air Commodore will be present from the Indian Army, Royal Indian Navy and Royal Indian Air Force respectively to advise the Committee whenever questions concerning the Army, Navy or Air Force, as the case may be, are considered. The terms of reference of the Committee will be:—

"In order to nationalise the Armed Forces of India, namely the Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force and all ancillary Services, both Officers and men, within the shortest possible time, with due regard to Indian national interests and reasonable efficiency, to enquire and report within six months:

"(a) Ways and means within the minimum possible period of replacement of non-Indian personnel by Indians in each branch or Service.

"(b) The target date or dates for complete nationalisation for all or each category in different Services, if possible.

"(c) Ways and means of retaining, if necessary, non-Indian Personnel, as advisers or experts in nationalised categories.

"(d) The enumeration of those departments, categories or personnel where non-Indian personnel can be replaced by Indians immediately."

A record total import of over 1,22,200 tons of foodgrains arrived in India from overseas during the week ended November 14. Of this quantity 67,300 tons were wheat (including flour), 24,800 tons barley, 18,200 tons maize, 4,000 tons rice and the balance other grains.



During his recent tour of the Northern Command Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, visited the King George Royal Indian Military College and the 1st Punjab Regimental Centre in Jhelum, where he presented a flag to the Boys' Company. (Above) Field Marshal Auchinleck inspects cadets of the 1st Punjab Regiment and (below) the C.-in-C. taking the salute at the march past by Boys of the 1st Punjab Regiment.





C.-in-C. Attends Baluch Centenary

Nearly 300 Baluch pensioners, whose combined army service totalled several thousands of years, gave a great welcome to Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, when he visited Rawalpindi recently in connection with the centenary celebrations of the 4th Battalion (Duke of Connaught's Own) Baluch Regiment. The Commander-in-Chief spent some time chatting with the old soldiers, some of whom had fought in Egypt in the 1818's, and in China during the Boxer Rebellion, at the turn of the century.

These pictures show (above) the C.-in-C. talking to Sub. Khudadad Khan of the 4th Baluch Regiment—the first Indian soldier ever to win the Victoria Cross. Beside him is L/Nk. Bhandari Ram, who won the V.C. in World War II and (right) His Excellency presenting the Indian Order of Merit to Ghulam Hussain, posthumously awarded to his son, Nk. Durez Khan, of the 4th Baluch Regiment, who was killed in action in Italy.



R.A.F. CHIEF IN DELHI

Marshal of the R.A.F., the Lord Tedder, Chief of Air Staff of the R.A.F., arrived in Delhi on November *22 en route* to Burma and the Far East.

These pictures show (left) Marshal the Lord Tedder stepping out from his aircraft at Palam airport and (below) the R.A.F. Chief photographed at the Palam airport with Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck (on his right) and Air-Marshal H. S. P. Walmsley (on his left) Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India.



RESETTLEMENT OF THE WAR DISABLED

Labour Department Opens Training Centres

TRAINING centres for the benefit of disabled ex-Servicemen have been opened at Aundh (near Poona), Jalahalli (near Bangalore), Madras, Delhi and Moghulpura (Lahore). More training centres are being opened in Northern India.

They have been set up by the Resettlement and Employment Organisation of the Labour Department of the Government of India. The object is to train war-disabled persons in suitable vocations, to raise their earning capacity and to make them useful, working members of society. The ultimate aim is also to enable these disabled persons to pick up the same competence in their respective trades as ordinary able-bodied people.

The working of the Scheme is not in any way intended to affect the disability pension, which is now received by disabled ex-Servicemen. They will continue to get it both during training and after it. During the period of training they will obtain in addition a stipend and also free board, lodging, necessary transport facilities and medical aid.

Recent enquiries made by the International Labour Office brought to light the fact that in most civilised countries the initiative for organising the rehabilitation of the war-disabled was passing from private associations to public agencies. It is in keeping with this tendency that the scheme has been initiated in this country.

For the deaf, dumb and blind among the disabled persons arrangements have been made in special institutions like St. Dunstan's, Dehra Dun.

The process of resettling disabled persons consists of different stages. At first, they are posted to any one of the six Services Convalescent Rehabilitation Centres, which have been set up by the Defence Department. Here they are interviewed by the Rehabilitation Officers of the Labour Department, who give them the benefit of occupational therapy, advice, guidance in the choice of vocation and elementary training in groups of vocations. Those of the disabled, who are found fit for employment straightaway, are passed on to Employment Exchanges, which endeavour to place them speedily.

When, however, they require specialised vocational training, whether for resuming their old jobs or for finding new ones, they are sent to centres, where the syllabus includes training in a number of vocations, such as the clerical and commercial occupations, engineering, building and other technical trades, agricultural and allied work and cottage industries. At the training centres they are provided with mechanical appliances and gadgets. The object of this is not only to enable them to make up for their disability but to help them regain confidence in their own capacity.

AIR MARSHAL H. S. P. WALMSLEY APPOINTED A.O.C.-IN-C., INDIA

Soldier-Airman and Veteran of World War I

SOLDIER-AIRMAN and veteran of World War I, Air-Marshal H. S. P. Walmsley, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., has been appointed Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India, in succession to Air-Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C., A.F.C. Air-Marshal Walmsley has been in charge of administration at Air Headquarters, India, since June this year

Born in 1898, Air-Marshal Walmsley was first commissioned in the British Army in December, 1915. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in the following year and was awarded his pilot's wings in 1917. He then served in No. 55 Squadron with the British Expeditionary Force in France. When the R.F.C. was reorganised as the Royal Air Force he was accepted for a permanent commission.

After World War I, Air-Marshal Walmsley served in the United Kingdom as a flying instructor, Wing Adjutant, on staff duties, and in command of No. 23 Squadron, except for a period when he commanded a Flight in No. 55 Squadron at Mosul in Iraq and also when he commanded No. 8 Squadron in Aden.

On the outbreak of the late war he was once again attached to the B.E.F., this time commanding No. 71 Wing of the Advanced Air Striking Force.

He returned to Britain before the evacuation at Dunkirk, where he served in Bomber Command as Station Commander, on staff duties, as a Group Commander and finally as Senior Air Staff Officer, H.Q., Bomber Command. He was mentioned in Despatches five times during World War II.

From May, 1945, to May, 1946, Air-Marshal Walmsley was Air Officer Commanding No. 4 (Transport) Group in Britain and then A.O.C. No. 232 (Transport) Group at Singapore.

Pilgrim ship *Khosru* reached Karachi on December 1. The same day, a special train carrying 697 pilgrims left for Lahore, and the ship with 214 pilgrims sailed for Bombay, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India.

Vocational Training For 10,000 Ex-Servicemen

Arrangements are being made to provide 10,000 seats, in the first instance, to demobilised Services personnel under the Vocational Training Scheme of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation of the Labour Department.

Of these, 1,500 seats will be distributed among the six Training Centres of the Labour Department of the Government of India, which are to be located at Delhi, Patna, Bilaspur, Sialkot, Almora and Cocanada. The rest will be provided in institutions run by either Provincial or State Governments or private agencies.

Allotment of Seats

Returns already furnished by Resettlement Advice Officers indicate that more than 30 per cent. of those ex-Servicemen who have expressed their desire to obtain vocational training have preferred training in hand-weaving or for service in textile mills. Thirteen per cent. of them prefer training in agricultural and allied occupations.

The allotment of seats, trade-wise, in each Region has now been made in accordance with the preferences shown by ex-Servicemen.

C.-IN-C. PRESENTS FLAG TO "RAJRIF" BOYS

AT a ceremony at Delhi Cantonment on November 20, the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, Honorary Colonel of the Rajputana Rifles, was the principal guest when Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, presented a flag to the "Rajrif" Boys' Company. An interested spectator was Mr. Compton Mackenzie, who is about to begin work on his popular history of India's war effort.

Presenting the flag to Boy Sahi Mahamad, the C.-in-C. recalled the gallant deeds of the regiment in World War II and in earlier wars. "For the distinguished role the regiment has played," said the C.-in-C., "I am making this small present to you and I have no doubt that you will, from to-day onwards, heighten its glorious record and acquit yourselves creditably."

In this tribute to the regiment the C.-in-C. made particular mention of the two "Rajrif" V.C. winners—the late Sub. Richpal Ram and the late Hav. Maj. Chhelu Ram—and to the men of the regiment who won 21 decorations.

The Spanish and Roumanian languages are also admitted in telegrams to and from Austria, said a Press Note issued by the Communications Department, Government of India.

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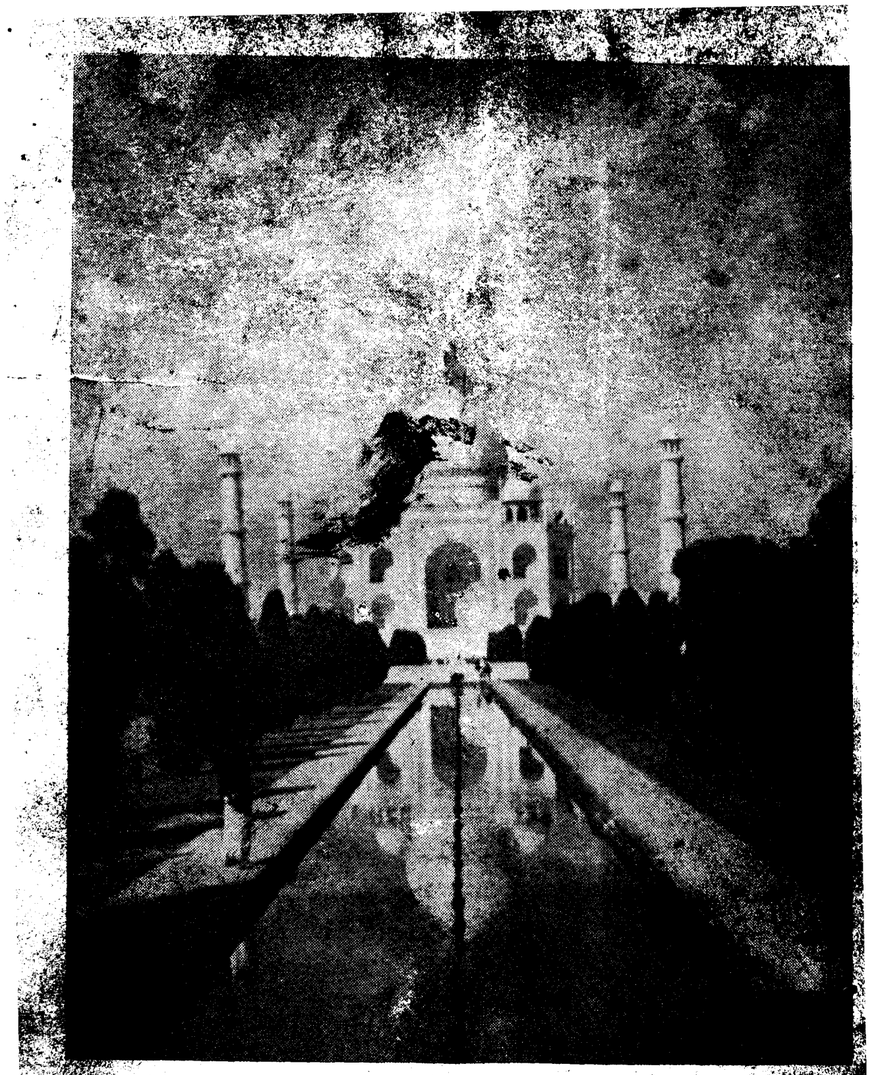
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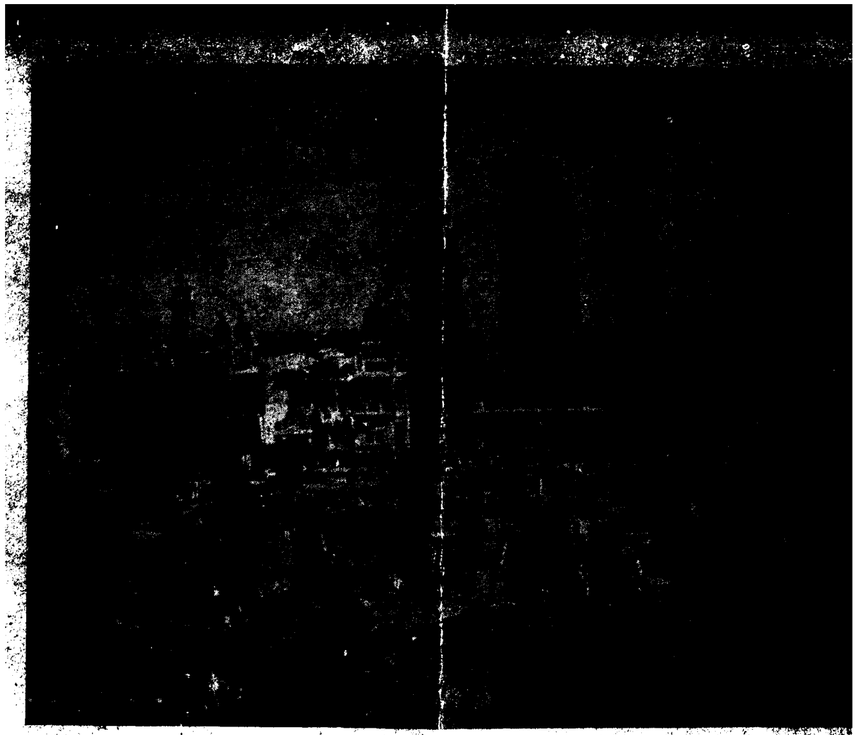
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THE TAJ MAHAL, AGRA

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A VIEW OF THE LAKSHMI NARAIN TEMPLE, NEW DELHI.

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MAIN CONTENTS

AIM :—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

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British Government's Statement on the Cabinet Mission Plan

Mr. C. H. Bhabha's Address to Central Board of Irrigation

Mr. Jagjivan Ram's Address to Second Labour Ministers' Conference

Labour Conditions in C.P. W. Area—P. P. Adarkar's Report

Why Controls Should Continue—Mr. Mathai's Speech in Central Assembly

35th Session of Indian National Congress Inaugurated

Mr. Asaf Ali on Kashmir

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FOR THE FIRST TIME IN INDIA'S HISTORY POPULAR REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY MET IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN NEW DELHI ON DECEMBER 9. PICTURE SHOWS ACHARYA KRIPALANI, PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (IN FRONT OF THE MIKE) MOVING THE RESOLUTION FOR ELECTION OF THE PROVISIONAL CHAIRMAN.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEETS IN NEW DELHI

Messages of Goodwill

THE following messages of goodwill were received on the opening of Constituent Assembly in New Delhi on December 9.

From Australian Government to nembers of the Constituent Assembly:

Australia has watched with keen nterest and sympathy the course of vents which have given the people of ndia their rightful place in the community of nations. The Australian Government therefore greets the opening f the Constituent Assembly as an utward sign of a new era for India nd offers the delegates of the Constituent Assembly their best wishes for uccess in their task.

*

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
New Delhi.

Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, Provisional Chairman, Constituent Assembly:

"On the auspicious occasion of the opening of the Indian Constituent Assembly I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency in the name of the National Government of China my heartiest congratulations. I sincerely hope that your great Assembly will succeed in laying a solid foundation for a democratic and prosperous India".

Wang Shih Chieh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China.

*

AMERICAN EMBASSY
New Delhi, December 8, 1946.

My dear Dr. Sinha:

It gives me great pleasure to transmit herewith a copy of a telegram I have just received from the Hon'ble Dean Acheson, the Acting Secretary of State of the United States.

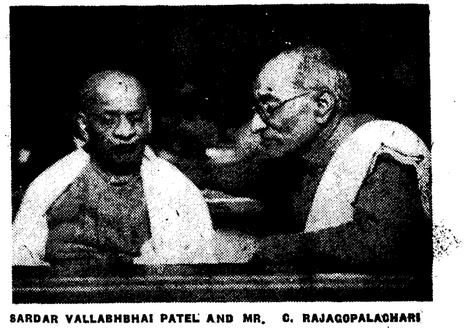
Sincerely yours,
George R. Merrell
Charge d' Affaires a.i.

With the approach of December 9, I extend to you as Provisional Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, and through you to the Indian people, the sincere good wishes of the United States Government and of the people of the United States for a successful conclusion of the great task you are about to undertake. India has a great contribution to make to the peace, stability, and cultural advancement of mankind and your deliberations will be watched with deep interest and hope by freedom loving people throughout the entire world.

DEAN ACHESON
Acting Secretary of State.



ACHARYA KRIPALANI (SECOND FROM RIGHT) PHOTOGRAPHED OUTSIDE THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HALL WITH MR. SATYA NARAIN SINHA (LEFT) CONGRESS WHIP IN THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY, AND MR. N. V. GADGIL.



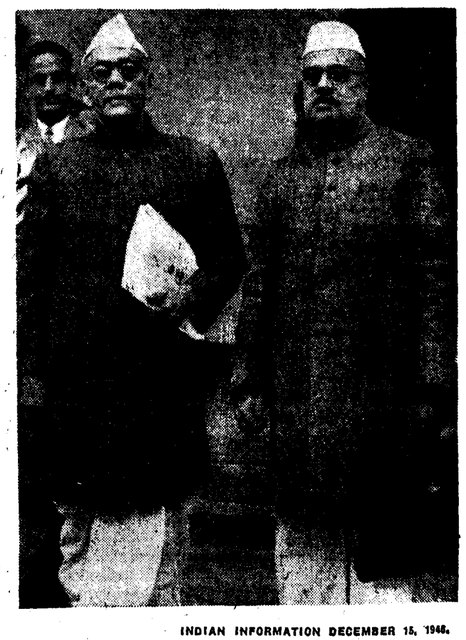
SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL AND MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI (RIGHT) MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL.





(Top, left) Dr. Rajendra Prasad (left) who was elected permanent President of the Constituent Assembly with Mr. M. S. Randhawa, Deputy Commissioner, Delhi. (Right) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru talking to Mr. Asaf Ali (left) in the Assembly Hall. (Below, left) Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Mr. Mehr Chand Khanna, Finance Minister, came from N.-W.F.P. to take part in the Constituent Assembly deliberations. (Right) Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose (second from right) and Mr. Jairamdas Daulat Ram (right) the Sind Congress Leader, snapped outside the Constituent Assembly.





BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ON CABINET MISSION PLAN

THE following is the text of the statement issued by His Majesty's Government on the night of December 6 in London:

The conversations held by H.M.G. with Pandit Nehru, Mr. Jinnah, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and Sardar Baldev Singh came to an end this evening as Pandit Nehru and Sardar Baldev Singh are returning to India tomorrow morning.

The object of the conversations has been to obtain the participation and co-operation of all parties in the Constituent Assembly. It was not expected that any final settlement could be arrived at since the Indian representatives must consult their colleagues before any final decision is reached.

The main difficulty that has arisen has been over the interpretation of paragraph 19 (v) and (viii) of the Cabinet Mission's Statement of May 16 relating to the meetings in sections which run as follows:

Sections' Decisions

Paragraph 19 (v): "These sections shall proceed to settle provincial constitutions for the Provinces included in each section and shall also decide whether any group constitution shall be set up for those Provinces and if so with what provincial subjects the group should deal. Provinces shall have power to opt out of groups in accordance with provisions of subclause (viii) below."

Paragraph 19 (viii): "As soon as new constitutional arrangements have come into operation it shall be open to any Province to elect to come out of any Group in which it has been placed. Such a decision shall be taken by the new Legislature of Province after first general election under new constitution."

Cabinet Mission have throughout maintained the view that decisions of sections should, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, be taken by simple majority vote of representatives in the sections. This view has been accepted by Muslim League but Congress has put forward a different view. They have asserted that true meaning of statement read as a whole is that Provinces have a right to decide both as to grouping and as to their own constitutions.

H.M.G. have had legal advice which confirms that statement of May 16 means what Cabinet Mission have always stated was their intention. This part of statement as so interpreted must therefore be considered an essential part of scheme of May 16 for enabling Indian people to formulate a new constitution which H.M.G. would be prepared to submit to Parliament. It should therefore be accepted by all parties in Constituent Assembly.

It is however clear that other questions of interpretation of Statement of May 16 may arise and H.M.G. hope that if Council of Muslim League are able to agree to participate in Constituent Assembly they will also agree as have Congress that Federal Court should be asked to decide matters of interpretation that may be referred to them by either side and will accept such decision so that procedure both in Union Constituent Assembly and sections may accord with Cabinet Mission's plan.

On matter immediately in dispute H.M.G. urge the Congress to accept view of Cabinet Mission in order that way may be opened for Muslim League to reconsider their attitude. If, in spite of this reaffirming of intention of Cabinet Mission the Constituent Assembly desires that this fundamental point should be referred for decision of Federal Court such reference should be made at a very early date. It will then be reasonable that meetings of sections of Constituent Assembly should be postponed until decision of Federal Court is known.

There has never been any prospect of success for Constituent Assembly except upon the basis of an agreed procedure. Should a constitution come to be framed by a Constituent Assembly in which a large section of Indian population had not been represented H.M.G. could not of course contemplate—as Congress have stated they would not contemplate—forcing such a constitution upon any unwilling parts of the country.

REMEMBRANCE DAY IN INDIA

November 10 was observed by all three Services throughout India as Remembrance Day. There were no special parades, but the usual Two Minutes' Silence was observed at 11 a.m.

The Silence was signalled by the firing of guns or the sound of sirens or bugles. All military traffic was suspended for two minutes.

In New Delhi, a service was held at the Church of the Redemption. Among those who were present are H.E. the Viceroy, Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Chief of the General Staff, who represented the Commander-in-Chief in India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck; Air Vice-Marshal H. S. P. Walmsley, Acting Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India; Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, Flag Officer Commanding Royal Indian Navy, as well as other high-ranking officers.

In other centres, religious services were held at the discretion of local commanders.

Exchange of Diplomatic Representatives

THE Government of India have appointed the Hon'ble Mr. K. P. S. Menon, Agent-General for India in China, as their Special Representative to visit Moscow and discuss with the Government of the U.S.S.R. arrangements preliminary to the exchange of diplomatic representatives between the U.S.S.R. and India, said a Press Communique issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on November 30.

Mr. K. P. S. Menon will travel to Moscow after the conclusion of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Government of India have also appointed Mr. V. Krishna Menon as their Special Representative to visit a number of European countries in order to hold informal exploratory conversations with the Governments of those countries with a view to the establishment of diplomatic relations between them and India at an early date.

These appointments have been made with a view to the early execution by the Government of their policy of extending their diplomatic contacts throughout the world.

TRANSFER OF BRITISH OFFICERS OF INDIAN ARMY

In July it was announced that when the new constitution in India was established, regular British Officers of the Indian Army with less than 20 years' service would be permitted transfer to the British Army subject to their individual suitability and the War Office being able to absorb them, said a Press Note issued by the Defence Deptt., Government of India on November 22.

The Indian Government have now agreed that such transfers will start from January 1, 1947, and that they will be spread over a period of about two years. It has also been agreed that January 1, 1947, will be the date taken for reckoning the length of service of the officers concerned.

Conditions

A considerable number can be accepted by the War Office: there are, however, exceptions in the case of certain age zones in certain arms and of departmental officers for whom only a few vacancies exist.

All officers concerned will shortly receive a letter giving them details of the conditions under which they will be required to serve in the British Army and will be asked to state whether or not they wish to be considered for transfer.



IRRIGATION EXHIBITION IN NEW DELHI

The importance of irrigation and scientific research and the need for a co-ordinated planning scheme in order to bring about all-round development of national economy and national life were stressed by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, when he inaugurated an exhibition of irrigation engineering and research, organised by the Central Board of Irrigation, in New Delhi on November 27.

These Pictures show (above) Pandit Nehru watching a demonstration on the river model and (right) Pandit Nehru addressing the gathering.





MR. C. H. BHABHA, MEMBER FOR WORKS, MINES AND POWER, ADDRESSING THE 17TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF IRRIGATION HELD IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 26. (R. TO L.) MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI, MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND RAI BAHADUR A. N. KHOSLA, CONSULTING ENGINEER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PLEA FOR CO-ORDINATED IRRIGATION POLICY

Mr. C. H. Bhabha's Address to Central Board of Irrigation

"WATER and power constitute the foundation of our national economy, and it behoves you all as expert technicians to ensure that our water control technology is so conceived, developed an executed as to implement effectively a comprehensive policy for the multi-purpose development of our water resources, which has already been accepted by the Government of India," said the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power Department, Government of India, in the course of a speech he delivered when he opened the proceedings of the 17th annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation, which was held in New Delhi on November 26. Rai Bahadur A.N. Khosla, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, presiding.

Representatives from the Governments of all the Provinces of India and premier Indian States were present. They included the Chief Engineers of Assam and Hyderabad and Ceylon, whose Government joined the Board only this year.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bhabha touched at length on problems relating to food production, agriculture and flood control and appealed to the Engineers assembled at the meeting to give them their immediate and energetic attention. "Some of these problems are not what you can solve by your unaided efforts," he said, "but I shall be heartened by your assurance that you have them well in mind and in hand not only in one or two Provinces but all over the country."

He continued: "The Central Board of Irrigation will perform a most important national function, if it can formulate for all the Provinces and States a standard code of water control technology which will provide *inter alia* for the various initial steps that must be taken to enable the development of our new technique and the execution of our new policy. I can only list a few of them by way of illustration:

Co-ordinated Irrigation Policy

(1) The provision of a continuing programme of research and inventory into national water resources.

(2) An extensive programme of mapping along drainage basins.

(3) A systematic scheme of hydraulic research, etc.

"India to-day needs more than ever before a well-planned and co-ordinated irrigation policy. This problem has to be tackled from an all-India angle. Provincial nationalism shall have to give way to the larger interests of the country or of a river basin as a whole.

"A well-co-ordinated water economy plan will definitely lead to better and quicker results than those achieved at present.

"Engineers can, and have played a great role in improving a country's economy. It is often alleged that Railway engineers while laying in new lines, generally ignore water shed problems. According to some, their planning has often resulted in floods and spread of malaria.

"I am not in a position to judge the truth or otherwise of these allegations, but I feel that co-ordination of the type, I have in mind, includes not only co-ordination as between Provinces and States but also between various branches of engineering. A great deal of expense, life and property can be saved if irrigation, road-making and railway development are co-ordinated together.

"There is another aspect of planning I would like to say a word about. Since the advent of Railways in India, inland navigation has been considerably neglected. Outside Bengal, Bihar and Assam, there is no river navigation worth the name.

"Inland water transport may be slow, but is definitely cheaper and of great importance to a country like India which is struggling to take its rightful place in economic development. I hope your organisation will give due attention to inland water transport in your future plans.

Back to Land and Water

"Prophecy is not in my line, but as far as I can see you need have no cause for despondency. Whatever be the shape of things to come, you will always be called upon to provide the hungry millions of this country with their two elementary needs for water and power; and unless a besetting perversity deadens our sense of values, you Engineers, must be given adequate scope for your planning and execution.

"It has been aptly said that: 'Land, water and people go together: the people cannot reach the highest standard of well-being unless there is the wisest use of land and water.' May the spirit underlying these words inform and guide all your efforts.

"To the usual cry of 'Back to the land,' I would add 'Back to the land and water.' It is only when people learn to make the fullest use of the land and the water and see that waters now wasted are controlled and made to work, that the miracle which we are all aiming at will fructify.

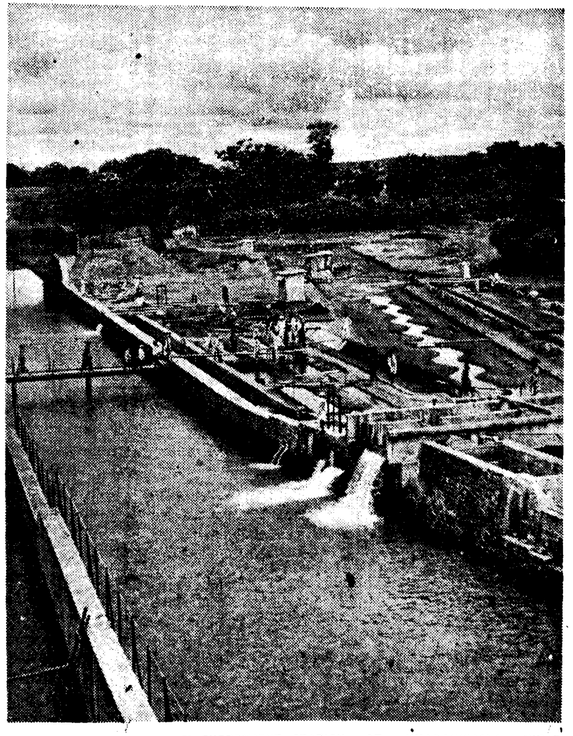
"Standing as we are on the threshold of freedom and independence, I feel that our engineers and technicians hold the key to the future. There is so much to be done and so few to do it. Even so, I trust that these few will rise to the occasion and have faith in their own ability and the conviction that 'it can be done.'

"We want dreamers with shovels, dreamers who can steadily keep their eyes on the glorious future which is awaiting us and at the same time keep their feet firmly on the earth, use their shovels with the utmost determination and ability and see that the glorious future which is at present only in our imagination, is translated into fact."

Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla's Address

The establishment in the near future of a new world organisation called the International Commission on Irrigation and Canals with its headquarters in this country was indicated in the address, delivered by Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, consulting Engineer to the Government of India, as President of the 17th Annual Meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation, which was held in New Delhi on November 26.

Mr. Khosla, who had recently been deputed by the Government of India to France, to attend the Executive Committee meeting of the International Commission on High Dams and was subsequently elected as one of its Vice-Presidents, also announced in the course of his address that the International Commission on High Dams, whose plenary session would be held in Holland in 1947 and in Sweden in 1948, was being invited to hold its session in India in 1950.



A VIEW OF THE RIVER MODEL EXPERIMENT STATION AT KHADAKWASLA (NEAR POONA) RECENTLY TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO SERVE THE WHOLE COUNTRY. IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS IT HAS CARRIED OUT MORE THAN 100 IMPORTANT INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING OVER 2,000 EXPERIMENTS DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF RIVER CONTROL.

Mr. Khosla began his address by welcoming the new members of the Board, namely, the chief Engineers of Assam, Hyderabad and Ceylon respectively and said, "Now the Board has as its members representatives from all provinces of India, the premier Indian States and from neighbouring countries of Burma and Ceylon."

Water Control

"Man-power, land and water are the three essential requisites for the building up of a self-sufficient and self-perpetrating civilization," he pointed out, and after explaining in detail the economic and social benefits of utilising water and waterways, he continued:

"The control, conservation and regulation of water for beneficial use, must, therefore, be our first concern in any scheme of national planning. The extent to which we can control and conserve our water resources will determine the extent of our national security, national well-being and national wealth. It will determine the standard of living of the common man."

"On a rough calculation," he continued, "the mean annual supply of water in our rivers appears to be of the order of 2.3 million cft. per second. Most of this supply is, however, concentrated in the monsoon months and except for the snow-fed rivers coming from the Himalayas, the bulk of the rivers run almost dry during the dry months.

"The mean annual consumption of water for agricultural purposes derived from the canals has been roughly figured out as 133,000 cft. per second. Possibly another 30,000 cft. per second is utilised for irrigation from wells.

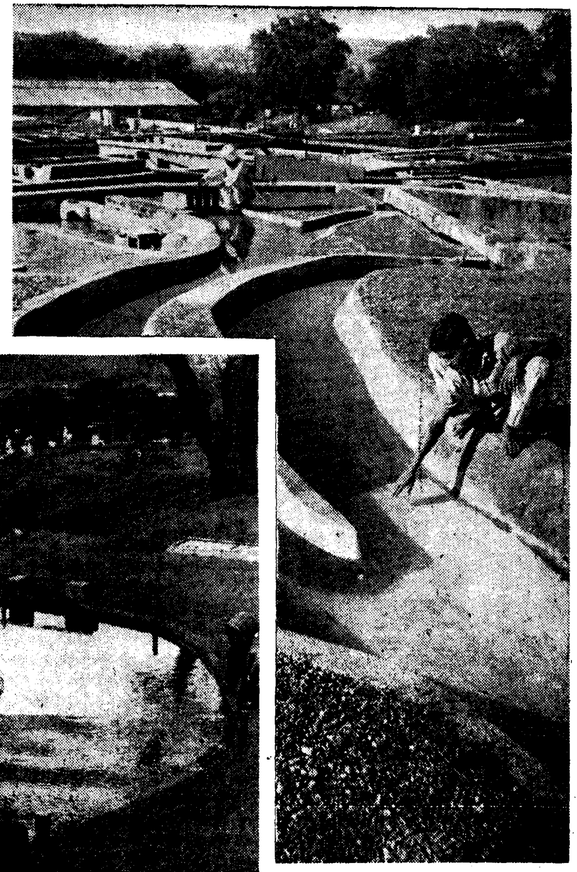
"This means that less than 6 per cent. of the available water wealth in our rivers is being utilised and the balance of over 94 per cent. is running to waste in the sea and doing incalculable damage to life and property through uncontrolled floods and their aftermath of blocked drainages, stagnating pools and malaria mosquitos.

"It is difficult to say off-hand what proportion of this 94 per cent. of our available water wealth, which is at present running to waste, can be put to beneficial use; but there is no gainsaying the fact that a very substantial portion of it can be so utilised.

"If the utilisable, but so far unused, water potential is no more than one-third of the total, it will amount to five times the total quantity of water which is being used at present throughout the country. That is an indication of the immense scope for extension of irrigation and power development and of the vast magnitude of our problems and opportunities.



A MODEL OF THE HOOGHLY RIVER. THE TIDAL BORE OF THE HOOGHLY RIVER IS ARTIFICIALLY REPRODUCED FOR PURPOSES OF EXPERIMENT.



A MODEL OF EASTERN NARA SHOWING THE APPROACH TO THE MITHRAO CANAL. THE BOY IN THE FOREGROUND IS WATCHING THE COURSE OF SEEDS AND BRAN DROPPED IN THE RIVER TO SHOW THE RESPECTIVE FLOW OF SURFACE AND BED WATER AS IT REACHES THE APPROACHES OF THE MITHRAO CANAL.

"Our schemes of irrigation in the past, particularly in North India, were mainly confined to the diversion of available supplies in the river and were relatively cheap. Such supplies have, however been almost entirely used up.

"Henceforth, our main hope of extension in irrigation will lie in the surplus supplies which can be stored during the monsoon months and released as required during the months' supplies. Such irrigation projects may not be fully self-supporting if confined in their use to the single pur-



AS A RESULT OF THE PILOT TEST MADE ON THE RUPNARAYAN RIVER AND CONFIRMED ON THE LARGER TIDAL MODEL THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SPUR AS SHOWN IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS RECOMMENDED. THIS 800-FT. LONG SPUR STOPPED THE EROSION WHICH THREATENED THE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

pose of irrigation. But fortunately, such projects land themselves to multi-purpose development.

"The storage of supplies during floods will lead to flood control. The equalisation of supplies during the year by means of storage will make available considerably increased supplies throughout the year which can be utilised for increased perennial irrigation and for the development of cheap and perennial hydro-electric power.

Cheap Power

"Cheap power is our greatest need at the moment. It is needed for domestic purposes. It is needed for the manufacture of fertilisers and for agriculture. It is needed for industry. It is needed further to conserve our limited resources in high-grade, particularly metallurgical coal, vast quantities of which are at present being used up in generating power for industry, locomotive power for railways and as domestic fuel—a great national waste considering how vital coal is to our industrial economy and national defence.

"Coal as a means of generating power is exhaustible, water, or so-called white coal, is inexhaustible. Its use for power generation involves no drain on our national natural resources and would release coal for use for other purposes of national importance.

"Electricity will constitute a most important item of amenity in the life of our backward and neglected rural population. With electric light in the house, a farmer can use his spare time in reading and improving his mental equipment. With cheap electrical heating, he can save cow-dung for use as manure. He can save fuel wood and thus help in conserving our forest wealth for more profitably and long range exploitation. With cheap hydro-electric power, he can set up small cottage industries which will bring him additional income and provide him occupation during the long periods of enforced idleness between crops.

Projects under Consideration

"Our objective should be to carry the benefits of cheap water power on the basis of "service at cost" to every village and to every home somewhat after the model of Canada and Sweden, both of which countries owe their industrial development, wealth and prosperity to water power.

"The few projects now under consideration namely, the Bhakra and Nangal in the Punjab, Nayar and Rihand in the U.P., Kosi in Nepal, Damodar in Bihar, Tista in Bengal, Mahanadi in Orissa, Machkund, Godavari and Tungabhadra in Madras will provide power to the extent of about 4 million killowatts of which the Kosi Project alone may account for a million and a half.

"I am just back from a visit to Sweden and Canada, the two countries where coal is scarce and whose power development is mainly confined to water power.

"In Sweden, generation is mainly in the north and load centres in the south. The power is transmitted to distances up to 400 miles at present and will extend to as much as 600 miles in their schemes of the future. That is an indication that the transmission distances in India need not frighten us. Some 87 per cent. of the rural population of Sweden are served by electricity and 35 per cent. of the main railways have been electrified.

Need for Research

"It is gratifying to note that research activity in India is steadily on the increase. We have the Punjab Irrigation Research Institute, Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona, the Bengal River Research Institute, the U.P., Madras and Bombay Research Stations. New Research Stations are being set up in Hyderabad and Mysore.

"Very soon we shall be making a start with the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Research Institute at Delhi, which will be comprehensive in its scope and deal with all aspects of the many problems connected with rivers, irrigation, navigation and allied developments.

"Research has yielded rich dividends in other countries. I am convinced that with proper direction and co-ordination, irrigation research in India will likewise produce results which will play most useful part in our schemes of development.

"India leads the world in the science of irrigation engineering and in matters of distribution of water assessment policies, but it must be recognised that in any fields of activity, particularly machinery and instruments, India has so far been content to live on the inventions and enterprises of others. With our network of research organisations the stage will have been set for India to contribute her due share to the world pool of science and industries.

Training of Technical Personnel

"At this stage, I would like to draw the attention of Members of the Board and of the administrators responsible for policy, to the acute shortage of technical personnel in the country. The planning, design and construction of the projects for the multi-purpose developments of our water resources will necessarily be spread over many years, possibly decades. They will be in permanent operation thereafter. The researches undertaken in connection with these developments will extend far into the future.

"To man these projects and researches during various stages, we shall need technical personnel by the hundred. It is most important, therefore, to lay down as early as possible, a definite policy to increase suitably the number of technical colleges and also the output from each.

"The courses of studies and training to be imparted at these colleges require very careful consideration and planning.

"It will be necessary in the early stages to send abroad a number of qualified engineers with adequate experience of works in India for specialising in various aspects of our schemes of development. This specialisation should be so arranged that between them a particular batch of engineers may be in a position to handle all problems connected with a project through all stages of development. This training abroad will also need careful planning and precise instructions will have to be laid down for each set of individuals.

Proposal to Constituent Assembly

In conclusion, Mr. Khosla reminded the architects of the country's future constitution of the way in which the development of projects and waterways had often been delayed, and impeded in the past due to the existence of provincial boundaries.

He said, "The flow of natural water does not recognise any political boundaries. For maximum benefit, the development of water resources must transcend such boundaries. Isolated developments will not only dwarf the scope of, but effectively bar overall multi-purpose development.

"Our objective is that the water resources of India must be harnessed to the maximum extent for the maximum benefit of the maximum number spread throughout the length and breadth of this vast country. I can assure the members of the Constituent Assembly that the Board, if asked to do so, would be glad to submit proposals for the achievement of this objective."

BENEFIT OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Addresses Scientists

"THE task in which you are engaged should prove of lasting benefit to the country at large. I have no pretensions to be a scientist, but there are certain matters to be considered by you in which as a layman, I am deeply interested" stated Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member in the interim Government, addressing the 5th Meeting of the Food Techincal Panel of Scientists in New Delhi on November 26.

On the question of the value of *vanaspati* as food, Dr. Rajendra Prasad referred to the difference of opinion even among scientists and asked the Panel to give a definite guidance to the Government and the people at large on this subject.

Scientific Experiments

He was also anxious to increase the milk supply in the country towards which some steps had already been taken. He was therefore very interested in the scheme of milk manufacture from the soya bean, which had produced some results.

Scientific experiments, said the Food Member, required time to arrive at definite conclusions, and he assured the Committee of his full support in their endeavours.

"I shall not be in a hurry about your results" concluded Dr. Rajendra Prasad" provided I can be assured that we get scientific precision on some of these problems which are for the benefit of the country at large."

Speaking on behalf of the members of the Technical Panel, Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar promised their full co-operation to Dr. Rajendra Prasad in his great task of saving India from famines.

Constructive Side of Science

Sir Shanti Swarup emphasised the "constructive side of science" and stated that the members of the Panel were interested in the development of the country, bettering the standards of the people and giving them more and better food.

Among the subjects considered by the Panel, are the necessity of further research on the nutritive value of *vanaspati*, the proposal to extend the experiments on soya bean milk manufacture, the nutritive values of atta ground in mill and *'chakkis'* and research on the nutritive values of unusual foods such as oilseed cakes.

MANUFACTURE OF D.D.T. IN INDIA

Factual information in reply to certain points raised by the President of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association at the Association's annual meeting, was given by Mr. S. A. Venkateraman, Director-General, Industries and Supplies, at the seventh meeting of the Central Chemical Pharmaceutical and Coal Tar Advisory Committee held on November 22.

Mr. Venkateraman presided in the absence of the Hon'ble Dr. Mathai, Member for Industries and Supplies, who is ill. Representatives of various chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers were present.

Regarding the complaint that the Indian chemical industry was being hindered by import restrictions, the Chairman said that barring 20 items, all other chemicals had been placed on the Open General Licence and so were importable without a licence from sterling area countries.

The Government were always willing to help the industry in procuring chemicals from hard currency countries, if they could not be obtained from sterling areas at reasonable prices and without undue delay. Restrictions on import of the items requiring licences had been imposed solely in the interest of Indian industries.

As regards industrial alcohol, Mr. Venkateraman said that the Central Government were in correspondence with the Provinces for the re-examination of the question of unification of excise policy by individual Provinces.

The question of making available to industry German technical information was being actively considered and would be decided shortly.

The Committee also considered the reports of the Superphosphate and the D.D.T. sub-committees.

The general consensus of opinion was that the manufacture of superphosphates from bones should be encouraged in India, preference being given to those concerns who manufacture sulphuric acid also.

As regards D.D.T., it was considered that it was possible to manufacture this chemical product in India at a price comparable to the imported price, if D.D.T. manufacturers also produced sulphuric acid and chlorine.

The Committee was informed that Government demands for D.D.T. were likely to be substantial. It was disclosed that two Indian firms would be in a position to start large-scale manufacture of D.D.T. by the middle of 1948.

The difficulties of the chemical pharmaceutical industry in connection with the present export and import regulations were discussed at length. The Chairman briefly explained the present arrangements for allocation of steel to the industry and the position regarding other building materials.

UNIFORM LABOUR POLICY FOR INDIA



MR. JAGJIVAN RAM, LABOUR MEMBER IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, DELIVERING HIS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE STATES MINISTERS (LABOUR) CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 29.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram's Address to States Ministers' Conference

THE important place that the States occupy on the industrial map of India was described by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, Government of India, in his presidential speech at the Conference of States Ministers (Labour), which began in New Delhi on November 29.

The Conference was attended, among others, by Nawab Yusuf Yar Jung, Hyderabad; Mr. H.C. Dhanda, Indore; Mr. O.S.N. Sheriff, Mysore; Sir Teja Singh Malik, Patiala; Mr. Mohd. Bashir, Kashmir; representatives of the Chamber of Princes and representatives of the Labour Department of the Government of India including the Chief Adviser Factories.

Labour Legislation

The object of the Conference was to discuss and evolve a programme of labour legislation which should be implemented during the next five years. Definite proposals of action had been discussed and generally agreed at a recent Conference of Provincial Ministers held in New Delhi. They were now placed before the Conference of States Ministers for discussion.

The Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram said: "The States occupy an important place on the industrial map of India. A little over one-sixth of the industry establishments in the country are located in the States and these establishments give employment to more than 350,000 workers. In addition there are about 156,000 workers employed in plantations. Mining operations in the States give employment to about 30,000 workers. The States have a substantial interest in Cotton Ginning and Textiles, Minerals and Metals, Food, Drink, Tobacco, Chemicals, Dyes, Wood stores and glass industries.

"Their interest is likely to increase as a result of the industrial expansion in the future. The States cannot be indifferent to what is happening in matters relating to labour policy and administration in the Provinces nor can the Provinces afford to ignore labour conditions in the States in formulating and executing their labour policy.

"It is to our mutual interest, therefore, that we should follow a uniform policy. This co-operation between the Provinces and the Government of India on the one hand and the States on the other is necessary, not only, in relation to matters affecting workers in industrial establishments, mines and plantations, but also, in respect of questions affecting workers in agriculture. And I am confident that it will be forthcoming in an abundant measure."

Progressive Labour Policy

He then quoted the words of the Philadelphia Charter, 'Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere' and reminded the Conference that more than one Committee of the recent International Labour Conference at Montreal debated the position of the Indian States in regard to the application of Conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference.

"After hearing their representative who went as an Adviser to the Indian Delegation," he added, "the Committee noted with satisfaction the statement made by H.H. the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes in inaugurating the Standing Committee on Labour that 'it was the function and the duty of the States to protect by legislative measures the health, welfare and security of the working classes.' The report, however, also expressed the concern of some members that there appeared to be no provision whereby the obligations of International Labour Conventions might be extended to or assumed by the Indian States.

"This is a matter which is sure to be raised again in future Conference and it is desirable that the States should take immediate steps to meet the criticism. It is, therefore, in their own interest that the Indian States should join with the Central and Provincial Governments in formulating and enforcing a progressive labour policy.

Need for High Power Machinery

"If you approve of the programme which we have placed before you, the question arises as to what machinery we should institute for securing the fullest measure of consultation in forging legislation and devising administrative measures and for seeing that parallel action is taken without delay.

"We have, as you know, the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee on which six industrially important States, namely, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Baroda, Indore and Gwalior are represented. These States account for a substantial proportion of the industrial and plantation labour employed in Indian States.

"The Conference and the Standing Committee meet periodically and discuss in detail various matters coming up for consideration. They are attended mostly by permanent officials and they can discuss and agree only within the limits of their brief. They cannot obviously take a policy decision. If we are to push ahead with our programme it is necessary that we should set up a high powered machinery capable of handling policy questions.

"This matter was discussed at the Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference and it was unanimously agreed that Ministers should meet once in six months, oftener, if necessary, to review the programme of work and take such policy decisions as may be necessary to give effect to the agreed programme. It is our wish that you should also join these Conferences. If you agree to the suggestion, as I hope you will, we shall have to consider how you can be best represented. I would also be grateful for your views as to whether the method of representation should be left to the Chamber of Princes," or whether we should ourselves adopt some basis."

Mentioning the various items of labour legislation undertaken by the Government of India, he said, "I hope the States will agree that parallel action should be taken in regard to the limitation of hours of work and holidays with pay, and will co-operate in the enquiries and take parallel action in regard to other measures which I have mentioned.

"Wherever we have come to some stage of finality, the proposals have been evolved in consultation with the representatives of States on the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Committee, and therefore represent more or less agreed measures. The details of other proposals will be discussed by the Tripartite organisations and the final proposals will also, as in the past, represent more or less agreed decisions."

Speaking about the great scope for improvement that exists in the conditions of the factories in the States, he said, "It is necessary that we should give serious consideration to the problems relating to the organisation of an adequate Inspection Service, so that when the question is debated at the International Conference (in June, 1947) we may be able to give a very satisfactory account of what we have done and intend doing in regard to this important matter."

Finally he spoke of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation of the Government of India. "The problems which this organisation will have to tackle," he said, "are difficult and unless there is the fullest co-ordination of our activities, the results will not be satisfactory. It is our aim that Employment Exchanges in the Provinces and in the States, should not be limited to ex-Servicemen only and that they should be linked together as one co-ordinated whole so as to facilitate the migration of labour where necessary for employment.

"Similarly our training schemes which are at first intended primarily for the benefit of ex-Servicemen will, we hope, gradually develop into a co-ordinated training scheme for the whole of India. This is necessary if the dearth of skilled personnel, from which we have suffered in the past is to be removed. I have no doubt that the States will co-operate to the full in securing the necessary co-ordination in our Employment Exchange service and in our technical and vocational training schemes."

Factory Inspectorate and Labour Legislation

"Although the workshop for labour legislation in India is the Labour Department of the Government and the Provincial Secretariats, I feel that it is the experience of the Factory Inspectorate which should be the basis on which legislation affecting factory workers should be developed," declared Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, in his opening speech to the Conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories, which recently met in New Delhi, Sir Wilfrid Garrett, Chief Adviser Factories, Presiding.

Labour Problems

Mr. Lall continued, "It is a fallacy to imagine that the inevitable price of the industrialisation is the blood, tears, toil and sweat to develop human wants and to provide the machinery for their satisfaction. Surely it would be fatal to cause human misery when you are trying to satisfy human wants.

"In India we are already late. We should not, therefore, waste a single day in setting up our machinery for dealing with our labour problems. We must see to it that our Factory Inspectors are efficient and that they are in a position to help us to find a correct solution of the ills which invariably accompany modern industrial development."

The Government of India have had under consideration the question of fixation of prices of indigenous copra and coconut oil for some time past, said a Press note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India on November 28.

Since copra and coconut oil are of vital importance to the country's economy, both as food and as industrial raw material, the Government of India have decided to institute this control with effect from December 15, 1946. The maximum prices of these articles will be announced shortly.

Government desire to warn all those who may hereafter purchase at the present unreasonable level of prices that they will do so at their own risk.

RISE IN INDIAN SHIP TONNAGE

India's mercantile marine, it is expected, will nearly double its tonnage in the first quarter of 1747, according to information available about orders placed abroad for the purchase of ships by various Indian shipping companies. A good portion of the new tonnage, it is understood, is being obtained from the U.S.A.

Already seven ships of a total tonnage of nearly 34,000 have arrived in India or will arrive in the near future. More ships bringing the total new tonnage purchased to over one lakh tons are expected later. Thus it is probable that the existing Indian steamer tonnage, which is about 1,30,000, will be nearly doubled in the next few months.

It will be recalled that the Government of India recently agreed to provide exchange facilities to the extent of over 6 million U.S. dollars in one case and the equivalent of Rs. 30 lakhs in U.S. dollars or Norwegian or Swedish currency in another case so as to enable Indian shipping companies to purchase foreign tonnage.

The policy of the Government of India, as was announced some time ago, is to consider sympathetically applications from shipping companies for provision of exchange facilities for the purchase of ships.

10,000 HOUSES FOR COAL-MINERS

A proposal to construct 10,000 houses at an estimated maximum cost, including cost of land, of Rs. 2,500 each, for miners in the coalfields came up for the approval of the Standing Finance Committee when it met on November 18 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member.

It was pointed out that housing conditions in the coalfields called for immediate attention. It was proposed that 1,000 houses should be built during the current financial year and the rest during the following, year. A beginning has been made with 150 houses. The Central Government would grant a subsidy of 20 per cent. of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 400. Rent would be charged for the houses, the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund bearing one-third thereof and the balance being met by the mineowner and the occupant.

The Standing Finance Committee approved the scheme of the expenditure during the current year of Rs. 4 lakhs for 1,000 houses and a sum not exceeding Rs. 36 lakhs for the remaining 9,000 houses during the subsequent year.

MUNICIPAL LABOUR IS WELL ORGANISED

Mr. S. R. Deshpande's Report

ON the whole, municipal labour is well organised and in most of the centres the workers have a registered and recognised Trade Union. The relations between the administrations and the workers' unions can be regarded as being cordial.

Speaking generally, municipal workers in this country appear to be better off as compared to those engaged in private industry in regard to hours of work, security of tenure, leave and provisions for the future.

The foregoing is the general conclusion arrived at by Mr. S. R. Deshpande, Member, Labour Investigation Committee, in his Report on an Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in the principal municipalities in India. Data from six Indian municipalities, viz., those of Bombay, Karachi, Lahore, Cawnpore, Nagpur and Madras, have been collected in the Report.

These six municipalities employ, together 36,000 persons; and it is reported that the Calcutta Municipal Corporation employs about 18,000 persons. The major municipalities in India are thus important employers of labour.

The workers are generally classified into permanent and temporary servants. While in some municipalities the proportion of permanent labour to the total is very considerable, in others, a large percentage of the workers continue to remain on a temporary basis for a long period.

Wages

Except in the Bombay Municipality, there are certain disabilities attached to temporary workers in regard to leave, provident fund, dearness allowance, etc., and there has been a clamour on the part of the representatives of the workers that after a minimum period of service, there should be provision in the Service Rules for making the temporary workers permanent.

Working conditions in municipal workshops are generally satisfactory and the provisions of the Factories Act are strictly observed.

The work which has to be done by a large section of the municipal employees, particularly those in the conservancy and sewerage departments is of such loathsome character that it is of the utmost importance that facilities should be given to them to ensure that the nature of their duties will have the least detrimental effect on their outlook and health. In this matter the Bombay Municipality seems to have taken the lead by providing boots, pattis, etc., to workers such as loaders, unloaders, halalkhores, etc., in the Health Department.

The Bombay Municipality has also given the lead by fixing a minimum wage for its employees. Incidentally, this minimum is the highest in the country so far as municipal labour is concerned.

The wage scales in Bombay and Karachi, for staff other than workshop staff, are the highest in the country.

The basic wages of scavengers in Cawnpore, Nagpur, Lahore and Madras call for special attention, urges the Report, in view particularly of the odious character of their work.

There is no standardization of wages in the different occupations in the various departments of the Municipalities and this is one of the grievances of municipal employees.

Housing and Welfare

The housing conditions of municipal workers are most deplorable in some centres, says the Report.

Although the Maternity Benefit Act does not apply to municipal labour, some of the municipalities pay maternity benefit and grant leave. There is, however, no uniformity in regard to this.

The report adds "as municipalities are large employees of labour, the question of the application of the Act to them is one deserving of consideration.

"Municipal workers are comparatively worse off than those employed in private industry in regard to the scale of dearness allowance, and therefore, in regard to total earnings, amenities such as medical aid, education, facilities of recreation, etc."

The Bombay Municipal Corporation has started a few welfare centres for its employees, but these compare very unfavourably with similar welfare work done by the Government of Bombay. While, however, Bombay and Karachi Municipalities are attempting some welfare work, in most other municipalities, nothing at all in the direction of welfare work for the employees is being attempted.

In view of the fact that large sections of Municipal workers, such as sweepers, scavengers, etc., are illiterate and comparatively backward, there seems an urgent necessity, says the Report, for the appointment of special Labour Officers to look after their interests.

Labour Conditions in Coal-Mining Industry

"INDIA has now nearly a thousand coal mines employing about 2,50,000 workers. The Industry is concentrated mainly in Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces. There are a few mines located in Indian States, but their production is only about 11 per cent. of the total production. The industry is mostly in private hands but one notable fact is that the Indian Railways which are now State undertakings, own several rich coal mines in Bokaro and Giridih and also in the Indian States of Talcher and Morea. Mechanisation has made little progress and the bulk of the coal is still hewn by manual labour."

This statement is from the Report, just published, on conditions of labour in the Coal Mining industry, by Mr. S.R. Deshpande, who is now Director, Labour Bureau.

The Report refers to the traditionally migratory character of colliery labour and repeats a recommendation made by the Labour Enquiry Commission of 1896 that a well-co-ordinated system of recruitment might be effected by establishing a net-work of employment exchanges in the potential centres of labour supply.

While the natural working conditions are not too onerous, little has been done to secure the safety or the comfort of the operative in most of the coalfields. For instance, except for a few mines in Assam where steel helmets are provided to guard the workers against roof-falls, in other coalfields, even the supply of bamboo hats is an exception rather than the rule.

While in regard to safety, the Mines Act makes provision and most mines generally observe the safety provisions, little more is attempted beyond what the law lays down to ensure the workers' safety. For instance, the provision in regard to first-aid leave much to be desired.

Lighting in Indian mines is generally poor and the miner's lamp still continues, in most cases, to be the primitive naked *kuppi* or *mughbathi*.

Out of a total 910 coal mines in the country, in only 75 are there coal cutting machines.

Ventilation is generally of the natural type although some of the bigger units have gone in for mechanical ventilators.

The Indian Mines Act does not define the conditions of a difficult working place precisely enough to prevent conditions becoming occasionally unbearable, though as a matter of fact the underground working conditions in Indian mines are generally tolerable.

Sanitation both underground and on the surface is generally absent, and what is more, the Report points out, except in a few mines in Assam and elsewhere there exists no provision for supply of water.

It stresses the need to supply good drinking water to the miners, to provide pithead baths for thorough cleansing and washing, and to arrange periodical examination of the miners' eyes. It deplores general absence of arrangements for these in the colliery areas.

It further points out that, taken as a whole, facilities for medical relief, on the coalfields remain inadequate.

Again, "although the Santhal is scrupulously clean in his village home," says the Report, "once he migrates to the coalfields he is no longer the same individual." This, it says, is due to the lack of educational facilities, to which the Welfare Department must devote great attention.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN C.P.W.D.

Prof. B. P. Adarkar's Report

THE Central Public Works Department will not be able to maintain the same number of workers, which it has been employing under war-time expansion. Unless some provision is made somewhere for these workers, they are bound to be very seriously affected by unemployment in the post-war period.

Unless the Department imposes definite conditions regarding labour employed by contractors to a far greater extent than is at present and unless such conditions are strictly enforced, the lot of contractors' labourers must continue to be miserable.

The above is the conclusion of a Report submitted by Prof. B. P. Adarkar, Member, Labour Investigation Committee, on Labour Conditions in the Central Public Works Department. The Report has recently been published.

Conditions of Employment

It is estimated that the total number of workers employed by the C.P.W.D. throughout India directly and indirectly amounted to 1¼ lakhs in 1944.

Contract labour predominates at all centres, and the employment of women and children is also not uncommon.

There are three main categories of labour serving directly under the department, *viz.*, permanent, temporary and work-charged.

Their conditions of employment are subject to Government rules and notifications.

Generally speaking, work-charged men, who predominate numerically, have the least privileges and rights, while the permanent men, who are very few, are the most favourably situated in this regard.

Wages and Earnings

Generally the wage rates are fixed, says the Report, depending on the prevalent rates in the areas and are comparable with those under the Provincial P.W.D.

At most of the places the rates have gone up since 1939 and consequently the earnings of C.P.W.D. work-charged and contractors' workers have also risen considerably. Dearness allowances have also been paid.

Contract rates do not materially differ from the departmental wage rates, and at one or two places were found to be higher than the latter; this, however is a temporary situation caused by the war.

Wages and earnings have generally ranged from Rs. 30 to Rs. 164 per month for skilled workers and from Rs. 14 to Rs. 36 per month for unskilled workers. Dearness allowances were paid in addition in most cases.

Arrangements for drinking water are not quite satisfactory.

Single shifts are worked everywhere, except in the A.R.P. Section in the Calcutta Division during the war time. The working hours are generally 8, but at some places they are 9.

Urinals and latrines are conspicuously absent at the work place.

Dispensaries are provided at all the places but at some places doctors are engaged for half time only.

Cheap grain shops are provided in the Calcutta Division, while canteens also are available in some divisions, *e.g.* at Karachi and Delhi. The former was patronised by low-paid workers to some extent, but the latter appeared to be too costly for them.

Supervisory staff is enerally housed free of charge or house rent is paid to them in lieu of housing accommodation. Work-charged men, however, are neither given housing accommodation nor paid house rent.

Contractors are required under their agreements to provide temporary huttings to workers employed by them. These are, however, extremely unsatisfactory, observes the Report, being [illegible] of bamboo and *kirki* grass, and sanitary arrangements are not up the mark.

The Factories Act and the Payment of Wages Act are not applicable to C.P.W.D. labour, nor any Maternity Benefit Act. The Workmen's Compensation Act is applicable to both departmental and contract labour.

There is, however, complains the Report, a tendency on the part of most contractors to evade the exact payment of compensation by trying to arrive at compromise with the injured workmen.

CONTROL OF ELECTRIC SUPPLY

A list of Principles designed to regulate the finances of public utility concerns engaged in the supply of electricity, mainly in the interest of consumers, has been finally approved by a special Advisory Board. The Report of the Board will be shortly published.

The Advisory Board, of which Mr. H.M. Mathews, Electric Commissioner with the Government of India, was Chairman, consisted of four other members, namely, Mr. D.L. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary, Works, Mines & Power Department, Mr. P.B. Advani, Special Omcer, Electric Grid, Bombay, Mr. K.V. Karantha, Chief Electric Inspector to the Government of Madras and Mr. I.A. Macpherson, nominee of the Federation of Electricity undertakings in India. Mr. K. Subramanian Technical Officer, Office of the Electric Commissioner, was the Secretary of the Board.

The Board called in witnesses to help it in matters in which it required elucidation or clarification by specialists; and it secured opinions on certain specific matters from the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, the Governments of Madras and Mysore and a few firms of bankers.

The Principles, the first draft of which had been submitted to the Government of India in 1944 by the Electric Commissioner, were finalised by the Board in its fourth session, held in New Delhi from November 19 to November 22, 1946.

Interests of Consumers

The ruling consideration with the Board was that the consumer of electricity must have his interests safeguarded, especially in view of the dependence of both industry and agriculture in the future on an abundant supply of electricity at reasonable rates.

Under the prevailing conditions, it was felt, the interests of the consumer might sometimes take second place to those of the shareholder. Several licensees pay unduly high rates of interest on their capital, which should naturally have the effect of retarding other industries, which depend on electric supply.

Nor are the prevailing conditions satisfactory to the licensees themselves; because while the Provincial Governments are authorised under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to enforce on the licensees a schedule of maximum prices and to direct examination of their affairs, no clear-cut declaration has been made on what is a 'fair return' on capital, nor has the procedure, by which licensees' affairs shall be examined, been clearly defined.

The Principles now approved by the Advisory Board aim at removing these uncertainties as far as possible. To safeguard the interest of the consumer by effecting a reduction in the selling price of electricity and to ensure, at the same time, an adquate flow of development capital it is intended to limit the interest and dividends payable to the minimum necessary.

The interests of the investors (and thereby of the consumer as well in the long run) are also being safeguarded by insistence on a properly devised system of compulsory depreciation and by the facility given to them to earn a 'reasonable' or 'fair' return on investment.

The Principles are largely concerned in formulating elaborate and detailed definitions of 'reasonable' and 'fair' in this context.

It is also intended to regulate the commission and expenses of Managing Agents within reasonable limits having regard to the special circumstances of the industry.

Most of the Provinces will have to set up public Electricity Supply Boards

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WHY CONTROLS SHOULD CONTINUE

Industries Member's Speech in Central Assembly

"WE see no indication that the general level of prices in the country has fallen or is falling. On the other hand, the shortage of goods still continues to be acute. Our productive capacity has not been increased and what capacity there is has not been wholly in operation. Although the import position is slightly better the conditions prevailing in other countries are such that, in regard to essential commodities, the surplus available in a country like ours are likely to be limited. Therefore, we are up against the same problem as that which faced us last year and the years before and that is the reason why this control should continue," observed the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Member for Industries and Supplies, Government of India, during the second reading of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1946, in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 11.

The Bill provides for the continuance, during a limited period, of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in certain commodities, *viz.*, foodstuffs, cotton and woollen textiles, paper, coal, iron and steel, mica, petroleum and petroleum products and spare parts of mechanically propelled vehicles.

The Hon'ble Member said:

Briefly what this Bill tries to do is to put in the form of an Act of the Legislature the provisions which are already contained in an Ordinance which deals with the same matter. There is only one point regarding which the Bill proposes to vary the provisions of the Ordinance. That provision is in regard to control being exercised over actual undertakings. At present, as the Ordinance stands, that control relates only to the subject of coal, but in the Bill the control, if and when the necessity for it arises, might be extended also to the other articles covered by the Bill. Personally, I do not think that the occasion would necessarily arise in respect of a great majority of those commodities, but in order to make the control effective and comprehensive, it is desirable that this provision should be put into the Bill.

Problem of Inflation

Sir, the House has, more than once, when questions relating to control arose, expressed its concern regarding the whole subject, that is to say, whether in principle control should be continued, now that the emergency of war has ceased and whether its administration has been, on the whole, to the benefit of the community. I propose, therefore, to deal with the general subject of control in the few remarks which I wish to place before the Hou[illegible].

The thing to remember with regard to control is that the entire case for it rests on the fact that the problem of inflation is still with us. We see no indication that it is going to be less acute in the very near future. The indications are that it is going to remain with us for a longer period of time than many of us had anticipated. What inflation amounts to is briefly this, that when you have a large amount of money in circulation and, therefore, a high degree of purchasing power, concentrated in the hands of a relatively small number of people, and over against it you have an acute shortage of goods, then the inevitable result is that, unless the community steps in and exercises control, those whose resources are limited are likely to be left out in the scramble. That, I think, is a situation which the Government cannot possibly tolerate and that, in a nutshell, is the whole case for control.

Essential Commodities

Last year many of us had hoped that, with the cessation of war expenditure, it will be possible for us to have in this country, on the whole, a downward trend of prices and that the problems connected with inflation would not be so severe as they still are. That anticipation, for various reasons, has not materialised.

We see no indication that the general level of prices in the country has fallen or is falling. On the other hand, the shortage of goods still continues to be acute. Our productive capacity has not been increased and what capacity there is has not been wholly in operation. Although the import position is slightly better, the conditions prevailing in other countries are such that, in regard to essential commodities, the surplus available in a country like ours are likely to be limited. Therefore we are up against the same problem as that which faced us last year and the years before and that is the reason why this control should continue.

The provision of Parliamentary legislation, in pursuance of which it is possible to pass this Bill, prescribes a certain limited period for measures passed under it. The period is briefly this—this will continue for a period of 12 months from the official declaration of cessation of hostilities, unless the Governor-General, by public notification, extends it for a further 12 months. If thereafter it becomes necessary to continue it, there should be a Resolution by both



DR. JOHN MATTHAI.

Houses of Parliament. The period could be extended by a Resolution of Parliament but then the whole period will be subject to a limit of five years altogether from the cessation of hostilities.

I submit that the conditions in India are such today that in regard to commodities which are essential, in the sense that they enter into general consumption or they are commodities which are essential to the production of such commodities, it is necessary, in view of the fact that the capacity for purchasing these things is relatively concentrated in the hands of a small number of people, that the State should continue to be armed with powers for rectifying the serious inequalities which otherwise might result.

Controls and Black-Marketing

As far as I can understand the position, the objection to the system of control has not so much been to the principle of it. It has been very much more to the way in which the control has been administered. It has often been said when you introduce control you are providing room for black marketing. If you did not have a system of control, there would be no incentive for people to drive goods underground and to pass them into the black-market. Therefore, if you want to eliminate black-marketing, you ought to eliminate control.

I have heard this argument used over and over again. May I say, with great respect, that that argument does not really touch the essence of the matter. That argument is generally used by people who, if I may say so, do not see far enough. The real point is this. Whenever you have a law, there is bound to be breaches of that law. Crime in a sense is a corollary to law and in the same way black-marketing is a corollary to control. If because of black-marketing you want to eliminate control, you must just as well argue that because of crime you must eliminate law altogether. Personally,

I do not think the argument goes deep enough.

But the real objection which practical people have raised is that in the way in which control has been administered, it has been administered unfairly to certain groups or sections of the community. It has probably been administered not merely unfairly, but it has been administered ineffectively.

Administration of Controls

I quite recognise from what examination I have made of the subject of control that it is possible to maintain that in certain respects our administration of control has been ineffective and that it has caused unfairness to certain interests in the country. My reply to that is that whatever unfairness and whatever ineffectiveness there has been in regard to the administration of control, these inconveniences, this unsettlement and dislocation are things which the Legislature and the country have got to put with in the larger interests of the country.

In all countries control has been difficult to administer satisfactorily. It is particularly different in a country like ours, and I will tell you why. In our country we have got to put into operation a system of control through an administrative system which has grown up through the years upon a tradition which has been largely negative in character. That is to say, we have at present an administrative organisation built up over a period of years, whose main business has been to prevent things being done, that is to maintain law and order. It is a police government on the foundation of which you have got to erect a system of regulation rather than prevention. It is going to be a difficult business, I admit. But, if because of that you are going to surrender the whole principle and system of control then it seems to me you are choosing a bigger evil in preference to a lesser one.

Local Self-Government

It is not merely that our administrative system has essentially a negative outlook and is incapable of handling the more positive side of administration with the success which the difficult conditions of today call for.

There is another difficulty. After all is said and done, to people who have studied the systems of public administration in different parts of the world, one of the most striking things about Indian administration is that the quantum of Indian administration is much smaller than the problems of the country require. The trouble in our country is not so much that we are badly administered as that we are under-administered. It is possible to remedy the under-administration of the country by the institution of an effective system of local self-government.

Local committees of various kinds [illegible] the necessary public spirit and organisation could do a good deal to supplement the deficiencies of administration. There is no doubt about that. In a country like England, I suppose, what makes up for the relative small quantum of administration is the successful local self-governing system they have there.

In regard to controls of this kind, it will be a very great help if we could muster sufficient local help to assist the bureaucracy to administer them. But the fact remains that at present we are short of that kind of thing.

But, as I said at the beginning, we have got to put up with it for some time to come and all that I can say in reply to these criticisms is this: We are trying in the matter of controls a process of vast experimentation. We have not tried this thing before. The fact is that we are proceeding in this matter by trial and error. If Hon'ble Members have read the note which I circulated along with the Bill, they will find that in many cases we are still groping in the dark.

Scope of Controls

In regard to the scope of these controls in some cases it is possible for us, with reference to the circumstances of the commodity in question, to institute control right from the point of origin to the point of ultimate consumption. In regard to other commodities we are not in a position to do that and therefore control has got to stop at some intermediate point. It is unsatisfactory to that extent, but the difficulties of the situation have got to be reckoned with.

Similarly, if you take the methods of control, they also vary from commodity to commodity. In regard to the very important matter, for example, of the method of pricing you adopt one method of pricing regarding cloth and you adopt another method of pricing regarding steel and a third in regard to other commodities. The thing cannot be helped. It seems to me that in a matter of this kind, the wisest thing to do is to proceed empirically; that is to say, to proceed by experience. It is only on a basis of actual experience in this very difficult field of organisation that we shall be able ultimately to have a system of control which will be really effective.

Complaints and Criticisms

Since this Bill, if passed into law, is not likely to last for more than a very limited period, I hope the House will accept my assurance that while we are engaged in this process of experimentation, if any complaints and criticisms come from Hon'ble Members of the House, so long as I am in charge of the Department, I will make every effort to see that the complaints and criticisms are adequately met. Every suggestion which Members may make in this matter will be welcomed by Government.

May I conclude on this note? I see that there is an amendment on the paper (in the name of Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffar, M.L.A., and subsequently not pressed) suggesting that the matter might be referred to a Select Committee. I would beg my Hon'ble friend not to press his amendment.

Considering the terrific inequality that prevails in the country, particularly at present in the matter of income and purchasing power, and the difficulties and hardships to which the poorer sections of the community might be put, unless the Government as the organised expression of community was armed with necessary powers, I feel that when matters of this kind come up before the House, the House is really on its trial. I think by its attitude to measures of this kind the House will be judged as regards its truly representative character. If I may say so in conclusion, if the attitude of the House is going to be that this Bill, so limited in scope and in its duration, is to be rejected or impeded or delayed, I venture to say very respectfully that it would not merely stultify but condemn itself.

DR. JOHN MATTHAI'S REPLY TO THE DEBATE

Replying to the debate that followed, in which Messrs. E. L. C. Gwilt, Manu Subedar, N. M. Joshi, N. V. Gadgil, Tamizuddin Khan, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Mr. A. R. Siddiqui participated, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai said:

The discussion has ranged over a very wide field and what I propose to do is to take up a few of the more important criticisms which have been made on the Bill and make what reply I can to them. Before I do so, I should like to express my appreciation of the constructive and patriotic line that the House as a whole has taken with regard to this measure.

Economic Emergency

One of the things which apparently has worried practically every speaker who has spoken on this Bill is that the war emergency is over, why has a Bill with such drastic provisions put into law? My reply to it is this. This emergency of war is over now but the economic emergency created by the war still continues in exactly the same form, probably slightly worse, and unless something is done by Government to prevent the serious abuses which are possible under the conditions which prevail to-day, I do not think the Government would be discharging its responsibilities.

A great deal has been said about the severity of the provisions contained in this Bill. I am aware that in certain respects these provisions are severe. A great deal has been said also about corruption among public servants who have been handling the instruments of control. Now may I just say this: "I do not think that enough has been said about the anti-social conduct of a large number of

people in this country who have been concerned with the production and distribution of goods. The emergency conditions created by the war have been used in directions which do not reflect credit upon large numbers of people in the country and I think if the National Government is at all true to its purpose, it must not allow this kind of conditions to continue any longer"

Mr. Manu Subedar raised a very relevant point. This control measure is necessary because of the continuance of inflation, but what exactly is Government doing in order to prevent the inflationary position getting worse and possibly to get the price level back to a normal trend? Well, that question is very much under the consideration of the Government; it is a matter which is receiving anxious attention at our hands. As Mr. Manu Subedar realises, it is not a simple problem. It is a problem which has got to be attacked simultaneously upon a very large number of fronts. You have got to tackle it on the monetary front, you have got to tackle it on the front of goods and services in between you have to tackle it on a basis of direct controls.

Productive Capacity

It has been suggested that if in America they have lifted all controls why should we not lift our controls also? There is a very vital difference between America and India in this respect and that indeed is the whole case for maintaining this control in India.

If we were to be left entirely to the operation of economic forces, supposing the whole question of adjustment of supply and demand is to be brought out by the operation of the price factor, what would happen under present conditions in India is this. We cannot increase the supply of goods to anything like the extent we want. We have not got the productive equipment in this country; even now we have not got the machinery-making industry in this country. And we are not in a position to increase our supply by imports because manufacturing countries have not got enough surpluses. Therefore, supposing you allow normal forces to operate, what would happen is that prices would go up; they would go up further and further. It would make no difference to the supply position; and therefore prices will continue to remain at that higher level.

Planned Economy

In America, with a productive capacity so large, which has been greatly enhanced during the war years, what might happen in this; that if controls are removed and prices go up; it is possible that the productive equipment of the country will meet the situation by increasing the supply of goods. We are not in that position to-day, and that, I submit, is the whole case for this Bill.

A good deal has been said about planned economy. I do not want to discuss that subject in connection with this particular measure, for a very obvious reason. I said in my opening remarks that the whole purpose of Government in introducing this Bill is to meet an emergency situation which is likely to last for a limited period, and I would therefore confine my reply strictly to that aspect of the problem.

I personally think that, within a period of 18 months it may be, or two years, the forces which are relevant in this connection may operate in the direction of bringing down our prices to a level considerably lower than the present. Supposing within that period, we find that the inflationary position has lost its tension, its acuteness, then it will be time for Government, so far as this particular Bill is concerned, to consider a relaxation of its provisions.

As regards planned economy, the controls necessary for instituting a planned economy are of an entirely different character. Their purpose would be different; their method of operation would be different; and the whole objective would be different. So I do not want in this connection to raise the question of the control machinery that would be required for instituting and promoting a planned economic development; but I have not the slightest doubt that if this country is going to make any real progress in the matter of economic development, it would be necessary to adopt a fairly extensive system of controls, whether you organise your economic development on an all India basis or on a regional basis or on a provincial basis. It is no use getting away from that fact.

Sympathetic Administration

The first speaker referred to the importance of bringing the orders issued in connection with this measure to the notice of the authorities who work on these measures actually on the spot. It is a suggestion, which I would accept.

I really think there is a great deal to be said for measures of this kind to be interpreted in an intelligent and sympathetic manner by those who are in charge of them; but may I say this, that in regard to most of these controls the ultimate operating authority is the Provincial Governments, and all that we at the Centre could do would be to advise the authorities, the Provincial Governments, as regards the best way in which these controls can be administered. But I certainly would keep the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Member in mind and do whatever I can to bring this matter to the notice of the Provincial Governments concerned.

House Building

I think reference was made to the fact that in the important matter of house building, a question to which I think Hon'ble Members are entitled to attach very great importance, not enough progress has been made. I should like in that connection to say this: it is not merely in regard to house building, but in regard to all plans of development which the Government of this country have been considering, we have been held up not so much by financial considerations as by the fact that the necessary material resources have not been available.

It is an unfortunate situation but it can be tackled only on the basis of increased production in the country and by a more suitable kind of distribution. One of the purposes of this Bill is to see that the distribution of these materials is arranged on lines which are in the best interests of the country.

The Bill was passed without a division by the Assembly on the following day (November 12).

INDIA TO MANUFACTURE TEXTILE SPINNING MACHINERY

The Indian Textile Machinery Delegation sponsored by the Government of India, consisting of Mr. Krishnaraj Thackersey (Chairman of the Textile Control Board) as Chairman, and Mr. Dharamsey Mulraj Khatau (Chairman of the Post War Planning Committee and of the Bombay Mill-Owners Association), Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Sir Frederick Stones (Honorary Technical Adviser to the Government of India) and Mr. T. P. Barat (Joint Textile Commissioner to the Government of India), recently arrived in the U.K.

The primary purpose of the Delegation was to examine the question of starting the manufacture of cotton textile spinning machinery in India.

An agreement has been signed between Mr. Krishnaraj Thackersey, on behalf of the Delegation, and Mr. K. Preston, Chairman of Textile Machinery Makers Limited, on behalf of the English companies, under which a textile spinning machinery manufacturing plant will be started in India as soon as possible, with the full assistance and co-operation of Textile Machinery Makers Limited.

The agreement provides *inter alia* for the formation of an Indian company with a capital of Rs. 1½ crores. While the majority of shares will be held by Indians, the English companies are to have a financial interest in the company and will be represented on the Board.

The main benefits arising therefrom are; (i) The acceleration of the production of new machinery which is urgently needed in India to fulfil the planned extension of India's cotton textile industry (ii) Hastening rehabilitation and/or replacement of machines, which owing to being worked continuously during the war period at very high pressure without adequate overhaul and attention, need replacement in whole or in part immediately.

The Budget Session of the Central Assembly will commence at New Delhi on Monday the 20th January 1947.

INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION



MR. ASAF ALI, MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND RAILWAYS, ADDRESSING THE 50TH SESSION OF THE INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 25.

LOCOMOTIVE MANUFACTURE OUR MOST URGENT NEED

—*Mr. Asaf Ali*

"COACHES and locomotives of new designs with streamlined bodies should be brought into commission and we should try and get out of old nuts and grooves and establish modern standards which should compare favourably with the most advanced parts of the world. We have a unique opportunity to-day to break new ground and to sow a harvest of modern construction," said the Hon'ble Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport and Railways, Government of India, addressing the 50th session of the Indian Railway Conference Association held in New Delhi on November 25.

Here is the full text of Mr. Asaf Ali's speech.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I am glad to be in your midst to-day, because it gives me an opportunity of coming into close contact with the heads of Railway Administrations with whose work I have to be intimately associated during my term of office. I have to share both credit and discredit with you and with nearly 900,000 railwaymen for whatever happens of good or evil report in the countrywide organisation with which all of us are connected and which is constantly in contact with India's millions at all levels and in almost every aspect of their lives and at all times. But before I say another word, let me thank you, Mr. President, for the kind welcome you have extended to me and also for the sentiments to which you have given expression in respect of the Interim Government. (For President's Address see page 450).

The people of India had long cherished the dream of being masters in their own home and working out their destiny unhindered by external influences. To-day there is but only a step between them and the fullest realisation of their vision.

I have already pointed out what international relations that have developed between South African Government and the Government of India are and also what obligation South Africa has undertaken towards the Government of India. Further, it is rather late in the day for South Africa to urge that this is a domestic matter.

Only the other day, in the plenary session of the United Nations, we carried by acclamation a resolution moved by Egypt protesting against racial persecution and discrimination wherever it might be taking place. South Africa is a party to that resolution.

It never protested that discrimination was a domestic matter which the United Nations was not entitled to investigate. All we are doing now is drawing the attention of this organization to a specific case of racial discrimination in respect of which the organization has already expressed the opinion that it will not tolerate or countenance it in any part of the world.

Reference to International Court

Finally, Field Marshal Smuts has moved that this question is of such great importance that it should be referred to the International Court of Justice for advisory opinion. In my opinion, nobody is less suited to express an opinion on this question than that august tribunal.

I have already pointed out how political considerations of the question outweighed the legal aspect and it would be very wrong indeed to drag a judicial body into a political controversy.

After all, in Articles 95 and 96 it is optional for the General Assembly or the Security Council to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question and it does not preclude the right of the organization itself to decide legal questions, if it were so minded.

Only the other day, in the Legal Committee, we interrupted the meaning of the expression "meeting" in Articles 11 and 12 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

It is a question of interpreting the Charter and every minute some committee or sub-committee or the plenary session of the Assembly is interpreting what the Charter means and I cannot conceive of a more appropriate case than this one where this committee and ultimately the Assembly itself should, construe what the Charter means.

An Appeal

In conclusion, gentlemen, when you come to vote upon the resolution which we have moved, I do beg of you to consider the grave implications of the vote that every one of you register. It would be a great mistake to look upon this question as a conflict between Asiatic States and non-Asiatic States. Something much more vital than that is at stake. What is at stake, is the very existence of this organization. If this resolution is defeated, it would mean that this organization does not exist in order to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and is prepared to connive at the wicked and vicious doctrine of the master race, which so many nations victoriously fought in the last war at tremendous cost of blood, tears and sweat.

The gruesome spectres of discord and miseries born of the world war are still stalking the globe and casting their hideous shadows over our land too, turning life into a nightmare for the moment. Let us, however, earnestly hope and pray that men of sensibility, determination and vision will succeed in bringing their fellow-beings out of the distressing aftermath of the war. Let us also hope that before long the temporary distemper from which this land is suffering will pass off and Free and Independent India will embark on the great task of building up a new structure of society on the sure foundations of peace, goodwill, prosperity and progress.

Valuable Co-operation

I share with you, Mr. President, your feelings about your colleagues, both those who have retired and the others who have assumed the charge of their new posts. I greatly value the co-operation, I have so far received from those with whom I am in daily contact, particularly the Chief Commissioner and the team of his colleagues. I look for similar co-operation from all of you.

All of us have our duties and responsibilities marked out, but all of us must work as a team of comrades working for a common end, that is the prosperity of India.

In his valedictory address to you, Sir Edward Benthall, said that your deliberations were a very convenient method of co-ordinating railway problems in an atmosphere of free speech and informal discussion. He also maintained that "In spite of or perhaps even because of the acquisition of all the major railways in British India by the State there was still a great field of work for the Association and it would be a pity for any bureaucratic reasons to lessen the importance of these meetings." I also feel that this Association has not outlived its usefulness.

Conferences and informal discussions between responsible heads of Administrations functioning in places far apart have a value of their own, and I am aware of no bureaucratic reasons which should dictate their discontinuance. In fact, I feel that a great mass of red-tape can be dispensed with if such informal discussions succeed in displacing the heavy files which go on acquiring bulk like snowballs from day to day while matters of vital importance await quick decisions.

Concrete Suggestions

The President has placed before you the result of his long experience and statistical research and he has covered a wide field of concrete suggestions relating to financial matters.

He has selected for his thesis questions of railway finance and rate structure. It is as you are all aware a complex and delicate subject. In the words of an Indian author, "It would not be too much to say that there is probably no subject in the whole sphere of Political Economy that is more interesting and deeply affecting industry and trade than that of transport, and that there is possibly no other field wherein the theory of rate fixing is more vaxations and hedged in with unending difficulties."

I must pay a tribute to the thoroughness with which Mr. Reynolds has reviewed the financial position and put forward his concrete suggestions for the consideration of the Association. It has been said that "the policy of charging what the traffic can bear is the most equitable and the basic feature of enlightened taxation policy", because it is "the only just and workable principle".

But while I should not like to trench upon controversial ground, I am bound to make an observation too. The years of war marked the period of boom, but the fact that railway rates did not run parallel to the general rise of inflationary prices naturally meant a heavy strain on the organisation and its instruments of production without commensurate returns. And yet both the gross and net earnings of the railways during the years of war reached a peak, the gradual decline from which is bound to look like a steep fall. The inflationary curve is still on the high side and no rate structure can be easily stabilised on fluid and fluctuating values.

The investigation which is now proceeding under the Railway Board's supervision is progressing and a preliminary report may be expected before long.

The entire problem is highly complex, but even complexity has to yield to certain rules of thumb which the common man empirically applies to the determination of the value of commodities in his everyday dealings. Transport service whether for passengers or goods is a saleable commodity which must be adjusted in the open market according to the prevailing level of prices, but with great circumspection.

The President has taken great pains to work out the average of fares and has made suggestions which I have no doubt will receive your earnest consideration. Whatever the result of your deliberations and the final decision of the Government regarding the rates and fares structure, the trends of budget figures make it tolerably clear that if even some of the more important demands which are being pressed upon the railways for various improvements, are to be met along with the financial commitments resulting from the Government's decisions on the Adjudicator's award in the case of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the Pay Commission's recommendations, the railway revenue must bear a heavy burden.

It seems, therefore, that there will be no escape from a corresponding increase in fares and rates or perhaps both. Mr. Reynolds has envisaged a deficit of 10.4 crores in the current year which he apprehends will go on increasing till 1949-50, the cumulative effect being of the order of 80 crores. I earnestly hope that facts will not justify his apprehensions and the lean years will not be quite as lean as he fears.

Prudence, however, is the sovereign quality of all planning unless we err on the side of rash speculation. Unforeseen factors like the fitful suspension of normal activities due to causes beyond our control apart, even the normal course of events will demand a search for ways and means of increasing our earnings. This will have to be done through prudent economy on the one hand and enhanced rates or fares or both on the other.

High Power Committee

The Government have appointed a High Power Committee to examine the possibilities of effecting prudent economies in all branches of railway administrations and suggesting ways and means of increasing earnings. This Committee will also ascertain the number of staff surplus to requirements and suggest ways of absorbing them.

We must not overlook the fact that the country is keyed up for a big stride towards planned industrialisation and it is not unreasonable to hope that 1947-48 will see the first concrete steps in that direction. This should mean increased movements of both internal and external goods though perhaps on a moderate scale at first. In succeeding years, such movements are bound to register an upward curve.

We must also strive hard to improve and increase our coaching stock to meet the volume of passenger traffic which is now flooding the railway premises without finding accommodation. It is

waiting to be picked up by us if only we are ready to do so.

When these and other factors are taken into consideration, I feel that we need not be influenced by the sombre picture of increasing deficits for some years to come. At the same time we must not be buoyantly optimistic either and steps must be taken in time against the rainy day.

I am not convinced yet why the needed revenue should not come out of the goods traffic as well as the passenger traffic. Perhaps it can be argued that the passenger traffic can bear increased fares and such an increase should help deflation, whereas an increase in rates while not affecting goods traffic very much may have a tendency to increase the price level of commodities and thereby help inflation.

Uniform Policy

It may be an overdrawn picture, but in any case it is a matter on which Government would be guided by expert advice. We must, however, keep one fact in view and that is the absolute necessity of shaping our rates policy so as to provide maximum assistance to the stimulation of internal trade and indigenous industries and secure an equitable distribution of essential commodities all over the country.

The railways should not be merely money collecting drudges, but while adhering to sound principles of economics, we should try to approximate as closely as possible to the demands of public utility and render such service to the country as a whole, as enlightened national interest dictates.

The problems which the railways have to face are many and varied on account of the immensity of the organisation which covers the entire continent inhabited by 1/5 of the human race. In a peculiar sense, the transport organization of a country reflects the degree of the civilization which it may boast of.

Scientific research has made it possible for human beings to attain ever higher achievements in speed and comfort in relaton to their transportation by air, land, sea and waterways. India can certainly boast of a highly developed system of transportation by rail and it is fairly clear that transportation by air, road and inland waterways will proceed by long strides and present the railways with complex problems of co-ordination.

It is my hope that it will be possible for the Central and Provincial Governments and the States to view the development of transportation as a whole and to evolve a co-ordinated scheme of healthy development which may afford the millions of India ever increasing facilities for free movements in maximum comfort. All forms and means of transport should be brought within the same focus and shaped altogether by a uniform policy based on the principle of economic and strategic indivisibility and integrity of the whole country.

Like the Defence Services, the Transport Services, while operating within their specific spheres should be carefully interlinked and co-ordinated. I cannot say to-day when this consummation will be achieved, but to my mind it is of paramount importance to the growth of a progressive society that transport which is one of the key activities and industries should be both rationalised and nationalised in due course.

Growth of Indian Railways

The history of the growth of Indian railways has handed down, even after the acquisition of the major railways by the State, a legacy which makes it necessary for us to emphasize the reorientation which must be taken to have come about since this revolutionary change. The United Kingdom is only thinking of nationalising the railways, and the U.S.A. has yet to reach that goal. But by force of circumstances India has already achieved this miracle.

There must be many railwaymen both among the officers and the rest who may not have fully realised the significance of this change. It must, therefore, be brought home to all that the railways owned by the Government of India to-day have been fully redeemed from the stranglehold of foreign capital and there is not a pie of foreign capital invested in them which can in any way influence the decisions and policies of the Government.

This naturally means that the biggest national asset which is now being managed by the Government on behalf of the people, whose money has gone to its development, must no longer be considered as an instrument of xploitation by foreign or Indian capitalists and everyone employed by the organisation must look upon the Government railways as the most tangible national property, whose improvement is a national duty imposed upon every railwayman.

This brings me to one of the more immediate problems, a correct appreciation of which is essential.

So long as the railways were managed by commercial companies to whom they were an instrument of exploitation, the attitude of railwaymen vard their employers may or may not have been justified if they looked upon them as exploiters. To-day every railwayman must consider it a privilege to do an honest job of work in the service of the nation and it must be clearly realised by all that self-discipline more than the discipline imposed by rules and regulations, is a moral and national duty.

It may be that for some time while complex problems are being studied and examined and their solutions are being considered, conditions of service, particularly for those who are not highly paid, may not be what they should be but all must rest assured that irksome conditions will not be tolerated a moment beyond the day when a comprehensive survey has made it possible for the Government to bring in new conditions of service and better standards of life.

Strikes and inefficient discharge of duties inevitably mean the deterioration of revenues besides other consequences to the country's trade and commerce and hardships to vast sections of the population when the movement of essential foodstuffs, fuel and other necessary commodities are either held up or made difficult. Strikes may have been necessary when the employers were not willing to concede the legitimate demands of the employees, but to-day such protests are only the result of perverse reasoning because there is no occasion for these protests. A Government which is pledged to the amelioration of the conditions of life, not merely of their employees but of the masses generally should not be accused of indifference or neglect if it takes time to bring about a comprehensive change after a full examination of the complex financial structure which depends on a multiplicity of factors.

It is said that Russia has registered phenomenal achievements in the development of railways, because the State is the owner of all means of transport. So is India now at least in so far as the major Railway systems are concerned.

I wish railway employees would emulate the example of Russian railwaymen who work to their utmost capacity with perfect integrity and by distinguishing themselves as worthy Stakhanovites earn decorations for increasing productivity and showing inventive skill, and frequently complete production ahead of the scheduled time.

Scientific Research

A glance at what is happening in the more advanced parts of the world makes it perfectly clear that scientific research is being pressed into service by Transport services in the interest of greater comfort and higher speed. The establishment of a Scientific Research Organisation was decided upon by the Railway Board about a year ago or so which for one reason or another has not advanced beyond its initial nucleus.

I feel that the time has come when our scientific research organisation should be as comprehensive as possible and should embrace a field even wider than the one contemplated by the Railway Board. I can think of no branch of science, pure or applied, barring perhaps astronomy, biology, zoology and the like which does not come into play in relation to the railway organization at some stage or another.

The establishment of a Central Scientific Research Institute of Railways appears to me to be an urgent desideratum.

This leads me to the question of certain improvements, which in my opinion, ought to be carried out on all our railway systems.

Trains and stations should be fitted up with wireless receiving and transmitting sets to enable the running and the controlling staffs to communicate with one another even while trains are in transit exactly in the same way as aeroplanes fitted with wireless sets can receive and transmit messages from and to aerodromes and can pick up other messages which may be of value to them. This can go a long way to reduce, if not to eliminate altogether,

some of the disasters which are due to-day to the failure of the human or mechanical element. It may also be mentioned in this connection, that automatic controls and the use of Radar should, after due examination, be introduced to achieve the same end.

Coaches and locomotives of new designs with streamlined bodies should be brought into commission and we should try and get out of old ruts and grooves and establish modern standards which should compare favourably with the most advanced parts of the world.

In this connection, I may mention that it is the policy of the Government that every single article required by the State Railways from a nail to a finished locomotive should be manufactured in the country. A considerable number of such articles have not yet begun to be manufactured in India. By and large our most urgent need is to start building the locomotives we require and the Railway Board has now matured a plan which aims at producing the bulk of the locomotives and boilers required, within a relatively short period, say about three years from now.

Although specifications of the types of locomotives required are being worked out in one of our Directorates, it would be a good thing if Railway Engineers who have studied the subject come forward with concrete proposals to be considered.

Soviet Russia, where some conditions are similar, has produced new and improved types of Condenser Locomotives which can run a thousand miles without taking water. The condensing installation of this type of locomotive converts the steam discharged by the cylinders into water for reconversion into steam as many as 10 to 13 times. Another type of the Russian locomotive is equipped with mechanical stokers.

There is no reason why we should not be able to produce locomotives which may compare favourably with those in use in other parts of the world. We have a unique opportunity to-day to break new ground and to sow a harvest of modern construction.

The New Spirit

I must say a word or two about the new spirit which must inspire our organisation as a whole. I have nothing, but praise for all those who have made the railways what they are and who even under difficult circumstances to-day are discharging their duties even at the peril of their lives in the face of ugly circumstances temporarily prevailing in the country.

It is not only the administrative heads, Engineers, Commercial, Transportation and other officers, who hold responsible positions in the organisation, but the bulk of the railway employees who operate on other levels who deserve recognition as the essential part of the human machinery which is responsible for the success of the railways.

Dignity of labour and, therefore, respect for the labourer is absolutely essential and the relationship between officers and the rank and file must always be cordial, sympathetic and helpful.

But at the same time, I must address myself to the hundreds of thousands of railwaymen who are engaged in various activities, whether in workshops and yards, or elsewhere, and tell them that strict "discipline" is what the nation expects of them. While it is their right to expect due recognition of their needs and certain standards and conditions of service, the nation expects that under all circumstances they will apply themselves honestly, diligently and with a will to the duties which are assigned to them.

I am not unaware of the menace of unreasonable unrest among certain groups of workers. In so far as the reasonable ones are concerned, I can hold out to them the fullest assurance that all legitimate needs will be carefully looked into and will receive due attention

But I must warn those who believe in fomenting unrest for party purposes that they shall receive no quarter. They must remember that strikes and "go-slow" policies are ruinous because among their first repercussions are a fall in revenue, reduction of productive activity, dislocation of trade and industry and therefore a general deterioration of national wealth.

If the earnings of the railways go down, the improvement which they demand cannot possibly be effected. Unless our coach and wagon building programmes are kept up to schedule and production proceeds on an accelerated pace, we can carry neither more passengers nor goods and consequently we cannot meet either the expectations and demands of our clientele or of our employees.

Non-Indian Nationals

There are many other questions which deserve attention, but I must not occupy your limited time any longer. However, before I conclude, I must say a word about the non-Indian nationals who are in the service of Government Railways at present.

The policy of the Government with regard to the future employment of non-Indians is to restrict such engagements to specialists and technical experts on short-term contracts when Indians of the same qualifications are not available. This policy, however, does not affect those who are in service today except to this extent that the Secretary of State is expected to terminate his services, and the Secretary of State's servants may be offered the alternative either to retire on certain terms or to re-enter the Indian Government's service on equitable terms and security of tenure.

But I can assure all non-Indian servants of the State that if they choose to continue in service, they will receive as fair a treatment in every respect as may be accorded to any Indian national.

They must, however, remember that the vagaries of preferential treatment which once characterised the supersession of Indians must no longer be expected to be tolerated.

Non-Indian nationals must not spoil their case by looking for mysterious assistance from abroad. The State shall treat all its employees, Indian or non-Indian, without any racial or communal bias or discrimination and will judge their work and worth by the service which they will render to the people of the country, who in the final analysis are the masters of all public servants from the highest to the lowest.

And, now, Mr. President, I must no longer stand between you and the Conference and the heavy Agenda you have to go through. I earnestly hope that when we meet next it will be possible for us all to say that the improvements which were expected of us have been effected.

Mr. J. F. C. Reynolds' Address

In his presidential address to the 50th session of the Indian Railway Conference Association held in New Delhi on November 25, Mr. J. F. C. Reynolds, General Manager, South Indian Railway, said:

Gentlemen,—we are honoured today by the presence of our new Hon'ble Member, Mr. Asaf Ali, to whom I am sure we all extend a most hearty welcome. It has always been our privilege to have our Hon'ble Member with us at the opening of the autumn Conference, the present occasion being unique in that our present Hon'ble Member forms part of a Cabinet consisting of some of the most prominent of the nation's leaders. We trust that under the guidance of these leaders the work of the Constituent Assembly will be such that in the shortest possible period there will be realisation of those aspirations which India has so long considered to be her due.

I would now wish to welcome our other guests, first of all our new Chief Commissioner, Colonel R. B. Emerson, and then the two new Members of the Railway Board, Khan Bahadur Z. H. Khan and Mr. G. A. Rowlerson, and, lastly, briefly and collectively, but none the less cordially, all those others who are present here to-day, and after that to proceed forthwith to the Presidential Address.

While the changing of the old order for the new is a natural process which is always taking place, it does not, I think, detract in any way from our welcome to those who are with us as chief guests for the first time to-day, when I say that these changes frequently leave us with a marked sense of loss.

Tribute to Sir Edward Benthall

In saying this, I have in mind first of all Sir Edward Benthall. He came to us from His Majesty's Government in 1942, and so was in charge of the Indian Transport system throughout the critical years of the war. Borrowing from a valedictory article which appeared in Capital, I would say that bland, smiling and immense, notable for his courtesy and hospitality, he was on account of his business and administrative experience admirably suited for this wartime appointment.



MR. J. F. C. REYNOLDS, PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION, DELIVERING HIS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE 50TH SESSION OF THE I.R.C.A. HELD IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 25. PICTURE SHOWS (L. TO R.) MR. ASAF ALI, MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND RAILWAYS; MR. J. F. C. REYNOLDS; COL. R. B. EMERSON, CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS, KHAN BAHADUR Z. H. KHAN, MEMBER (STAFF) RAILWAY BOARD; MR A. C. TURNER, FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS AND MR. H. F. SIMPSON, GENERAL SECRETARY I.R.C.A.

the duties of which he tackled with a will that was characteristic of his abundant personality. Perhaps, the best tribute we could pay him would be to apply to him his own translation from Horace which, in a recent address to us, he thought might be applied to Mr. Winston Churchill. This translation ran as follows:—If the world itself were shattered into fragments, the ruins would strike him unafraid.

We will all feel another loss in Sir Arthur Griffin. Familiar to us all as a Delegate, before he went to fill the post of Chief Commissioner in 1944, he was in charge of Railways during the two final and most critical of the war years. Well-known for his efficient handling of affairs, due recognition was accorded to ability and an aptitude for hard work when he took over from Sir Edward Benthall for a short period as Hon'ble Member.

Colonel Wagstaff we will remember as Director of Establishment and Staff Member for many years, and I am sure that we are not unmindful of the helpful guidance which he always gave us in these matters.

And, finally, we come to that kindly personality, Mr. S. E. L. West, whom we will remember as Director of Traffic over the earlier war years and more recently as Transport Member.

It is appropriate on these occasions to make brief reference to other losses which we may have sustained. Apart from the two Delegates, whom we have lost on elevation to the Railway Board, 10 Delegates and ten Members of the various Committees and Sections have retired during the last year and I am sure that we wish them well wherever they may now be, and also extend a warm welcome to their successors.

Of those who have left I would like to mention Mr. D'Souza; always of great help to us—especially in the work of the Sub-Committees—we frequently looked to him, and his long experience of affairs, for advice and guidance. Sounding now a sombre note, I would refer to the loss we have sustained in the death in service of Mr. V. N. Rowsell, General Manager of the Jaipur State Railway. I would refer too to the death of one of our past Presidents, that is to Sir Henry Freeland who was Agent of the B.B. & C.I. Railway from 1920-1923 and President of the Association in 1920-21. Death has also taken Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, lately Chief Medical Officer of the East Indian Railway.

A word has now to be said on the subject of those who received recognition in the Honours Lists for the New Year and the King Emperor's Birthday.

We will all congratulate Sir Arthur Griffin on the award of the K.C.I.E. after his thirty-five years of railway service. We will also congratulate Sir Eric Conran Smith on the award of the K.C.I.E., Sir George Cuffe, our President for the year 1944-45, and Sir William FitzGerald on the honour of Knighthood, Mr. A. C. Turner and Mr. J. R. Harrison on the award of the C.S.I., Colonel R. B. Emerson, Mr. I. S. Puri and Mr. R. de K. Maynard on the award of the C.I.E., Mr. V. P. Bhandarkar and Mr. W. Hood on the award of the O.B.E. and lastly the 41 remaining recipients of British and the 75 recipients of Indian Honours.

And so, following on the awards of previous years, recognition has once more been given to Railwaymen for their work during the war.

Difficult Period

We are thankful that the war period is now over, but the time for the tired staff of the Railways to lie back and relax is still far ahead in a distant future. The year which has now passed since the conclusion of the war on the capitulation of Japan has been a more difficult period, as indeed I always foresaw that it would be, than any of the war years. During the last year not only have the Railways had to take in hand the first stages of the whole of the post-war reconstruction problem in all that it implies—not merely by any means the replacement of rolling stock and the commencement of engineering programmes—but have had to do this in the face of a new set of difficulties even more trying than those which previously beset us.

While traffic remains abnormally heavy scarcely a week has passed without railway work being disrupted as the result of riots and the generally unsettled conditions prevailing throughout the country. There has been the interruption to routine consequent upon rumours and threats of strikes, the threatened All-India strike with its anxiety and additional work alone having been a considerable burden.

The general public, perhaps, do not realise how sensitive railways are to outside influences, and I would venture to state that the result of all these happenings is that our standard of performance, particularly in the matter of wagon supply, has been much below what might have been expected of us in more normal times.

These things will resolve themselves in time and in the meantime as Railwaymen we have to continue in our service to the country as a whole; and, as Sir Andrew Clow told us in 1941 in the early stages of the war, it is as necessary as ever it was that we should remain strong in will to strive to meet these fresh demands upon us and not to fail.

Post-War Rating

You will remember that one of the most important subjects discussed at the January 1945 Conference was that of Post-War Rating. Before this subject was discussed by the conference it was referred to a Sub-Committee, the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to the Conference being that, subject to certain observations, the Commercial Committee's recommendations in their Resolution No. C|573 should be accepted.

The Commercial Committee's Resolution consisted of 17 points, the most important being that the existing Rates structure should be revised on the principle of telescopic class rates on a continuous mileage basis for all traffic, both smalls and wagon loads, with a rebate for wagon loads over all distances. The next most important of the Commercial Committee's recommendations was that a wholetime Sub-Committee of Rates Officers should be appointed to recommend means of implementing the several recommendations made.

The Conference in accepting the principle behind this recommendation amended it because they thought it would be better to appoint a special Rates Officer in the administrative grade who would be assisted by Rates Officers from both the Indian Government and the State Railways. The Railway Board accepted this recommendation and Mr. K. L. Crawford of the M. & S. M. Railway has been on this special duty from April 1945.

It will be seen that definite progress in the matter of the revision of the existing Rates structure has been achieved, and I think we may congratulate ourselves that this important part of the Railways' Post-war rehabilitation plan should have been so promptly taken in hand.

It was not, however, in this connection that I had thought to address you, but in connection with the note with which the Sub-Committee concluded their report. This note was to the effect that in the post-war period re-classification, that is some re-arrangement of the general classification of goods whereby some commodities would be moved into a higher rated class, would be necessary, not only to absorb the existing 12½% increased charge but also to meet the inevitable further rise in working expenses.

What the Sub-Committee evidently had in mind was that the increase in ordinary working expenses which had already taken place would not only absorb the 12½% increased charge imposed in 1940, but would also necessitate further increased charges as there was no reason to suppose that earnings would continue at their war-time levels once the war was over. There was also no reason to suppose that when the time came for ordinary working expenses to fall the rate of fall would bear a relationship to earnings which would make it possible to maintain the Railways' financial position unimpaired.

Nearly two years have elapsed since the Sub-Committee made their report, and we may now consider the extent to which both rates and fares will have to be increased by the year 1949-50, which year I have taken as the first of the normal post-war years if the Railways are to remain solvent The first thing is to consider possible levels of both working expenses and earnings, and these you will find set out in the statement before you.

It will be seen that I have estimated the gross working expenses, item 12, at Rs. 185.0 crores and the earnings at Rs. 154.6 crores, leaving a deficit of Rs. 30.4 crores. I admit that these figures are at their best merely an estimate, but if, apart from academic interest, there is to be any attempt to forecast what the rates and fares in the immediate future will have to be, and my purpose to-day is to make such an attempt, some estimate of the position must be made.

Question of Earnings

Dealing first with the question of earnings, it will be seen that I have estimated coaching earnings at Rs. 55.1 crores, or 67 per cent above those for 1939-40. Upper class earnings, I have put at Rs. 5 crores against Rs. 3.2 crores for 1939-40, an increase of 56 per cent and I see no reason why they should exceed this figure, but here the estimate may be relatively largely out though greatly affecting the final position.

Much the same is the position in the case of other coaching earnings which I have put at Rs. 7.5 crores against Rs. 5.3 crores, an increase of 13 per cent, after making allowance for the increased charge in force. In the case of upper class earnings I have made no specific allowance for the increased charge as the amount would be small.

The third class earnings, however, are a matter of considerable importance, and I have put them at Rs. 42.6 crores, or 75 per cent above the year 1939-40. Once again, I have made no allowance for the increased charge for the reason that it only applies to fares of over Re. 1, the average cost of third class travel per journey being much less than this amount. Rs. 18.20 crores may seem to be a large increase to take place in a decennium, even allowing for the changes brought about by the war and a possible increase in population of 50 millions, or 12½ per cent; but, actually, I doubt it by the year 1949-50 third class earnings will have fallen to their post-war normal which by the year 1959-60 we may put, based on an even rate of increase of 2 per cent per annum from 1939-40, at approximately Rs. 35 crores.

It may be held that I have underestimated the third class earnings for 1949-50, but the point seems to be that for this to be so the spending capacity per head would still have to be at a level which would enable the potential lower class passenger to lay out 75 per cent more on travel in 1949-50 than in 1939-40. All things considered I do not see adequate reason to suppose that spending capacity will remain at a level higher than this.

Wages have gone up, and in all probability will go up further, but so also has the cost of living, and here again I do not see we have much reason to expect the cost of living to fall from its present level of some 150 per cent above the pre-war normal, especially when the inflationary effect of continued wage increases is taken into consideration.

Road Competition

In fact, we have reason to suppose that the reverse may well be the case, and it may be said that labour everywhere is greedy for greater emoluments and improved working conditions with little realisation of the fact that wealth is only produced by work.

I have made no allowance for road competition which I feel by 1949-50 will have resumed formidable proportions, and if by then some form of road-rail co-ordination has not been effected the Railways will be once again facing the wasteful competition which was the order of the day before the war, and so, possibly, my estimate of Rs. 42.6 crores may prove to be optimistic.

It is difficult to estimate what the goods earnings will be over the year 1949-50, but I have assumed Rs. 91.4 crores which represents an increase of 20 per cent over the decennium after making full allowance for the 12½ per cent increased charge. The budget estimate for 1946-47 is Rs. 95.8 crores and it would seem likely that this figure will have fallen to Rs. 91.4 crores three years later, there being many unusual factors which tend to keep goods earnings at a high level, and in due course we may expect them to disappear.

As in the case of passenger earnings, I have not taken road competition specifically into account, but for all that I feel that either the 50 or the 100 miles limit will enable road transport to make disastrous incursions into the Railways' earnings.

It will be noticed that the increase in goods earnings over the previous decennium only amounted to Rs. 5.8 crores, or 9 per cent, at a time when road transport was in its infancy, and here again it may turn out that my estimate of the position for 1949-50 is unduly optimistic.

It will be noted that my method of computing both the coaching and goods earnings covers the inevitable decline as time goes on in military traffic which increased considerably during the war period.

Ordinary Working Expenses

Coming now to the ordinary working expenses, I see no reason why they should fall lower than my estimate which, as you will see from item (1) (vi), has been put at Rs 131.2 crores or 140 per cent. above 1939-40. Much thought has been given to these figures. I tried various ways of arriving at them and in the end found that the only reasoned method was to increase the cost per gross ton mile in 1939-40 in proportion to the increase in ordinary working expenses up to the end of 1944-45, thereby raising the ordinary working expenses in 1939-40 to Rs. 90.07 crores at the prices prevailing in 1944-45. This figure has then to be increased to Rs. 103.76 crores after making allowance, on the basis of dependent costs, for the additional revenue expected by the end of 1949-50. This still does not complete the picture for the reason that the ordinary working expenses are likely to increase in 1946-47 from Rs. 99.5 crores in 1944-45 to at least Rs. 126.9 crores the budget estimate, present indications being that this estimate will be largely exceeded. Adding the difference between these two years of Rs. 27.4 crores to Rs. 103.76 crores we arrive at the figure of Rs. 131.16 crores which I have adopted as my estimate for 1949-50.

I regard this figure as making allowance for Rs. 5 crores given to Railwaymen as the result of the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee, but have made no attempt to estimate what the cost of the recommendations of the Pay Commission may amount to, as also those of the Adjudicator considering issues such as leave and hours of work.

The next step is to divide the ordinary working expenses under (1) (vi) over the three sub-heads, and while the total remains the important figure what reason have we, for example, to suppose that my estimate of Rs. 30 crores against General Administration which covers losses on Grain shops is too high? Things have changed vastly since 1939-40; and apart from any natural increase in working expenses under this head on account of any growth of traffic which may finally be regarded as permanent there are other factors to be taken into consideration, such as decreased out-turn of work per head, stricter adherence to rostered hours of duty and the necessity to sanction relief staff in greater numbers than ever previously has been the case.

The position is much the same under both Repairs and Maintenance and Operating Expenses, and in addition to the points which I have just made we are faced with a large increase in the cost of raw materials and manufactured items, a pertinent factor being the prime cost of railway coal which at the end of 1945 stood roughly 250 per cent above its pre-war price.

On the whole, I am unable to regard the future from the standpoint of working expenses with any degree of equanimity, and one point we have to bear in mind is that as stock and coal become available we will have to restore the pre-war passenger train mileage in order to eliminate the gross overcrowding now existing, apart altogether from the expected increase in passenger traffic over the decennium. With regard to the remaining items I have assumed that Railways will continue to pay their interest charges as also the normal contribution to General Revenues, but it will be seen that there is nothing left over for either the Railway Reserve or the Railway Betterment Funds.

Rates and Fares

Having made some endeavour to appraise the possible gap between earnings and gross working expenses in 1949-50 the next step is to consider what increase in rates and fares will be necessary to close it, but before this can be done we must decide whether the goods and|or the coaching traffic should bear the burden.

The existing statistical method of dividing the working expenses is in the ratio of the respective gross ton mileages* which postulates that the cost of working in the case of the two must be the same. Whatever the correct division may be it is certain that the passenger gross ton mile, when station buildings, rolling stock and passenger amenities generally are taken into consideration, must cost more than the goods.

As separate expenditure accounts for coaching and goods are not maintained, it is impossible to say exactly what the division should be, but in order to correct the existing position to some extent at least I have assumed the cost of the goods and coaching gross ton mile to be in the ratio of 2 : 3, respectively. On this apportionment the gross working expenses in 1939-40 of Rs. 103.9 crores are divisible between goods and coaching as follows:—

Goods	..	Rs. 53.88 crores
Coaching	..	Rs. 50.02 crores

from which, after allowing for the estimated increase in the case of both earnings and working expenses over the decennium, we arrive at the cost of a goods net maund mile and a coaching net maund mile in 1949-50 as follows:

Goods Net Maund Mile	0.28 pie
Coaching Net Maund Mile	3.93 pies

Before we are in a position to consider whether the goods and the coaching traffic are earning respectively their share of the revenue required, we will have to consider what proportion of the all-in-cost per maund mile can reasonably be regarded as the dependent cost. It has been the practice for statistical purposes to assume the dependent cost at 30 per cent.of the all-in-cost but as the dependent cost so much depends on cost of raw materials, stores and particularly coal I feel that it would be more accurate now to regard at least 40 per cent of the all-in-cost as representing the dependent cost. The dependent cost then in the case of the maund mile figures already given is as follows:—

Goods	..	0.11 pie
Coaching	..	1.57 pies

We can now consider to what extent increases in goods rates would appear to be indicated by 1949-50. In previous years, the cost of operation was such that at no stage did the rate charged fall below the dependent cost, but this is not the case now.

I have estimated that the dependent cost for 1949-50 will not be less than 0.11 pie, and I would suggest that in order to allow for still further increases in ordinary working expenses Rates Officers should not quote any rate any part of which, falls below 0.12 pie. This, however, is only a small part of the problem, and what concerns us immediately is the relationship between the average rate charged and the all-in-cost of operation.

The average rate increased from 0.224 pie per maund mile in 1940-41, during which year the increased charge was brought into force to 0.279 pie in 1944-45, This increase in the average rate would clearly seem to be due to (a) the cancellation of special rates and (b) traffic such as coal,† rated at 0.1 pie or less, forming a lesser proportion of the total traffic carried. There was, however, a small decrease in the carriage of grains and oil seeds,† at an average rate of approximately 0.274 pie, of 1.28 per cent, but against this there was an increase of 7.95 per cent in other commodities†, including other revenue stores rated at 0.09 pie which must have formed a very small part, spread over the higher rated classes.

As the goods traffic declines the influence of those commodities which are carried at the lowest rates, such as coal, will once again be felt, and for all reasons taken together, I think it reasonable to suppose that the average rate will drop to at least 0.27 pie.

It will be seen that an average rate of 0.27 pie tallies closely with the

	1939-40	1949-50	Increase
Third class earnings (in crores)	Rs. 24.40	42.60	18.20

*The gross ton miles in 1939-40 were made up as follows:—

Coaching	..	..	34,239,208,000
Goods	..	..	65,327,173,000

†Percentage of net ton miles of different commodities to the total net ton miles of all commodities,

	1940-41	1944-45
1. Coal for public	26.27	20.11
2. Coal for Foreign Railways and Home line construction	10.58	9.19
3. Coal for Home Line	6.32	6.20
4. Grain and oil seeds	12.70	11.42
5. Other commodities including other Revenue Stores	43.13	51.08

estimated cost of a goods net maund mile in 1949-50, the conclusion to be drawn from this being that, with the fairer division of working expenses, no alteration in the average rate charged, which includes the increased charge and terminals, is necessary. This not only means the retention of the increased charge, but leaves a gap between earnings and gross working expenses of Rs. 30.4 crores to be met by the coaching traffic*.

We have now reached a stage where we may consider how a gap of Rs. 30.4 crores between earnings and gross working expenses can be closed by increasing coaching rates, the first part of the problem being to see how this amount can be divided between the upper and third classes and also other coaching earnings.

Four Classes of Travel

For the purpose of this review, I have assumed that there will be four classes, that is air-conditioned, I, II and III, the I Class accommodation and fare being approximately the same as the existing II. I have left out of consideration the air-conditioned and II Class—that is present inter—travel of the future for the reason that in the case of the former earnings are never likely to be sufficiently high appreciably to affect the situation, while in the case of the latter I have no data on which to base an estimate.

The first question it would seem we have to answer is what should be the relationship for the purpose of charge between the third and first class passenger. Perhaps the easiest way to do this would be to compare the seating capacity of the proposed 11'-8" III Class carriage with that of the latest F.S. coach. This ratio is roughly 96 : 48, and so, therefore, it would seem that the third and first class fares should be in this relationship.

This does not, however, give us an altogether correct picture for the reason that not only is the I Class vehicle more expensive to construct and maintain, but the upper class passenger is also much more lavishly provided for when it comes to passenger amenities generally. I suggest then that a correct relationship might be 1 : 3, and as the average third† class fare on all Indian Government Railways is approximately 3.3 pies the first class should be 9.9 pies which corresponds closely with the existing average second† class fare of 9.6. The coaching earnings, which we have set out to find amount to Rs. 55.1 plus Rs. 30.4, or Rs. 85.5 crores. I suggest that it would be an equitable arrangement to divide the additional Rs. 30.4 crores in the ratio of Rs. 47.6 and Rs. 7.5, leaving Rs. 26.26 crores to be found by the passenger traffic and Rs. 4.14 crores by other coaching earnings.

My reason for this division is to reduce the extent to which it will be necessary to increase the passenger fares, and also to ensure that the parcels traffic generally covers its working expenses to a greater degree than would appear to be the case—even with the increased charge included—and in doing so find some of the additional revenue required.

We can obtain an estimate of the probable passenger mileage in each class by dividing the estimated earning of Rs. 5 and Rs. 42.6 crores by the average rates now in force. Once having made an estimate of this mileage, and assuming that the third and first class fares will be in the ratio of 1 : 3, we obtain a factor common to both of 5.1 pies from which it is computed that an increase of 1.8 pies† in the case of the third class fare and 5.7 pies in the case of the first—that is the existing second—will be necessary if the existing ratio between the two is to be maintained and a further Rs. 26.26 crores in revenue found.

A further point which is worth looking into is the prevailing basis of charge in the case of other coaching earnings.

Rates Officers

We have already seen that the cost of a coaching net maund mile in 1949-50 may be somewhere about 3.93 pies, and the statements before you show at a glance the extent to which the I.R.C.A. full and half parcels rates may be regarded as being profitable on the basis of both the all-in and dependent costs.

We have also to bear in mind the amount of traffic which is carried at the half-parcels rate, and also that several railways carry traffic at one-third and one-quarter parcels rate. I think I have said enough to suggest to Commercial Officers the need to tackle the whole question of the existing parcels rate, so that by the year 1949-50 parcels will be finding a more reasonable share of the total revenue required, which I have put at Rs. 4.14 crores over and above my estimate of Rs. 7.5 crores at the current rates.

The preparation of this review has convinced me that Rates Officers in the future will have to pay greater attention than may have been the custom in the past to issues such as the dependent and all-in-costs of operation. Although, provided the increased charge is retained, I see no need to increase goods rates, it is clear that action entailing the revision of many current rates—notably the Bengal coal scale—is necessary to see that no rate of any kind now in force or hereafter quoted falls below the dependent cost and in order to allow some margin, I have suggested that an all-round figure of 0.12 pie per maund mile be taken for this purpose§.

And, surely, it should be axiomatic that even if Rates Officers allow rates to fall below the all-in-cost no traffic should be carried at any stage at a rate less than the dependent cost of further point being that the average rate charged must not be allowed to fall below the all-in-cost if the goods services are to pay their way.

I am aware that rating policy is based largely on the principle of what the traffic will bear, but I would suggest that when a rate is quoted on this principle it is necessary that the Rates Officers should know precisely what he is doing and how each rate quoted compares with both the dependent and the all-in-costs. It seems to me, and I certainly felt the need for such information in preparing this review, that if Rates Officers are to quote rates in the manner in which they should be quoted they should be in possession of much greater detail in the matter of ton mile statistics than they are at the present time.

I would suggest, then, that Railways should prepare ton mile figures for a far greater number of principal commodities.

Deficit

Drawing now to the conclusion of this review a point to be stressed is that it is not merely a matter of a deficit of Rs. 30.4 crores in 1949-50, but a deficit of Rs. 10.4 crores in the current year which would increase to Rs. 30.4 crores in 1949-50, the cumulative deficit being something like Rs. 80 crores.

The estimated deficit for the current year is based on the budget estimates, and while there is no doubt that over the year as a whole revenue will be in excess it is equally clear that ordinary working expenses will also be in excess. It is as yet, however, too early to say how the difference between the two will be affected, it being the sum represented by this difference from which charges such as appropriation to the Depreciation Reserve Fund and interest charges, etc., will have to be found.

My estimated deficit for the year of Rs. 10.4 crores may, therefore, be exceeded, but whether it is or not, it is certain that there will be a deficit, and it would seem wise to increase the existing second (future first) and third class fares and institute as well an urgent review of the parcels rate.

In the case of the existing second class fares, I would suggest an increase with effect from 1st April, 1947, so as to increase the average fare by 2 pies, and in the case of the third class fares an increase in the average fare to 4 pies. If this were done there would be time to watch results before 1st April, 1948, when a further increase, and so on in later years, could be effected if before then it did not seem likely that the gap between revenue and gross working expenses would be closed.

It would seem better to do something now gradually and in stages in this matter of increasing the second and third class fares and the parcels rate rather than leave it until later when there would not only be an annual deficit to be met but also a cumulative loss over the preceding years which, presumably, would have had to be met by raiding the Railway Reserve and/or the Depreciation Reserve Funds.

It seems certain enough that some increase in fares will be necessary, and also that all classes of traffic, however essential to the national need they may be, will have to share in these increases if the Railways are to remain solvent.

I contend that my estimate of the probable deficit in 1949-50 is a conservative one, and we have to remember that coaching earnings will probably continue to fall after 1949-50 until they reach what would have been, but for the war, the normal rate of increase from 1939-40.

If I have under-estimated the earnings, so also may I have under-estimated the ordinary working expenses, which I think in all probability is actually the case, and for my estimated deficit in 1949-50 to be largely out on the high side it would have to be assumed that any appreciable error would affect the answer in the same way, that is, my earnings would be too low and my ordinary working expenses too high.

Finally, Gentlemen, I know that you would like me to place on record our appreciation of and thanks for the work done by the General Secretary, Mr. H.F. Simpson, and the Officers and staff of the Association, and this I do with much pleasure.

* * *

In summarising the debate, in the Central Assembly, on the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land, it has been stated in the Press that the Bill is of a temporary nature and will be in force up to April 1, 1947.

This statement is correct as far as it goes. However, Mr. G. S. Bhalja, Defence Secretary, also stated on the floor of the House that after April 1, 1947, the Bill would continue for another year on the issue of a notification by the Governor-General and, thereafter, on the vote of both the Houses of the Legislature in the United Kingdom up to a maximum period of five years. The position in this respect is the same as in the case of some other control measures.

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*This is not a position which should cause the discerning passenger any surprise when he remembers that against an all-round rise in cost of living of about 150%, he has only been asked to pay, apart from the withdrawal of concessions, 6¼% extra for his travel, and that only in cases where the cost of a ticket is over Rs. 1. Furthermore, any policy which would keep goods rates down to the minimum would be good for the reason that it is in the interest of the country at large that the Railways should keep the rates for foodstuffs and essential raw materials down to the minimum possible.

†The variation from these averages is considerable, the second class fare on the South Indian being 12 pies with the lowest third class fare on the O.T. Railway at 2 pies for distances over 50 miles and the highest on the G.I.P. at 5 pies in the case of express trains up to 100 miles. What I would suggest for consideration of Railways is not only the desirability of standardising so far as possible passenger fares throughout India, and this is what I feel the public would expect of us, but also existing practice in the matter of express fares, some Railways chewing these fares and some not.

‡5.1—3.3-1.8. 5.1:3-15.3. 15.3—9.6-5.7.

§This in itself would effect some increase in goods earnings, but from the statistical data available it does not seem that the amount would be large, probably less than Rs. 1-3 crore.

RAILWAY INQUIRY COMMITTEE

A Press Communique issued by the Railway Department, Government of India on November 26 stated that in pursuance of the recommendations contained in the Resolution passed by the Railway Standing Finance Committee on 14th June, 1946, the Government of India have decided to appoint a high power Railway Enquiry Committee with the following terms of reference:—

(1) Suggesting ways and means of securing improvement in net earnings by—

(a) economies in all branches of railway administration, and

(b) any other means.

(2) Ascertaining the extent of staff surplus to requirements and suggesting practical methods of absorbing them in railway service.

The Committee will consist of:—

1. Mr. K.C. Neogy, M.L.A. (Central) ... Chairman.
2. Mr. I. S. Puri, C. I. E. Additional Financial Commissioner, Railways ... Member.
3. Mr. J.N. Nanda, General Manager, His Exalted Highness the Nizam's State Railway ... Member.
4. Khan Mohammed Yamin Khan, Deputy President, Central Legislative Assembly ... Member.
5. Professor Humayon Kabir, Vice-President, All-India Railwaymen's Federation ... Member.

There will be two more Members of whom one will probably be a Railway expert from U.S.A. and the other a high ranking Railway Officer on Indian Railways. Their names will be announced later.

Mr. M.N. Chakravarti, an Officer of the Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments of N.W. Railway will act as Secretary.

The Committee, which will be known as "The Indian Railway Enquiry Committee—1947," is expected to assemble early in April, 1947 by which time the Government hope to have received and dealt with the Adjudicator's award in regard to hours of work, weekly rest, leave reserve and leave rules.

In the meantime, Mr. Puri will be engaged in collecting data germane to the enquiry in order to facilitate its deliberations when it starts work.

Major A. N. Mehta has been appointed Indian Vice-Consul at Saigon in Indo-China, where he will be charged with the duty of looking after the interests of Indians, said a Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on November 25.

Major Mehta was formerly attached to the Indian Agency-General in Chungking as a Secretary and later served as Assistant, China Relations Officer at Calcutta.

OPIUM SMOKING PROHIBITED

THE question of fixing a date for the termination of tolerated opium smoking has long been engaging the attention of the Government of India, but the view that so long as the possession of opium for oral consumption, in however limited quantities, is permitted, the private conversion of such opium by individuals for smoking cannot be effectively prevented, has detracted from the implementation of the policy of absolute prohibition of opium smoking to which the Government of India are committed under The Hague Convention of 1912, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on November 19.

The habit of opium smoking is not, in fact, widely practised in India, but is looked down upon as a vice and is everywhere reprobated by public opinion. Indeed, in some Provinces the practice is already absolutely prohibited, while in several of the other Provinces varying degrees of restriction have been imposed.

In Indian States.

In fulfilment, however, of their international obligations and in their earnest desire to co-operate in weaning mankind from a pernicious habit, the Government of India have, in consultation with the Provincial Governments, now decided to prohibit altogether the smoking of opium in British India, exception being made only in favour of existing addicts so long as they survive and subject to their producing medical certificates in terms to be prescribed. The absolute prohibition prevailing in some of the Provinces will not be affected by this decision, nor will there be any objection to other Provinces adopting a more radical policy than the one now announced.

As regards the Indian States, 75 at least have already prohibited or are now prohibiting absolutely the smoking of opium within their territories, while the rest are making declarations on lines similar to that now made by the Government of India.

A specially designed Xmas Greetings Air Letter Form has been issued by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and has been put on sale at all head offices and important sub-post offices from to-day. The prices is the same as for the ordinary air letter form, i.e., six annas.

Although the latest date recommended for posting air mail articles for the United Kingdom is the end of November, postings up to the 10th December will, it is hoped, be in time for delivery to addresses by Christmas Day.

The public are, however, advised to post all Xmas mail as early as possible to prevent congestion of traffic and consequent delays.



MR. ASAF ALI ADDRESSING THE NINTH SESSION OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL HELD IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 28.

MR. ASAF ALI ON RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION

Transport Advisory Council Meeting in New Delhi

"GOVERNMENT are convinced of the necessity for rail-road co-ordination and consider that, generally speaking, this can best be achieved by the formation of tripartite companies on the lines of the White Paper, so far as passenger transport is concerned", said the Hon'ble Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport, addressing the Ninth Session of the Transport Advisory Council held in New Delhi on November 28. "If any Provincial Government does not favour the formation of tripartite companies", he continued, "but wishes to form some other road transport organisation such as a provincialised transport organisation and such a scheme provides for substantial financial participation by the Railways, the Central Government, while not objecting to financial participation by the Railways, would continue to urge that an equitable adjustment of the existing operators' rights should not be overlooked."

Mr. Asaf Ali said:

I welcome you to the Ninth session of the Transport Advisory Council which, incidentally, is its first meeting since the advent of the Interim Government. Let me convey the present Government's cordial greetings, through you, to all the Governments of the Provinces and the Indian States on whose behalf you are here to participate in the deliberations that are to follow.

Much has been achieved by this Council in the past eleven years, in the way of constructive planning by a free and frank interchange of views, and the pooling together of expert knowledge and wisdom. But, I am sure, you will agree with me that a great deal more of vital importance still remains to be done. If the vast reserves of the economic potential of the country are to be developed to the maximum extent and social services are to be carried to the doorstep of every inhabitant of India, the arterial systems of National Highways, Railways and Inland Waterways must be so co-ordinated that, within a reasonably short time, every part of the country may be linked up with every other part.

Whether you look at this problem from the point of view of industrial and social development or from the angle of strategic requirements, different parts of the country must be brought within easy access of one another by carefully planned lines of communication.

Science has made it possible for human beings to subjugate time and distance, and to travel by land, air, inland waterways and sea by various forms and means of locomotion.

This is how civilisation marches across natural and man-made barriers, and brings the human family into closer contacts. Isolation may have been a nostalgic dream of the selfish or the recluse: but the modern development of the transport systems of the world has shattered it once for all.

Joint Transport Board

There may be temporary checks and setbacks to the march of civilisation but the ultimate unification of the globe through the agency of common forms and means of transport and communication is beyond doubt. They have already progressed from the parochial to the national, and from the national to the international plane. This is the global view of transport but in respect of our own country as one large unit on the globe, I can envisage a day very soon when all forms and means of transport in India will be brought within the same focus and their co-ordination entrusted to a Joint Transport Board.

For the purpose of this meeting, however, I must not detain you over these larger and yet unsettled questions, but should confine myself to a brief introduction covering the items of the agenda before us.

The cardinal points of transport policy which in my opinion should guide our deliberations are the territorial unity of the country and the evolution of a co-ordinated scheme for all forms of transport.

The recognition of the first is dictated by the strategic and economic indivisibility of the country as a whole, and therefore, whatever the future constitution of the country, Highways, Railways and Airways will have to be planned and developed from the long-range point of view of knitting all the territorial units of the country into a harmonious whole.

I, therefore, welcome the representatives of Provinces and States to this Council and earnestly hope that plans based on the closest co-operation will emerge from our deliberations. Our object demands a clear vision of the future and a deliberate effort to steer clear of the stresses of passing events.

We must plan both for the immediate needs of our people and for the generations to come who must live, grow and develop the country together and who must also be expected to live in amity and co-operation with the rest of the world.

Our aim should be to conquer barriers and distances and to master the slow-moving wheels of Time, with a view to bringing the blessings of civilisation, that is health, education, culture, economic prosperity and productive employment to as many as possible by free, easy and comfortable movements between all parts of the country.

As you know, some forms of transport such as railways, airways and coastal shipping are controlled directly by the Centre. Road and inland water transport are Provincial subjects, the Centre acting merely as a co-ordinating and stimulating agent.

It will be recognised that, from the point of view of harmonious development, there is need for the closest co-operation for securing the best plan of co-ordination. Both Central and Provincial revenues have to be ensured against policies which may result in wasteful competition.

Rail-Road Co-ordination

Items (iv) and (v) of the agenda provide ample scope for discussing schemes for the co-ordination of all forms of transport.

The intricate problems of road-rail co-ordination have already received considerable attention in this Council and will again come up for a further discussion on the 1st item of the agenda.

The Interim Government's policy in this respect was recently stated by me in the Legislative Assembly, which in substance is as follows:—Government are convinced of the necessity for rail-road co-ordination and consider that, generally speaking, this can best be achieved by the formation of tripartite companies on the lines of the White Paper, so far as passenger transport is concerned.

If any Provincial Government does not favour the formation of tripartite companies but wishes to form some other road transport organisation such as a provincialised organisation—I may here add the word nationalisation seems to be rather popular in certain provinces—and such a scheme provides for substantial financial participation by the Railways, the Central Government, while not objecting to financial participation by the Railways, would continue to urge that an equitable adjustment of the existing operators' rights should not be overlooked.

As regards goods transport, the general policy is to reserve long-distance traffic for the railways and to allow road transport to cater for short distance and door to door traffic.

Rail-River Co-ordination

Some progress has been made in the direction of rail-river co-ordination. Some time ago the Government of India addressed the Provincial Governments concerned in the north-eastern part of India and placed before them the major issues involved. Only one of the Provinces concerned has so far sent a reply.

A memorandum on the subject has been placed before the recently constituted Central Advisory Planning Board, and the Standing Committee of the Legislature will also be consulted in due course.

Later, it may be necessary to summon an *ad hoc* conference to consider *this* matter in all its aspects. This *ad hoc* conference may consist of the representatives of the Provincial Governments concerned and of the Railway and River Transport interests.

Meanwhile, you will have seen that in the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill provision has been made for the appointment of representatives of Inland Steam Vessel Companies on the Provincial Transport Authorities.

Another aspect of the problem is the co-ordination of railway and coastal shipping. I am afraid progress in this direction has been slow. But the Central departments concerned will shortly confer together to examine various aspects of the whole problem including the possibility of rationalising the relationship between rail and air transport.

Item (ii) on the agenda relates to a memorandum which explains the progress of the National Highways Development Scheme during the past year and you are invited to express your views on matters in respect of which agreement is sought.

National Highways

It is the intention of the Interim Government to press on with the construction of National Highways throughout the length and breadth of India, subject of course to the availability of the necessary funds from the Centre.

As you are aware, since the Eighth meeting of the Transport Advisory Council, a Road Lands Inquiry Committee was appointed which toured a number of Provinces and has submitted its reports which have been circulated to all Provincial Governments.

I take this opportunity of expressing the Government's appreciation of the valuable work done by this Committee. If effect is to be given to the recommendations of the Committee, either in their original or in a modified form, legislation will have to be undertaken by the Provinces.

The Government of India have thought it proper to direct the preparation of a suitable legislative measure which Provincial legislatures may be asked to pass.

It is hardly necessary for me to emphasise that Provincial Governments have a free-hand in this matter. All that the Central Government intends to do is to present the Provinces with what may be described as a piece of model legislation, the adoption of which by the Provinces will economise time and energy.

Motor Vehicle Taxation

At its Seventh meeting held in January 1945, the Transport Advisory Council agreed that the Central Government should circulate to Provinces proposals regarding motor vehicle taxation based as far as possible, on a uniform scale.

Further, it was agreed that reciprocal exemption between Indian States and British India should be negotiated through the Political Department. This is a very complicated problem and it has not been easy to examine it during the intervening period owing to pressure of urgent business.

The Transport Department has been and still is examining all its aspects and the draft of a model Motor Vehicle Taxation Act is in the course of preparation. It will deal with all sides of the question except the actual scales of taxation which can only be fixed after the completion of the investigation by the proposed Taxation Enquiry Committee.

As you will see under item (viii) of the agenda, it is proposed that the Technical Committee of this Council should scrutinise the model Act before it is circulated to Provincial Governments.

This brings me to the end of my brief comments on the various items of the agenda and since the time at our disposal is limited, we should not proceed to transact the business of this meeting."

Aircraft of No. 3 Indian Group are being extensively used in a reconnaissance role in East Bengal and Bihar.

At the special request of the Army, one squadron of Spitfires, based at Chittagong, is carrying out reconnaissances in the Noakhali-Tipperah area. Another squadron is engaged on a similar task in Bihar.

Air Headquarters have supplied three Auster aircraft to fly Government officials to disturbed localities. In addition, Harvard Aircraft have been placed at the disposal of the area commander and the sub-area commander at Patna and Gaya, respectively.

"DELIBERATELY FRIVOLOUS AND OFFENSIVE"

Mrs. Pandit's Reply to South African Delegate's Allegations Against India

"THE issue before this committee is whether Western civilisation is going to be based upon the theory of racial supremacy or whether the barriers imposed between man and man on grounds of colour are to be broken down and justice and equality are to be considered the due of all," said Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit at the joint meeting of the Political and Legal Committees of the United Nations on November 26.

Mrs. Pandit spoke for about half an hour. Throughout the speech, she did not raise her voice. Members of the committee and the audience listened attentively and once again, at its conclusion, there were cheers from all parts of the Conference hall. Unusually speeches made in committees do not provoke applause.

Mrs. Pandit said: It is with regret that I am once again taking up the time of this Committee, but after the speech which the Honourable delegate of South Africa delivered yesterday, I have no alternative but to ask the distinguished members of the Committee to bear with me.

Our delegation has been very much pained at the manner in which the South African delegate has used this lofty forum by attempting to ridicule the social and religious customs of an ancient people. The Honourable delegate has waxed eloquent over the freedom of religion practised in South Africa and yet he has made remarks about religions different from his own which are wholly inconsistent with the spirit of tolerance and has referred sarcastically to Hindu temples and Moslem mosques having to be maintained at the expense of the State.

Reference to Polygamy

Reference has also been made to polygamy. It is true that certain religions permit more than one legal wife, but I was not aware that polygamy as such, whether it had the sanction of law and religion or not, was confined to the East.

I must also confess my inability to understand the relevance of this question to the case before the Committee.

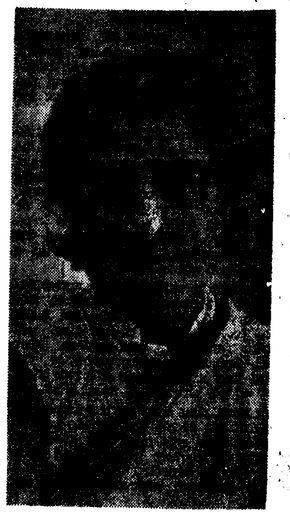
With profound regret I have to say that perhaps the only reason why the Honourable delegate of South Africa referred to the matter was because he wished deliberately to be frivolous and offensive.

The Honourable delegate has also said that what is on trial here to-day is not South Africa but the entire Western civilisation. We are in agreement with him on this point. The issue before this Committee, is whether Western civilisation is going to be based on the theory of racial supremacy, or whether the barriers imposed between man and man on grounds of colour are to be broken down and justice and equality are to be considered the due of all.

I do not wish, in this connection, to quote the Charter, as I well might, because I feel that even if there were no United Nations Organisation to guide us, there would still remain the need for preserving the fundamental decencies and unwritten laws in human, national and international relationships.

These decencies do not need any definition and are well enough understood by those who claim to be civilised. They are part of the well recognised rule of law between nations. It has recently become the mode to speak in terms of Christian civilization.

The delegate for South Africa has justified the national policy of South Africa with regard to different races on the ground of maintenance of Christian civilization: in fact we have had a long sermon on Christianity.



MRS. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT, MINISTER FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH, U.P., AND LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE U.N.O.

The Edicts of Asoka

I am not aware of any Christian principles which warrant the treatment of one section of the human race by another as its inferior. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the paradox of Mr. Heaton Nicholls' speech on this point is realised. He refers to the Christianising mission of the White Man but, according to the Immigration Act of 1913, Jesus Christ Himself, if He were in our midst to-day, would be a prohibited immigrant. It is an irony of fate that the Indian delegation should be treated to such a sermon.

I am sure, many Honourable delegates are aware of the fact that India practised the teachings contained in the Sermon on the Mount a millenium before the birth of Christianity. Our history bears eloquent testimony to the moral and ethical foundations on which the State was built. I need only mention the name of Asoka, Emperor of India in 273 B.C., whose edicts enjoining the brotherhood of man and the practice of universal toleration still exist all over India and proclaim to the world the greatness of her ethical standards and culture.

Mr. Heaton Nicholls has made a sneering and irrelevant reference to Indian languages. He makes a grievance of the fact that these are written in two scripts. May I respectfully remind the committee that these scripts are the Sanskrit and Arabic scripts, both of which go back many centuries? It is through the medium of these scripts that the highest philosophies have been given to the world, much before the Roman script came into existence. And, Mr. Chairman, how does the fact that Indians write in two scripts affect their rights to freedom and the franchise? Perhaps the delegation of South Africa forget that all their State documents are written not only in Mr. Nicholls' language but in Afrikaaner as well.

Western civilisation, which has during one generation witnessed two world wars, has, I submit, still much to learn in the art of human relationships from Asia. My friend has emphasised the barbaric state of the indigenous population of South Africa to whom, if to anybody at all, the country belongs. If, after so many years of civilizing influence, they still remain barbaric, it merely proves the hollowness of the claims which have been made on behalf of European achievements.

Not so very long ago, as measured in terms of human history, people on the British Isles, from whom the distinguished delegates from South Africa claim descent, were painting their bodies and did not even possess the crude implements which Mr. Nicholls so readily despises. To-day descendants of these same people have established an Empire on which, it was claimed, the sun would never set, but which, fortunately for the world, is now in process of liquidation.

And now, Sir, will you permit me to place before you a few relevant facts which I trust may be of use in helping the committee properly to assess this case?

It has been urged that Indian immigrants went to South Africa on the express understanding that they would ultimately be repatriated to their Mother Country and that they were never to settle down permanently in South Africa. This statement is in flagrant contradiction of the conditions on which Indian immigration was allowed by the Government of India.

Once they were free from their indenture, Indian immigrants were entitled to settle down as free citizens, without discrimination, and engage in agriculture and trade. I need only quote two extracts from a letter of the Governor of Natal in 1855, which was the first overture to the Government of India.

"(1) The vast extent of land, both in the hands of private proprietors and unappropriated at the disposal of Government, secure to the labourer alike the prospect of constant employment as long as he seeks it and means of becoming a petty proprietor himself when he so desires and has means of retiring from service."

"(2) The Governor considers it to be a favourable circumstance that immigrants would not be brought together in large numbers on isolated estates where they would be treated as a separate class but will be located in small detachments, chiefly in villages, among the European population of whom a considerable portion are engaged in the cultivation of small plots of ground where the immigrants and their families will be rather treated as members of the household."

"Vitalizing Principle"

The arrival of the first batch of indentured labourers in Natal in 1860 was hailed in the colony as guaranteeing its prosperity. "Indian immigration", said one newspaper, the *Natal Mercury*, "is a vitalizing principle".

It will be seen from this that from the very beginning it was the intention to encourage immigrants to settle down permanently. Immigration was stopped after six years because of complaints of ill-treatment. Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention in passing that the picture presented by South Africa of these immigrants coming from the Depressed Classes in India to a land of golden opportunity and good living is misleading. The majority of these labourers were not part of the Depressed Class, although they belonged to the poorer classes. The Depressed Classes in India have hereditary professions, such as shoe-making and weaving. They do not usually work as agricultural labourers, from amongst whom the indentured labour in Natal was recruited. [illegible] what sort of land did these [illegible] What was the stark reality that [illegible] held out to them? [illegible] records, and this was a matter of prolonged official correspondence, that they were often not paid full wages, did not receive the promised medical aid and, worst of all, many of them were flogged and otherwise brutally assaulted by their employers for petty delinquencies in South Africa.

On the other hand, the consequences of the stoppage of Indian immigration were deplored by a Licutenant Governor of Natal, who wrote to the Secretary of State for the Colonies (I quote): "In some instances, positive ruin is threatened and everywhere improvement is at a standstill in consequence of the impossibility of procuring at any price the requisite labour."

Neither the British Government nor the Government of India would agree to the resumption of immigration readily and continued to disallow it until Natal had made better arrangements for the treatment of Indians.

The Government of India wrote in 1872: "We cannot avoid expressing our hope that the Government of Natal will show itself more sensible to its responsibility to Indian immigrants than it has hitherto done. We cannot permit immigration to be resumed until we are satisfied that the Colonial Authorities are awake to their duty towards Indian immigrants and that effectual measures have been taken to assure to that class of His Majesty's subjects full protection in Natal."

Position Unique in History

In 1870, a law was passed to provide for the grant of land to immigrants in lieu of the stipulated free passage home, should they wish to settle in the Union and the Natal Government agreed to subsidize the cost of transport of immigrants from India.

This is the history of the position of Indians in South Africa. It does not support the Union Government's after-thought that the principle of ultimate repatriation was the basis of the immigration scheme. The position of the Indian in South Africa is unique in the history of the world. The Indian population has grown up as a result of mutual agreement between the Governments of the two countries for promoting of the two countries for promoting immigration of Indian labour into South Africa, on solemn pledges that the immigrants would enjoy full civil rights.

Indians continued to enjoy this position in Natal actually till 1895 when discrimination commenced against them. Indians were not part of the original population of South Africa. They did not force their entry into the country; they are not the descendants of slaves imported into the country centuries ago; nor did they come as result of unilateral recruitment by private employers.

They were invited to come by the Government of Natal, through the Government of India.

After 1891, the Natal Government proposed compulsory repatriation as a condition of future immigration. The Government of India did not agree to it.

Between 1880 and 1911, it was open to the Natal Government to stop the intake of further Indian labour but they did not do so, obviously because it suited them to secure this cheap labour for their requirements.

The tempo of immigration was, however, greatly reduced by the Government of India because of the progressive deprivation of civil rights and growing public opinion in India against the indenture system.

Ultimately, in 1911, the Government of India prohibited Indian emigration to Natal.

A Clear Understanding

After the passing of the Indian Relief Act in 1914, it was clearly understood that Indians who had by then settled down in South Africa, would be recognised as part of the permanent population. It has been said that the main object of the Cape Town Agreement was to reduce the Indian population by repatriation.

The Government of India never agreed to the conference on this condition. Their attitude was made clear. They said: "All that we meant was that while repatriation would never by itself afford a solution of the problem, the existing scheme of repatriation on a purely voluntary basis might be re-examined with a view to ascertaining what difficulties had arisen in its working and how these difficulties could best be smoothed away.

A conference of which the main object was to expedite Indian repatriation was not contemplated by us."

The Union Government agreed to co-operate in finding a real and effective solution of the Indian problem and to enter into a conference, if the Government of India were willing to examine reasonable prospects of safeguarding the maintenance of Western standards of life by just and legitimate means and were willing to assist in exploring all possible methods of settling the Asiatic question.

To this I need only reply in the words of Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior and Chairman of the Conference of 1932: "We wish to record it as our considered opinion that the non-success of the Cape Town Agreement was in no wise due to any failure or laxity on the part of the Government of India in fulfilment of their undertaking.

"We are convinced that they have faithfully, as far as lay in their power, done everything that could reasonably have been expected from them. We rather ascribe it to difficulties beyond their and our control that have been foreseen and further to the fact that the possibilities of assisted emigration must, in the nature of the case, be limited and must in future become so increasingly."

We have heard a great deal about what the Union Government has done for the "uplift" of the Indian community and, relying on the ignorance of the outside world about conditions in South Africa, the Honourable delegate makes assertions which he believes, we cannot challenge to-day.

Twenty years after the Cape Town Agreement, there are approximately 25,000 Indian children of school-going age without opportunities and facilities for attending school. We are told there is no colour-bar in South Africa and that a native can drive a train or become a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Not a single native drives a single train in South Africa. Not only are there no native Judges in South Africa, but no native Magistrates. Prosecutors or even clerks of the court. There are a few native interpreters and many native policemen. These are the only jobs open to natives in the Department of Justice.

Colour Bar

In other Government Departments, natives are employed only in the most menial jobs, such as cleaners and messengers. The colour bar operates so strictly in South Africa that natives do not even operate elevators (lifts) let alone drive trains. But Mr. Heaton Nicholls is quite right in saying that the law does not prevent non-Europeans from following skilled occupations.

South Africa does not frame its discriminatory legislation in such a way as to state clearly what the disabilities of a non-European are. Power to impose restrictions and discrimination is given in these laws to Ministers of the Crown, to Civil Servants, and to Heads of Departments. They are allowed to use their discretion in these matters.

Discretion is always used against the employment of non-Europeans in skilled occupations and any person in authority who would use his discretion otherwise would not be able to retain his position for more than a few days.

Mr. Heaton Nicholls, as an ex-Member of Parliament, an ex-Member of the Native Affairs Commission, an ex-Senator and present High Commissioner in London, knows that his contention that there is no legal colour bar in South Africa is a distortion and evasion of the true position: the bar starts in Parliament, which is confined to Europeans only, and ends in the cemeteries where segregation is practised just as vigorously in death as it was in life.

Mr. Heaton Nicholls has produced maps showing the amount of land occupied by Indians in Durban and he tries to convince the committee that the Indian population has been fairly treated.

What are the facts? The Indian population of Durban, numbering 114,000 persons, is roughly equal to the European population in Durban. The total area of Durban is 43,124 acres. The area occupied by Indians is 2(866 acres.

There is no law in South Africa preventing the growth of Durban and the growth of the area to be occupied by the European population. The Indian population is completely pegged down and cannot acquire another single acre without the permission of the Government.

One-half of the Indian population of Natal lives outside the city of Durban. The total area of the province of Natal is 18 million acres, of which only 150,000 acres are owned by Indians, 1,110,450 acres are available for the native population, and the rest is available for European occupation. The land available for the European population is 16,739,550 acres.

How can the Union Government dare to argue on the basis of areas or maps? What is the future of the Indian population? Indians will not be able to acquire land except by permission of the Government.

The history of the Union Government's treatment of its non-European population shows clearly that future generations of Indians will not be allowed to acquire land and that they will be confined in the present reserves in the same way as Africans have been confined to inadequate reserves.

They will become a landless peasantry and the colour bar will keep them unskilled, so that they will be forced to become unskilled labourers in the mining and agricultural industries in exactly the same way as the natives.

Threat to European Domination

No secret has been made of the fact that segregation is essential to the maintenance of Western standards of life. When South Africa contends that the presence of Indians in the country constitutes a threat to Western civilisation what is meant, of course, is that it is a threat to European domination.

It is not civilization that is threatened but the doctrine of white supremacy. Safeguarding white supremacy means, in effect, safeguarding the economic domination of a particular race over all others.

Let me give a parallel to illustrate this point. The political control of Britain over India for nearly two centuries has not been based on conceptions of race or colour, the superiority of Western civilisation over Eastern civilization. Political control was merely a means to an end. That end was economic exploitation.

Similarly, South Africa uses the pretext of Western civilization to retain economic control over the eight million non-Europeans. This is a classic example of the State reflecting the wishes of those who control it. There is no such thing as an impartial State in South Africa. Where Europeans control the State by reason of their almost exclusive monopoly of the vote, it is only natural to expect a widening of the gulf between them and non-Europeans.

Mr. Nicholls has implied that we, in India, have interested ourselves in our countrymen in South Africa mainly as a lever in our political struggle against the British. This statement betrays an utter lack of understanding of the forces which motivate a people in their struggle for freedom.

The history of man's fight against foreign domination proves that freedom movements derive their strength from within, from the people's inner urge for liberty. They forge their own weapons and do not require any artificial help. Indeed, the evolume of public opinion in India over the question of Indians in South Africa has been spontaneous. The treatment meted out to Indians has always been regarded by all sections of the Indian people as a national insult.

A Moral Revolt

A slighting reference has been made to the movement now going on in South Africa as a protest against the Land Tenure Act. I have already mentioned the nature of this movement, in my opening statement. It is a moral revolt of great significance.

Mr. Nicholls has been pleased to [illegible]'s day." I would not expect him to understand or appreciate the technique of passive resistance, which is diametrically opposed to the concept of Western civilization, with its unfortunate emphasis on violence.

He thinks he has scored a point in telling the committee that the dependants of those who are courting imprisonment are being maintained and funds are being raised for this purpose. I would like to inform the committee that we consider it our moral duty to support the dependants of those who fight for a just cause.

I would like Mr. Nicholls to know that going to jail is no picnic party. I have myself spent several terms in prison as a passive resister and could, if I so desire, give this committee food for thought on the subject. But it is not relevant to the point at issue.

Grave and Momentous Issues

I sincerely wish that the Honourable representative of the Union of South Africa had shown compassion for the sufferings of those who are fighting for a principle and who are his own nationals. His cynical outburst was unworthy of a delegate to this world forum.

In concluding, I would like to say with all the earnestness at my command that we have submitted this matter to the United Nations in no vindictive or light-hearted spirit.

We are fully conscious that grave and momentous issues are involved in the question before us and that on its proper solution the future of a large section of the human race depends. Let us not be influenced by passions and prejudices and try with understanding and goodwill to remove a blot which affects us all equally.

TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN S. AFRICA

Mr. Justice Chagla's Speech in New York

"IT would be a great mistake to look upon this question as a conflict between Asiatic States and non-Asiatic States. Something much more vital than that is at stake. What is at stake, is the very existence of this organisation. If this resolution is defeated, it would mean that this organisation does not exist in order to protect human right, and fundamental freedom and is prepared to connive at the wicked and vicious doctrine of the master race, which so many nations victoriously fought in the last war at tremendous cost of blood, tears and sweat". Thus observed Mr. Justice Chagla at the Joint meeting of the Political and Security and Legal Committees of the United Nations on the treatment of Indians in South Africa on November, 27.

Salient Points

Mr. Chagla said: I must congratulate Field Marshal Smuts on the very clever and ingenious speech which he delivered on Thursday. I am sorry I cannot compliment him on having struck a note which was worthy of his reputation as an elder statesman and of the fact that he is one of the main architects of our Charter. In order to understand and appreciate the legal and technical point which he has raised, it is necessary to view it in its proper setting.

The problem in South Africa has a definite historical background and without proper appreciation of that background it will be impossible for members to assess the true value of the point urged by Field Marshal Smuts.

A few salient points stand out from the welter and mass of documents of facts and figures with which members have been acquainted through the Secretariat of our delegation and the delegation of South Africa.

The first important fact which has to be constantly borne in mind is that Indians went to South Africa at the urgent, pressing and importunate request of the South African Government. They did not go as homeless immigrants looking for shelter and refuge.

Mutual Agreement

The existence of the Indian community in South Africa is due to the mutual agreement arrived at between the Government of South Africa and the Government of India.

Indians went there as a result of a solemn assurance and undertaking given by the South African Government. They were to be treated on equal terms with the white settlers in that country and to enjoy the same rights of citizenship as they enjoyed.

Lord Salisbury, Secretary of State for India in 1875, made a solemn declaration that Indian settlers will be "free men in all respects with privileges no whit inferior to any other class of His Majesty's subjects resident in the colonies."

My friend, Sir Hartley Shawcross, who now represents His Majesty's Government, will, I hope, if he intervenes in this debate, bear in mind this assurance solemnly given by his then Government as recently as March 28, 1946.

Mr. Hofmeyer, Deputy Prime Minister of the Union, said: "Quite clearly from the very outset in those days (referring to the days of introduction of Indians into South Africa in 1860), the Indian was welcomed as a permanent settler in the Colony of Natal and as a contributor to the prosperity of that Colony. I say again that the arrangement was come to between Governments. It was the South African Government that pressed it on the Indian Government."

Broken Promises and Pledges

It will be noted from what Mr. Hofmeyer said that Indians contributed considerably to the prosperity of Natal.

By their hard work and industry, they converted a barren land into one flowing with milk and honey, but an ungrateful Government forgot the services rendered by Indians and ever since 1860, when Indians first went to South Africa, we witness the painful history of broken promises and pledges which have not been fulfilled.

I shall not enumerate all the promises given, but may I draw the attention of this Commitee to two or three of the most important in the history of the relations of the South African Government with Indians?

You have been told, in very moving terms, by my leader, Mrs. Pandit, of the gallant and spirited fight waged by Mahatma Gandhi against a powerful and aggressive Government. At the end of that fight, Field Marshal Smuts passed the Indian Relief Act and assured Mahatma Gandhi that that would constitute a complete and official settlement of a controversy which had existed for so long and, further, that existing laws would be administered in a just manner and with due regard for vested interests.

The Cape Town Agreement of 1927 solemnly recorded that the Union Government firmly believed in and adhered to the principle that it was the duty of every civilized Government to devise ways and means to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of the permanent population to the full extent of their capacities and opportunities and accepted the view that in the provision of education and other facilities the considerable number of Indians who remained part of the population should not be allowed to lag behind other sections of the people. What steps the Union Government took to redeem that pledge for uplifting the Indian community I shall refer to later,

In 1944, the Pretoria Agreement was arrived at between the South African Government and the Natal Indian Congress.

Although representatives of the Indian Congress reluctantly agreed to certain restrictions in respect of residential occupation, it was clearly understood that there was to be no restriction on Indians acquiring properties of any kind in the province.

In breach of this agreement, the Union Government put on the Statute Book the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, 1946, which was the culmination of a long and continuous process of discriminatory measures against the Indian community.

Even so, Indians in South Africa and the Government of India did not lose their patience. A commission, presided over by an eminent South African Judge, strongly recommended that "the only way out of the present impasse lies in the direction of a full and frank exchange of views between the Government of the Union and the Government of India."

An arrogant Government refused to pay heed to the suggestion of its own commission and passed through Parliament the Act to which I have just referred. It was under these circumstances that the Government of India was compelled to break off diplomatic relations with South Africa, to put an end to all trade between the two countries, and Indians in South Africa were driven into launching another passive resistance struggle, which has resulted in hundreds going to prison for the purpose of vindicating the honour and prestige of the race to which they have always been proud to belong.

Taxation without Representation

It is true that Indians in South Africa are citizens of the Union. In 1913, the Union Parliament gave them that status.

I was wrong in using that expression "status", because when one talks of the status of a citizen, one thinks of civic rights, the right of franchise, the right of a share in the government of one's country, the right of holding offices in government. But Indians are citizens of South Africa only to bear the burdens and obligations of citizenship. They have no rights. They have no franchise, municipal or parliamentary, although they pay their taxes: It is a gross example of taxation without representation. They have no right to

ventilate their grievances in the legislature because they have no representation.

Under the circumstances, the Government of India have at all times considered it their solemn duty to look after the interests of Indians who went to South Africa at the invitation of the South African Government and on condition that assurances given by the British Government in respect of their rights would be carried out.

Even the South African Government has all along accepted this position. It has negotiated with the Indian Government from time to time. It has invited representatives of the Government of India to be present at conferences held in South Africa on the Indian question.

It has entered into agreement with the Indian Government and has accepted the position that the Government of India has the right to protect the interests of Indians in South Africa.

In short, the Union Government has never, till Field Marshal Smuts raised this point before you, treated the Indian problem in South Africa as a domestic problem. It has always treated it as a problem in which two Governments were interested, the South African Union Government itself and the Government of India.

Let us again turn to Mr. Hofmeyer, Deputy Prime Minister of the Union to see whether he bears out what I have just been saying.

This is again in his speech of March 28, 1946: "That being so, I do not see how we can blame the Government of India for seeking to discharge that responsibility as long as we withhold from our local Indians the opportunity of stating their own case here in Parliament. We cannot blame local Indians, as we put it, for running to Mother India, unless we recognize them as South African citizens with rights of citizenship."

Asiatic Land Tenure Act

Let us, for a moment, consider why we object to the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act of 1946.

Its main provisions deal with the occupation and purchase of land by Indians and with representation of Indians in the Union Legislature. In regard to the first: For the first time in the history of South Africa, the principle of segregation has been applied to Indians in Natal and severe restrictions have been placed upon them in respect of occupation and purchase of property.

In regard to the second, it is true that representation has been given to Indians both in the Union Legislature and in the Provincial Council of Natal, but Indians are not placed on the common roll of electors. They have a separate, communal electorate and, as far as the Union Legislature is concerned, no Indian can be elected to it. Indians must agree to be represented by Europeans.

It will be seen that the principle underlying both these provisions is racial arrogance and the conception of racial superiority. The object is to insult and humiliate Indians who are fellow citizens of Europeans and brand them as an inferior race.

Field Marshal Smuts in his speech proudly asserts that his Government has not infringed the right of Indians to exist and has not denied them means of sustenance.

On behalf of my countrymen, I express my deep gratitude to the Field Marshal for not using an expression which has rather painful connotations: liquidating my community in his country.

He says that Indians have not been persecuted in South Africa. I agree, but there are worse things than injuring the body or taking the life of the individual. You can maim the soul, you can break the spirit, you can make him lose that human dignity which alone makes life worthwhile.

It has been urged by the South African delegation that segregation is good for Indians and that they do not really know what is good for them.

Of course, we are prejudiced and biased. We are, according to Field Marshal Smuts, just making political capital out of something which South Africa has done in the best interest of Indians.

South Africans Quoted

But let eminent South Africans themselves speak and tell you what they think of segregation.

This is what the report of the commission presided over by Mr. Justice Lange said in 1920: "There should be no compulsory segregation of Indians. Indiscriminate segregation of Asiatics in locations and similar restrictive measures would result in eventually reducing them to helotry. Such measures, apart from their injustice and inhumanity, would degrade the Asiatic and react upon the Europeans."

Let us again turn to our friend, Mr. Hofmeyer: "The plain truth, whether we like it or not, is that the dominant mentality is the herrenvolk mentality. The essential view of our problems is to be found in that fact. The true solution of those problems must be sought in the changing of that mentality. We cannot hide our prejudices in a cupboard from inspection by others. Our chief loss is a moral loss.

"As long as we continue to apply a dual standard in South Africa to determine our attitude towards and our relationship with Europeans and non-Europeans on different ethical bases, to assign to Christian doctrine a significance which varies with the colour of men's skins, we suffer as a nation from what Plato would have called a "lie in the soul", and the curse of the Iscariot may yet be our fate, betrayal of the Christian doctrine which we profess."

With this background present before us, let us now, turn to the issue of domestic jurisdiction. The Indian case is that the South African Government, by its general policy and by enactment of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act of 1946 has:

(a) Committed a breach of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927 and

(b) Violated fundamental principles and purposes of the Charter.

Field Marshal Smuts, if I understand him right, concedes that if there was a treaty between the Government of India and the South African Government regulating the rights of Indians in South Africa, the question which you have to consider would cease to be a domestic question, but he violently disputes the fact that there was any agreement between the South African Government and the Government of India. I shall quote his own words.

Amicable Understanding

"The so-called agreement was an honourable and amicable understanding rather than a binding Treaty."

I do not know whether Field Marshal Smuts wishes to imply that an honourable and amicable understanding is less binding on the conscience of a nation than a formal Treaty.

Now there is no magic about the word "Treaty." Any solemn agreement arrived at between two States or Two Governments would constitute an International Pact, Agreement or Treaty. All that we have got to find is whether all the ingredients which law or international law requires for the purpose of a binding pact were present in the case of the Cape Town Agreement.

I always like South African statesmen and responsible officials to speak in my cause because they do it ever so much better than I would ever do. I shall now proceed to quote a telegram sent by the Governor-General of South Africa from Cape Town to the Governor-General of India, dated February 16, 1927:

"My Ministers desire me to inform Your Excellency that they have formally approved of the agreement which has been reached between our representatives of the Government of India at a conference which was recently held in Cape Town. They feel assured that the Agreement, should it also be ratified by your Government, will be the means of establishing friendly co-operation and lasting goodwill between South Africa and India."

This Agreement was solemnly ratified by the legislatures of both countries and this is the Agreement which Field Marshal Smuts has chosen to characterize as a "so-called agreement."

To what extent the South-African Government worked for establishing friendly co-operation and lastng goodwill between South Africa and India after this Agreement was ratified, is by now well known to you.

It is also well known to you how the South African Government carried out one of the most important provisions of the Agreement, namely, to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplift of every section of the Indian population by conferring upon the Indian community the great boon of racial segregation.

Therefore, the South African Government stands condemned for having violated a solemn agreement arrived at between the Governments of the two countries and which has never been put to an end and on the contrary was reaffirmed in 1932.

South Africa's Obligations

The other point raised by Field Marshal Smuts is to my mind of paramount importance to the United Nations.

If I may summarize Field Marshal Smuts' argument, they come to this. In my own country I can do what I like. I can treat a racial minority as the Germans treated the Jews. I can shut them up in ghettos. I can violate the principles of the Charter and yet the United Nations cannot call me to order.

Now it is quite true that South Africa is a sovereign State and no one questions her sovereignty. But as a sovereign state in signing the Charter, she has undertaken certain obligations and those obligations are to conform to the principles and purposes of the Charter.

To that extent the result of signing of the Charter has been "contraction of the domain of essentially domestic matters." I am using the language of Field Marshal Smuts.

Article 2 sub-clause 7 has been enacted to emphasize the sovereignty of every State which is a party to the Charter to preserve untrammelled its full and unfettered jurisdiction to act within its domestic sphere.

But South Africa, by her own act in signing the Charter, has chosen to restrict and contract her domestic sphere. What Article 2 sub-clause 7 safeguards is that domestic jurisdiction which subsists after it has been contracted by the undertaking of international obligations.

Larger Implications

All the United Nations have joined this organization on the basis of the Charter. Its provisions bind everybody.

Is it suggested that any of the signatories can with impunity violate one of the binding terms of the Charter and the United Nations Organization has no right to take any action against the offending members?

If that be the true interpretation of Article 2 sub-clause 7, I do, gentlemen, in all seriousness, ask you to treat this Charter as a scrap of paper. Tear it up and have done with it. We are sitting here wasting our time.

I entirely agree with Field Marshal Smuts when he said: "The wider aspects of the case of the Government of India now pending before you have much larger implications than the present disagreement between the two Governments concerned. They affect the very basis of the Charter and the foundations upon which the hopes of peace are built."

Upon decision, gentlemen, will depend whether the people of the world will have hope that there is going to be peace and security, or will make them feel that this organization is merely a facade behind which all the old passions and racial arrogance still sway the minds of governments, notwithstanding the Charter.

I am obliged to Field Marshal Smuts for practically accepting the arguments I have just advanced.

This is what he says in his speech: "Although every effective international recognition of the fundamental human rights will, of necessity, involve a corresponding contraction of the domain of essentially domestic matters and narrow down the field within which States are at liberty to frame their international policies as they may deem expedient, it may be anticipated that these elementary rights will in due course receive the sanction of the community of nations."

A Strange Point

But he makes a strange point and says that inasmuch as fundamental rights have not been internationally formulated, therefore, there is no obligation upon a government to observe any fundamental rights. I am frankly amazed at this argument.

Do members present here have any doubt as to what human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion mean? Have they any doubt as to what the dignity and worth of the human person mean? Have they any doubt as to what equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small mean? And have they any doubt that discrimination between race and race, the segregation of one race as an inferior race, violate the principles of the Charter?

Political Question

It is also important to note that in Article 2 sub-clause 7 the language used is not "matters which are within the domestic jurisdiction of any State" but "matters which are *essentially* within the domestic jurisdiction of any State."

Therefore, although a matter may be within domestic jurisdiction still it may not be essentially within domestic jurisdiction. The draftsmen have advisedly used the word "essentially" and the proper meaning must be given to that expression.

Therefore, it is really a question of degree whether, in a particular matter, the United Nations would intervene or not. It would be for this organization to decide whether the matter complained of is so domestic in its nature that the organization would refrain from interfering with the discretion of a sovereign State.

I shall give an extreme illustration. Could it be suggested that if South Africa were tomorrow to introduce slavery into its domain, this organization would not interfere?

It is for this reason that our delegation has been emphasizing the fact that the question you have got to consider is pre-eminently a political question rather than a legal question. Whether a matter is essentially domestic or not must also depend on the development of international relations.

Advisory opinion on this point was given by the Permanent Court of International Justice on February 7, 1923, in the Tunisian Case, where there was a dispute between England and France.

The language, which the Court was considering was, the expression "solely a matter of domestic jurisdiction" and the French text *"Exclusivement d'ordre interieur"* in Article 15 paragraph 8 of the Covenant, and the Court decided that the question whether a certain matter is or is not solely within the jurisdiction of a State, is essentially a relative question.

It depends upon the development of international relations. It took the view that the right of a State to use its discretion is restricted by the obligations which it may have undertaken towards other States.

CEMENT FACTORY AT SINDHRI

A proposal for the establishment of a cement factory, as an adjunct to the fertiliser project at Sindhri in Bihar at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 1,28,26,000 was approved by the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting on November 19, 1946.

The Committee, however, wanted energetic enquiries to be made whether the plant could not be made in India and stressed the need for procuring as much of it as possible in India.

A factory is already being established for the production of about 35,000 tons of ammonium sulphate per annum from Indian gypsum. The process to be employed will throw up some 850 to 1,000 tons per day of calcium carbonate sludge as a by-product. This can be used for the manufacture of cement and the proposal is to establish cement factory to utilise this by-product.

For the present, it is proposed to erect a unit capable of producing 300 tons per day or approximately 100,000 tons per annum. The production of cement is expected to secure a profit and it is intended that this should be used to reduce the price of fertiliser.

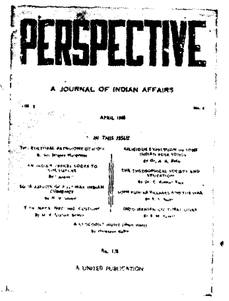
CONTROL OF ELECTRIC SUPPLY

(*Continued from Page* 443)

as soon as the Electricity Supply Bill, expected to be introduced in the next session of the Central Legislature, is enacted.

The relation between these Boards and the licensees should be governed by these principles, which may be incorporated in the Bill. The Principles it is further expected, may also be included in the proposed amendment of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, so that they may come into operation in all the provinces

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