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THE
Madras Journal of Co-operation

EACH FOR ALL AND ALL FOR EACH

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The Shape of Things.

In Memoriam :

We deeply regret to record the death of the Right Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, one of the pioneers of the consumers co-operation in this presidency. The T. U. C. S. which recently celebrated its forty-third birth day under the distinguished presidency of Mr. V. V. Giri and whose distinguished record of service has extorted the admiration of co-operators all over the world owes its inception to Mr. Sastri and a band of co-operators imbued with high ideals of service to the community. One by one has passed away in the satisfaction that the seed they sowed years ago has become a big tree yielding useful fruits. We mourn the death of Mr. Sastri as co-operators though his services in other fields of public activity were better known and appreciated all over the world.

Reform of Local Administration :

Elsewhere we have reproduced for the benefit of our readers the statement of objects and reasons which prompted His Excellency the Governor to enact the Madras Village Panchayats Act. It may be remembered we have more than once dealt with this topic and indicated the lines along which reform of Local Administration may proceed. However, we stated that in view of the prospect of popular government functioning in the province in the immediate future, the reform could have as well been postponed as popular government assisted by elected representatives would be more

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competent to deal with this much needed reform. Not only this cry has not been heeded but also to add as it were insult to injury the Panchayats Act has been promulgated even just a few days before the advent of the popular Ministry. Why this unusual hurry we are not able to understand. However, we hope the measure will not be given effect to and the popular Ministry will soon address itself to the task of reform of Local Administration to suit the genius and traditions of the Indian people. In this connection we wish to draw the attention of our readers to the series of articles we published in the issues of the *Journal* dealing with Village Administration written years ago by that well-known publicist and able administrator, the late Dewan Bahadur Srinivasaraghava Aiyengar. His valuable suggestions based on intensive study and reasearch must afford valuable guidance. It is earnestly hoped the Ministry will give their immediate attention to the Panchayet legislation by giving highest priority in their legislative programme.

Industrial Co-operatives:

Under this caption Rao Bahadur J. C. Ryan gave a radio talk which we have reproduced elsewhere with the kind permission of the All India Radio. Naturally the weavers' co-operatives whose growth and activity have been phenomenal in recent years have been dealt with at great length. We are gratified to read about the work of the Yemmiganur Weavers' Co-operative Society and the plans for its future development. Housing of rural workers must occupy a prominent place in the programme of reconstruction. The housing scheme for workers sponsored by this weavers' society has received the consent and support of the Government. The Yemmiganur co-operative is setting an example which is worthy of emulation. Mr. Ryan dealt also with the women's co-operatives. How essential it is to provide a subsidiary income by providing part-time occupations to engage the spare time and energy of the rural population especially in a predominantly agricultural country like India, it is hardly necessary to emphasise. We hope the five year plans towards this end will soon be launched and pursued with vigour undeterred by the difficulties encountered. The financing agencies should pursue a liberal policy towards industrial co-operatives and assist them with the necessary finance while the State should provide the necessary trained personnel for supervision and marketing of finished products. Any amount spent on this aspect of the Movement will amply repay in the years to come. Quick returns should

not be sought. Happiness and contentment which will result at the assets of inestimable value which no community or the State can afford to neglect.

Importance of Irrigation:

We have great pleasure in reproducing the notes of the late Dewan Bahadur S. Srinivasaraghava Aiyengar submitted to the Irrigation Commission. Exigencies of space have compelled us to print the valuable memorandum in instalments. But we have no doubt the memorandum will be followed closely and read with interest. The importance of provision of irrigational facilities is recognised; but often financial considerations are allowed to govern the policy of Government. Many a scheme which would contribute to the well-being of the rural population and promote the general welfare of the community finds its place in the archives of the Secretariat if it does not promise adequate financial return. On this point Dewan Bahadur Srinivasaraghava Aiyengar's views are of great interest. Also on the importance of well irrigation and the encouragement the ryots ought to receive for digging wells and using water for irrigation purposes Dewau Bahadur's suggestions are apt now that the Government have embarked upon a big plan of well sinking as a part of Grow More Food Campaign. The conditions on which grants are made and loans are advanced are by no means liberal, at any rate attractive, to provide sufficient inducement to ryots to undertake sinking of wells. In this connection we would also suggest that the Government may as well even undertake digging of wells on their own account to supply water for irrigation on payment of water rate. It is learnt this system has been adopted with success in the Indian State of Baroda. There are areas in the province where the grants given should be much more liberal to provide sufficient inducement. We commend these suggestions for the kind consideration of Government.

The assessment of land revenue on the original basis of classification even when crops are raised by well irrigation is another direction in which the Government may seek to promote well irrigation. The fear that higher rates of assessment will be charged as soon as dry lands become well-irrigated lands should be dispelled. For such assistance the Government renders, the cultivator puts his labour and resources to raise crops under irrigated conditions and thus assists in growing more food besides paying interest on loan

amounts. This contribution of the cultivator should be considered enough and no further demands should be made by the State.

Tank restoration scheme also should occupy a prominent place in the programme of Government. This should receive priority even over the Highways. The Highways are useful only to the extent there is increase in crop production to carry the harvested crops to the markets. Otherwise these Highways will prove more a drain on the resources of the province.

Report on the Working of Societies :

We have perused with great interest the report of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the Co-operative year ended 30th June, 1945, just made available. It is an account of all-round progress. Though there was a slight fall in the number of agricultural credit societies compared with that in 1940, mainly due to rigorous measures adopted either to mend or end a large number of dormant societies, there has been an appreciable increase in the number, membership, business and working capital of societies of all types. Special mention may be made of the consumers' and weavers' co-operatives. It is said war had its repercussions for good on the Movement. In the agricultural credit societies itself the percentage of balance to demand fell from 61.06 in 1938-39 to 32.28 in 1944-45, as observed by the Registrar, the lowest on record for about two decades. There has also been a progressive rise in the deposits held by the rural co-operatives rising from Rs. 23.87 lakhs in 1940-41 to Rs. 43.08 lakhs in 1944-45. The owned capital of these co-operatives also has increased as also the members' share capital and deposits.

In times such as these through which we have passed the financing agencies often suffer from glut of funds for want of safe investments. Neither the central banks nor the Provincial Bank have suffered on this account as they all have found in good new war-time clients in the stores and weavers' societies. To what better use can these funds be put than assisting institutions which come into existence to serve the community in times of stress and strain?

As regards the work of stores we have adverted to it more than once and so no purpose is served by repeating the same. Suffice it to say they have rendered yeoman service to the community and have well deserved the confidence reposed in them by the public and the Government.

To other aspects of the year's co-operation we shall revert in a subsequent issue.

Agricultural Prosperity :

A cursory perusal of the Administration Report and the figures we have extracted are likely to leave the impression that the war has brought in its train prosperity to the agriculturists which is evidenced by the increase in deposits, increased capital and fall in the percentage of balance to demand in the agricultural credit societies. We must caution our readers against such comforting conclusion. Prosperity is generally evidenced by reduction in indebtedness. Has there been real reduction in indebtedness? The Madras Government estimates rural indebtedness of the province at Rs. 200 crores as against the estimate of Rs. 204 of Mr. Sathianadhan. It is difficult to state with certainty how far the rise in agricultural prices brought about by the war has decreased the burden of debt. Either decrease in co-operative debt or 'co-operative absence of demand or pressure for money on the part of the agriculturists' from the co-operatives is by no means a real indication of the prosperity of the agriculturists. The fact that there has been a perceptible increase in the amount of loans issued by the village co-operatives for agricultural operations in spite of the diminution in loans generally advanced by them is itself a proof of the need for greater credit to meet their increased cultivation expenses. It is said even those loans would have been larger if the rates of interest had been lower. In mentioning the increase in loans to meet cultivation expenses, the Registrar makes the cautious statement 'whether this is accounted for primarily or mainly by the lower income group among agriculturists is perhaps a suggestion which may be ventured; but, in the absence of reliable data cannot make a categorical pronouncement.' That the Registrar is not far wrong in making the suggestion is evident from the observations of the Famine Inquiry Commission. The Commission observe that substantial reduction in agricultural indebtedness as a result of high prices for agricultural produce "appears to be particularly true of cultivators with large holdings and a considerable proportion of those possessing medium holdings" and "the proportion of such classes to the total rural population is not large" though "the proportion of the land held by these classes is large." The Commission opine that the indebtedness of small holders may not have been reduced substantially in many parts of the country. If an analysis of credit

operations by agriculturists for cultivation expenses is made, it is sure to disclose that it is the lower income groups whose lot has not bettered much even on account of rise in agricultural prices who have borrowed largely for cultivation expenses. We wish they had been helped to a greater degree by lowering the lending rates. However, there is no denying the fact the lower income groups among agriculturists deserve greater attention as unless their income is sufficiently increased even the rise in agricultural prices will not benefit them much as there is at least corresponding increase in the cost of living which is often a drain on their slender resources rather than a factor promoting their economic uplift.

All-India Co-operative Conference :

It was a kindly thought which prompted two members of the Cabinet delegation to send their greetings to the All-India Co-operative Conference which met recently at Lucknow. One of them, the Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, occupied a prominent position in the co-operative movement and always represented the co-operative point of view in the Parliament. That his association with governmental activity in other spheres has not abated a whit of his interest in the Movement will be evident from the inspiring message which he sent reproduced below. We are sure it will be read with much interest and will prove a source of encouragement. Co-operation knows no distinction of any kind ; it is a universal gospel transcending boundaries either natural or man-made. The message reads as follows :

- “ Please convey my fraternal greetings to the All-India Conference of the co-operative institutes. I have been a co-operator for 40 years and was Parliamentary Secretary to the British Co-operative Movement in Great Britain with an adult membership of over nine millions, which has become the largest trading organisation in our country. I am convinced that the development of co-operation in India, promoting the great principles of mutual self-help and the practised expression of our motto ‘each for all and all for each’ would be of far-reaching advantage to your people and a pillar of strength to your country as a whole. I have been interested in the doings of your movement and particularly welcome the advent of your All-India Conference. These must be influential in advancing co-operative education and knowledge and, by the exchange

of experience, faults can be remedied, objectives defined and organisation initiated for action to achieve those objectives.

“The widest basis of co-operation must in the long run be that of consumers. They are the market for the producers. They can combine not only to bring economic savings to themselves, but also through their increased purchasing power, provide a stable and growing market to the producers free from middle charges and commissions.

“If all our efforts are turned to co-operation, we shall be making the largest possible contribution to the brotherhood of man.

“I wish every possible success to your sixth All-India Co-operative Conference. I hope that your movement may continue to grow and flourish in India as it has in Great Britain and that in doing so, it may strengthen the ties of friendship and co-operation between us.”

Some news items of interest :

England Plan Co-operative Daily Newspaper.—Already operating the well-known Sunday paper, “Reynolds,” the English Co-operative Movement now plans to establish a Co-operative daily. This news was revealed as the result of the “Daily Worker” canvassing the Co-operative Societies for capital. The new daily will be published by Co-operative Press Ltd., which is national in character, being composed of the two Wholesale Societies, the Co-operative Federation and the many retail societies, guilds, etc.

Mr. Vaino Tanner arrested.—In Helsinki recently, Vaino Tanner, former Finnish Foreign Minister, was arrested. He was, with others charged with the responsibility for Finland’s 1941–44 war with Russia at the side of Germany. Mr. Tanner was president of the International Co-operative Alliance. His retirement from the presidency was announced at the recent international co-operative conference.

Bengal Governor Co-operative Director.—Mr. F. J. Burrows, J. P., recently appointed Governor of Bengal in succession to Mr. R. G. Casey, was a well-known co-operator, serving on the Hereford Society’s Management Committee.

Millionaire mansion becomes England’s Co-operative College.—Although the English Co-operative Movement established its first Co-operative College in 1918, it did not have its own college building, and work was carried out at Holyoake House, the headquarters

of the English Co-operative Union in Manchester. The editor of our "Co-operative News," Mr. Tom Shonk, was the first student there. The work of the college has continued to grow, and thousands of co-operative administrators, propagandists, officers and committee men and women have received specialised training through the College. Now the movement has acquired Stanford Hall, a millionaire's mansion, and already it is opened and students are studying under conditions which will eventually compare favourably with the famous English Georgian Colleges. (*Extracts.*)

An Announcement :

A conference of Milk Supply Societies and Unions is to be held on the 6th and 7th May at Coimbatore under the presidency of Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, M.L.A. The milk societies have grown in number and their activities have been considerably expanded. Problems peculiar to this type of co-operatives have risen which can be tackled only by taking counsel together. In view of the importance of milk as an essential article of food, its production and distribution are important from the public health point of view. It is hoped the deliberations of the Conference will yield fruit results.

Available for Sale.

CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATION IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE.

This book gives a full and excellent account of the Rural Co-operative Stores in Madras, their development, their special problem and their future. The services of these stores in this province which constitutes a very fine achievement and which very largely contributed to check profiteering and black-markets, have been reviewed and suggestions for strengthening the movement during Post-War period offered. The book will be of great use to all co-operators in the whole of India—where similar problems exist.

Only very few copies available.

Price per copy is As. 8. Postage extra.

Copies can be had from : The General Secretary,
The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union,
Esplanade, Madras.

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- 2**

Hand pounded rice is good for you

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- 3**

Parboiled rice is better than raw rice—it contains more vitamin B₁ after washing

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UNWASHED	WASHED	UNWASHED	WASHED
VITAMIN B ₁ 0.44%	VITAMIN B ₁ 0.44%	VITAMIN B ₁ 2.04%	VITAMIN B ₁ 2.04%
- 4**

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DO THIS

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- 5**

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The Irrigation Commission.

ANSWERS BY THE LATE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR
S. SRINIVASA RAGHAVAIYANGAR,

Inspector-General of Registration, Madras.

I do not propose to answer such of the questions propounded by the Commission as presuppose a minute acquaintance with the agricultural conditions and practices and irrigational requirements of special localities. These questions can best be answered by local witnesses. During my inquiries into the general economic condition of the presidency, irrigation was one of the subjects to be dealt with in connection with the question whether increase of agricultural production has kept pace with the increase of population. I returned to this Presidency only in the middle of October last after an absence of something more than five years, during which period I was employed as the Diwan of the Baroda State. In connection with the unprecedentedly severe famine which raged in Guzerat in the years 1899 and 1900, and has not even up to date altogether left it, it was my duty, under the orders of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar, to devote special attention to irrigation works in devising measures for purposes of famine relief and provision of employment to the distressed population; and also for future famine protection, more especially, by giving encouragement for the construction of wells. Since my return here, I have made some inquiries on the subject of well-irrigation, but these inquiries have been necessarily fragmentary and imperfect owing to the very short time available. In this paper, I shall deal briefly with such of the points bearing on the general question of irrigation as, in my opinion, deserve to be specially brought to the notice of the Commission.

I.—The Maintenance of Existing Irrigation Works.

One capital fact to be borne in mind in the present inquiry seems to me to be this, viz., that from time immemorial irrigation has been practised in this Presidency in every variety of form, and the country is studded with irrigation works of all descriptions—great anicuts thrown over rivers, and channels taken off from them irrigating hundreds of square miles; tanks by thousands—of all sizes from those covering several square miles and containing two or three year's supply of water down to shallow ponds which require to fill more than once in the year to irrigate a few areas; and wells by tens

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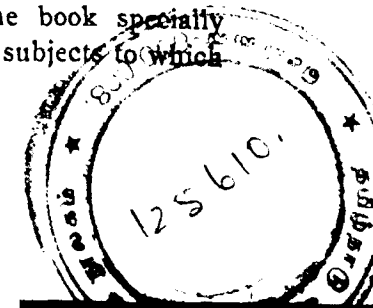
of thousands. Since the advent of the British power also, magnificent works, such as the Cauvery, Godavari, Kistna, Pennar, Palar, Tambaraparani, Rushikuliya, and last, though not least, the Periyar works, have been carried out. The existing irrigation works, excluding wells, irrigate an area of five million acres assessed at a revenue of nearly 273 lakhs of rupees. The maintenance of these works in a maximum state of efficiency is thus a matter of even greater importance than the extension of irrigation by the carrying out of new projects. In the earlier years of the last century, while the larger projects which make the reputation of great engineers received attention, the small works were comparatively neglected. The importance from a famine protection point of view of these minor works, small as they are individually, may be judged from the fact that they collectively irrigate two and a quarter million acres, or a little less than half the total area under irrigation. In 1884, an excellent scheme called "The Tank Restoration Scheme" for putting the tanks in order was started. During the last eighteen years the scheme has been in progress, only about one-third of the total amount of work has been done, and it will therefore take about thirty-six years more to complete the scheme. Funds and officers should therefore be provided to enable the Public Works Department to push on the work more rapidly and complete it within a shorter time.

Adequate funds should be provided also for the annual maintenance of minor irrigation works, by carrying out timely repairs and arresting their serious deterioration in future. The grants made for such repairs and maintenance are, I believe, such as allow of only a small number of works requiring repairs being attended to annually, and if, owing to special circumstances, some of the works proposed to be taken up could not be executed within the year, the funds provided for them lapse. A certain fixed percentage of the revenue derived from the works in each tract of country should be set apart for their proper maintenance, and if out of the sum so set apart, any portion remained unexpended, the balance should be carried on to next year and be available for expenditure on repairs and restoration over and above the annual grant. The arrangement should be similar to that adopted by great manufactories in the accounts of which allowance is made for depreciation of machinery, the expenditure in connection with repairs and renewal being met out of it. The irrigation revenue shared between the Imperial and Provincial Governments

THE IRRIGATION COMMISSION

according to the proportion fixed under the provincial contract should be the net revenue or profit left after providing not only for the actual charges incurred on maintenance during the year, but also the allowance made for depreciation out of which the cost of future repairs and restoration is to be met.

As regards the agency by which the minor works are maintained, the present rule is that works irrigating less than 200 acres are looked after by the Revenue Department, works irrigating 200 acres and the more being under the charge of the Public Works Department. The object in placing the smaller works under the charge of the Revenue Department is that the department may be able to carry out the repairs at comparatively small cost and also get some portion of the work done under "kudimaramat" according to the usage prevailing in the several localities. Where the work to be done requires professional skill, the estimate has to be prepared by the Public Works Department, and the work itself may be transferred to that department for execution. Some delay and loss of efficiency are now stated to result from the employment of this double agency, but I do not see why under proper arrangements, it should not work well. Of the three kinds of work to be done, viz. (1) kudimaramat, (2) ordinary repairs, and (3) work requiring some professional knowledge, No. (1) must necessarily be entrusted to the Revenue authorities; No. (2) is also of quite a simple character, and there ought to be no difficulty in getting it done by them; they ought to be able to do it cheaply by employing the labour of the ryots interested in the proper maintenance of the irrigation works and anxious to have it carried out at the proper time. In this connection, it seems to me to be worthy of consideration whether the time has not come for insisting on an elementary knowledge of engineering as qualification for the posts of Tahsildars. These officers have been relieved of magisterial duties in order that they may be able to devote their whole attention to revenue work, which includes or ought to include rural economy, sanitation, water supplies, village industries and all matters affecting the condition of the agricultural population on whose welfare the land revenue depends. The officers are now mostly educated men, and all that is required is that they should receive a fresh impulse from above to move in these directions. To ensure that these men have an elementary knowledge of the above subjects to start with, Jones' Manual of Sanitary Engineering, or some book specially prepared and containing useful information on the subjects to which



they might be expected to devote their attention may be prescribed as one of the subjects for the Revenue Test, Higher Grade. This however, by the way.

As regards (3), as I have already stated, I do not see why the difficulty could not be got over, if the officers of the Revenue and Public Works Department were in more frequent personal communication with one another than they are at present; such personal communication is very much to be desired, considering how much their co-operation is necessary in the interests and welfare of the ryots. It should be a rule that all questions which can be settled by personal discussion between the Executive Engineer and the Revenue Divisional officer should be so settled, written correspondence being resorted to only when differences of opinion between these officers have to be adjusted by a higher authority. Matters in which there are such differences of opinion should be settled by the Collector in personal communication, as far as possible, with the officers concerned, referring to higher authorities professional or other matters which require their orders. An immense quantity of work can be done quickly in this way: while, when written correspondence is resorted to, there is great loss of time and multiplication of the chances of misunderstanding between departments.

As regards the Cauvery Delta irrigation, the works acknowledged to be necessary for the better regulation of the flood waters of the river and its channels, for the removal of silt in them and for the improvement of the drainage of the delta, do not seem to have passed out the stage of investigation. So likewise the improvement of the status of the staff of Superintendents in the Godavari and Kistna deltas, to whom important duties connected with the distribution of water for cultivation are entrusted. There should be no question of want of funds for these improvements as in the recent revision of settlements carried out in these districts, there has been a very large increase of revenue from irrigated lands.

II. *New Projects for the Extension of Irrigation.*—Many new projects are under investigation by the Public Works Department; many more will doubtless be suggested by witnesses having local knowledge. There is still great scope for extension of irrigation by the construction of tanks in this Presidency. It is true that the supply in these tanks cannot be depended on during times of drought. Nevertheless, their construction is desirable, because at such times

they can, in many places, be supplemented by irrigation by wells, and because they promote the growth of trees and supply drinking water for cattle during ordinary seasons. The country should be completely prospected for likely sites for irrigation works with the assistance of Revenue officers, and the sites selected thoroughly investigated. If the projects are ascertained to be likely to be remunerative, they should be carried out at once; if they are not likely to be remunerative, they may be included in the famine programmes for execution when work remunerative or otherwise must be found for distressed population. The principle recently laid down by the Government of India that in judging of the value of irrigation schemes, it is not merely the direct revenue return that is to be looked to, but the indirect benefits accruing from them from a famine protection point of view, both to the Government and the people, will give a chance to many schemes which would otherwise have been rejected.

Referring to question 3-A (General), of the several causes therein suggested for the slow extension of irrigation, nearly all of them are in operation, though in varying degrees, No. 5, *i.e.*, uncertainty of the supply of water, or its too late commencement or too early cessation must, of course, necessarily retard extension of cultivation; but it is in such cases that arrangements have to be made to supplement the deficiency in canal irrigation by constructing tanks and reservoirs for the storage of water for future use; and similarly, to supplement deficiency in tank supply by giving special facilities and inducements for the construction of wells and the utilization of sub-soil water. When canal irrigation on an extensive scale is introduced into a new tract of country, care should be taken to see that the old sources of irrigation, especially the tanks, are not too hastily abandoned and the tank beds sold for cultivation. Even where supply of water in the canal is sufficient and certain and the tanks are not required for irrigation purposes, the tank-beds should be reserved for communal purposes, such as, pasturage and wood growing and not sold to private individuals for being brought under cultivation. It is of the highest importance from an agricultural point of view that there should be a due balance maintained between the areas devoted to pasturage and the growth of wood and that brought under tillage; and the necessity for reserving, by special regulations, large areas for grazing and wood is all the greater in this country, because cattle breeding for purposes of food is entirely

forbidden by religious sentiment, and pasturage, instead of competing with arable cultivation, is entirely auxiliary and subordinate to the latter. There is great danger, therefore, of the ryots bringing, under the pressure of population, all available land under the plough, a danger which is specially the duty of Government to guard against in the interests of agriculture and the general population. In former times, it was considered an act of great religious merit to reserve large areas and "consecrate" them for grazing purposes. Such lands are called "Gochars" or grazing lands in Guzerat. In the Tanjore district, in many villages, every available plot of ground has been brought under cultivation and the cattle have no standing room. The result is that there is great difficulty in obtaining manure, and the ryots have also few opportunities of supplementing their earnings from cultivation of land by the sale of milk or ghee.

As regards cause No. 1.—The dry tracts in which irrigation is for the first time introduced are, of course, sparsely populated and there is great difficulty in finding labour. The difficulty was felt when some capitalists from the Tinnevely district took up lands under the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal in the Kurnool district. They arranged for taking labourers from the Southern districts and settle them on the lands taken up in the Kurnool district. The experiment failed. Many of the labourers got ill of fever and died, and the remainder returned to their native country. Difficulty is felt also in finding labour for the cultivation of lands under the Kistna canals newly constructed and also under the Periyar project. In the latter case, it is the proximity of the town of Madura and the competition of capitalists that has led to the rapid extension of irrigation even under great difficulties.

Referring to question 6, irrigated cultivation requires more labour than dry cultivation. The extension of irrigation must necessarily attract the labour in the surrounding dry tracts already sparsely populated. In this connection, I may mention that in the Tanjore district, the first thing a purchaser who wishes to purchase lands in a village looks to, is whether labour for cultivation is abundantly available in the village itself or not. If this is the case, the lands command high prices. If the labour has to be obtained from even an adjoining village, the lands will not often fetch even one-half of the above price.

Cause No. 2.—Insufficient supply of cattle suited to wet cultivation is also an important factor, but not so important as No. (1)

sparseness of population already referred to and No. (3) insufficient supply of manure.

As regards No. (3), Dr. Voelcker in his report lays great emphasis on the interdependence of manure and irrigation and remarks that it is of little use to extend irrigation unless there is manure to back it up. He points out that in the North-Western Provinces the arable cultivation in villages may generally be divided into four zones or belts with the village homesteads as the centre. In the innermost circle is found the highest class of cultivation and the richest crops are grown, the manure obtained by village sweepings, etc., being liberally applied to the lands which are often irrigated by expensive wells when there is uncertainty in the supply of canal water. In the second belt, less rich crops are grown under irrigation, and manure is less liberally applied. In the third belt, the irrigated crops are of very inferior description and little manure is applied. And lastly, the fourth belt consists of large tracts of "dry" lands which are dependent for their cultivation entirely on the falling rains. The rent of lands in these tracts varies greatly, diminishing rapidly as the position of the lands recedes from the village homesteads. These remarks are obviously applicable to cultivation in this Presidency also. The limited quantity of manure available limits the area of cultivation which can be profitably irrigated, and still further limits the area on which a second crop can be raised during the year on the same land.

The fourth cause, viz., the unsuitability of soil to irrigation applies only to deep black-cotton soil which yields rich crops in all years in which the rains are fairly good; and in the long run irrigation, even if practicable, will hardly pay the ryots in such tracts. But in all other soils, irrigation can be successfully practised.

As regards the cause (6) mentioned in question (3), viz., lack of capital for the initial expenditure or of funds for the more expensive cultivation of irrigated crops, I think that plenty of capital will be forthcoming, as has been the case in reference to cultivation under the Periyar project, if there is a chance of the undertaking yielding a reasonable profit. The attempt made by the rice ryots in Tinnevely to cultivate lands under the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal already referred to is also a case in point. There are, however, so many difficulties which those who undertake such cultivation have to contend with and so many chances of error even in *bona fide* careful calculations, that at the initial stages the local authorities should be

given a large measure of discretion to deal liberally with applications for reasonable help or concessions to prevent the applicants from being utterly ruined. Such a policy will lead to a rapid extension of irrigation and increase of revenue eventually.

Causes Nos. (7) fear of enhanced rent or revenue assessment and (8) uncertainty of tenure and defects of the Tenancy Law, I shall deal with later on.

Notwithstanding the difficulties above alluded to, it may be said in answer to question 6 that, in most districts, there is a strong desire to have means of irrigation provided or extended.

To bring the above discursive remarks to a focus, I may state that when irrigation on an extensive scale is introduced in a large tract of country, the following precautions should be taken :—

(1) The benefits of irrigation should be diffused over as large an area as possible, even though such an arrangement may render the supply of canal water to the lower reaches somewhat uncertain. Any deficiency in the supply at certain seasons should be supplemented by water stored in tanks, the deficiency of supply in the latter being again supplemented by water drawn from wells. The reasons for this suggestion are (a) the extensive movement of population from villages and its concentration on the irrigated area and the denudation of the population in the outlying tracts will be avoided; (b) the manure of homesteads in a larger number of villages will be available for application to irrigated lands; and (c) the position of the ryots in a larger tract of country will be improved and there will be no sharp division between land-owners and field labourers as would be the case if the latter were concentrated on a smaller area.

(2) The old irrigated tanks in the tract in which canal irrigation is introduced should not be abandoned if there is the least chance of canal supply failing. Where the supply is absolutely certain and the tank-beds are not likely to be wanted at all for irrigation, the tank-beds should be reserved for communal purposes as pasturage meadows and land for the growth of wood.

(3) In making arrangements for extension of irrigation in each village, care should be taken to see that water is supplied only for a limited area in each village, so that there may be left sufficient area for pasturage and wood. The considerations mentioned in (1) above apply here also.

(4) At the initial stage of the introduction of new irrigation, the ryots should not be compelled to grow and pay for a second crop even if water-supply for the second crop season as well as the first can be assured. As already remarked, even to raise a single crop, manure is essential, and manure can be had only in very little quantity and can be applied only to a limited area. The second crop is intensive cultivation and requires a larger application of manure proportionately to the out turn than the first crop. It would be better, if there was extra water available, to extend first crop cultivation than force people to grow a second crop when they do not want to do so. The cultivation of a second crop is no new thing to the ryots, and if they have the chance of growing it with profit, they are sure to resort to it without external compulsion. In the Tambaraparni valley, nearly all the lands irrigated by the river grow a second crop, but these lands lie in a narrow belt extending 4 or 5 miles, only on either side of the river. The population in this tract is very dense and manure supply of the villages suffices for high class cultivation. In other districts, wherever these conditions are present, two crops are grown and only to the extent they are present.

(5) Where the arrangements made in connection with the introduction of irrigation involves changes in the practices as regards cultivation prevalent in the localities affected, the arrangements should be brought into force gradually and tentatively and not *per saltum*. The necessity for caution arises from the fact that there are so many factors, some "seen" and others "unseen" to be taken into account in calculating the chances of successful cultivation, that it would be unsafe on merely *a priori* considerations to assume that a certain change in long established agricultural practices would be practicable and beneficial. The best method would be to introduce the change in a small tract of land and if it is found to answer expectations to apply it to larger areas.

QUESTION A—GENERAL 3 (7) AND 3 (8) AND 4.

III.—*Freedom from taxation if improvements made by ryots at their own expense.*

So far as the zamindari tracts are concerned, the uncertainty of the legal position of the ryots and their liability to have their rents enhanced by their landlords for improvements carried out by private outlay certainly act as a check to the execution of improvements by

the ryots. The need for a sound Tenancy Law has been felt for the last quarter of a century, and the question in my opinion is one which requires immediate attention. * I have before me just now copy of a lease of land for cultivation registered in a large zamindari in which it is stipulated that the land leased if cultivated with dry crops shall pay at the rate of Rs. 4-8-0 per gorru of $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres; but that if the tenant should dig a well in the land at his own cost and irrigate it, he should pay at the rate of Rs. 30 per gorru for ragi, cholam, etc., crops, Rs. 51 for sugar, pepper, etc., and Rs. 102 for tobacco. As regards Government ryots since 1850 the most distinct assurances have been given to them that Government will refrain from enhancing the assessment in respect of any additional value which may have been given to land by improvements effected by them, even if carried out by means of money borrowed from Government. In the latter class of cases, the principle applicable has been laid down in section 11 of the Land Improvement Loans Act, XIX of 1883, but the same principle by *a fortiori* reasoning must be applied to improvements effected by ryots without aid of any kind from Government. This section provides that when land is improved with the aid of a loan granted under the Act, the increase in the value derived from the improvement shall not be taken into account in revising the assessment of land revenue on the land, subject to the proviso that where the improvement consists of the reclamation of waste land or of the irrigation of the land assessed at unirrigated rates, the increase may be taken into account after the expiration of such period as may be fixed by rules to be framed by the Government. The reclamation of waste land by irrigation and drainage is dealt with in this Presidency under what is called the cowle system. Under this system, the assessment imposed on the land is that leviable on cultivated lands of similar quality in the neighbourhood, but the levy of this full assessment is postponed for such time as may be necessary to reimburse the land holder the special expenditure incurred in making the land fit for cultivation, over and above the ordinary expenses of cultivation. The above plan is adopted in cases in which by incurring a small expenditure, waste lands can be brought into a state fit for cultivation and assessed at full rates; but in the case of irrigation by wells which are expensive to construct, maintain and work, the rule has been adopted in this Presidency, after prolonged correspondence with the late Court of Directors and the Secretary of State and with their approval, that no special charge should be imposed on account of irrigation on the lands

irrigated by those wells, that they should continue to pay the same dry assessment as they did before, that such assessment should be liable to enhancement only when there is a general revision of the district rates, and that in any such revision, any modification in the assessment on the lands so improved will be effected irrespective of the increased value conferred on them by the construction of the wells. In 1850, the question whether the exemption of lands irrigated by private wells might not be limited to a term of years instead of being made perpetual was considered, but it was found that in most cases it would be difficult to determine the period of exemption necessary to reimburse the ryots their outlay, and that any such limitation would act as a check on the extension of well cultivation which it is most desirable to encourage. The enterprise itself is attended with great risk, for frequently after spending money in digging, the ryots come upon a rocky substratum and even when they strike water, the water is found to be brackish and unfit for being used for growing crops. The life of a well is limited, and it requires constant repairs and renewal and the cost of lifting water is very heavy. In view of these considerations, the more liberal policy of granting absolute exemption from the special charge was adopted. The policy has answered expectations in the fullest manner; since its adoption, there has been an enormous development of irrigation by wells. More recently, certain concessions have also been granted in the case of wet lands in which a crop is grown by means of water drawn from private wells when the supply of water in the Government irrigation works fails. These concessions have resulted in advantage to the revenue, while benefiting the ryots, and have led to a large increase of wells in wet lands, the water of which will supplement the deficiency of water in the Government works and be the means of saving the ryots' crops in times of drought.

In this connection I have two suggestions to make for slightly modifying the wording of the Board's Standing Orders concerning the concessions above referred to, so as to make the intentions of Government quite clear, and prevent possible misapprehension of them, both on the part of the Revenue officers and also on the part of ryots, tending to discourage improvements. The first suggestion is, at the end of the Board's Standing Order No. 6 the words "And the tax imposed on such lands at the revision of settlement shall not exceed the tax imposed on other unirrigated lands in the vicinity paying the same rate of assessment as the former" or words to the

like effect should be added. The second suggestion is as follows :— When the rules containing the concessions in connection with lands cultivated with the aid of wells when there is failure in the Government work of irrigation were framed, Mr. Nicholson, the Provincial Member of the Irrigation Commission, pointed out that the rules as framed placed the ryots in a worse position than they were in before in some respects, by making the grant of the concession dependent upon the Government work of irrigation having received *no supply whatever*. Under the ordinary rules a ryot could grow dry crops and be charged for it at dry rates if the supply of water received in the Government work was insufficient to grow a wet crop, while under the new rules, a ryot who grows a wet crop entirely by means of water obtained from a well dug at his own expense will be charged full wet assessment if the Government source has received even a drop of water. The Government admitted the cogency of the reasoning and ruled that the ryots should not, under the new rules, lose the benefit of any remission which they would otherwise have been entitled to for lands left waste, withered crops, or dry crops raised on wet land owing to insufficiency of water to raise a wet crop. The decision of Government is embodied in paragraph 6 of the Standing Order, but as in paragraph 5, the words "No supply whatever is received in the tank or other Government source of irrigation, either in the first or second crop season" are still retained, it is to be feared that the intentions of Government are not in many cases given effect to. The wording of paragraph 5 should, therefore, be modified.

(To be continued.)

Available for Sale.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE—1945

For the establishment of the Consumers' Movement on a permanent basis, it is necessary that Co-operative Stores should have upto date market intelligence. The booklet now published by the Union aims at this object and may be of immense use to Co-operative Store. It contains useful information as to the centres of production or marketing and seasons for bulk purchase etc. of important agricultural products such as good grains, pulses and grains, fruits, household requirements, clothing and other essential commodities.

Price per copy is Rs. 0-5-0. Postage Extra.

For 50 copies and above Rs. 0-4-0 a copy.

Copies can be had from : The General Secretary,
The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union,
Esplanade, Madras.

Industrial Co-operatives*

BY RAO BAHADUR J. C. RYAN.

There are three kinds of industries :—(1) Large Scale industries (ii) Small scale industries and (iii) Cottage Industries. Large scale industries require extensive lands, huge buildings, large capital and many labourers. Instances of this kind of industries are the Spinning Mills, the Industrial workshops, the Cement Factories etc. Small scale industries are those which involve less capital and employ fewer labourers. Yet, they too undertake productive enterprises in a factory, where labourers work together. Instances of small scale industries are Cigar Factories, workshops manufacturing household metal ware, leather works manufacturing boots and shoes etc. Cottage industries, on the other hand, are small scale industries conducted in the homes of the producers. In this variety of industries, labourers do not congregate in one common building; nor do they work at fixed hours under the orders of a foreman. Here, the father, the mother and even the children participate in the production of goods at hours most convenient to them and without the fear of the foreman's rod. To-night, I am not going to deal with large scale industries, although some of them have been undertaken on co-operative lines, like the manufacture of sugar by the Co-operative Sugar Factory at Podanur. I shall confine my attention to cottage industries and small scale industries which lend themselves more easily to co-operative effort than large scale industries in which the motive for profit is potent force for securing efficiency.

2. The most striking example of cottage industries in India is handloom weaving, which is done in thousands of houses situated in towns as well as villages. Although production in the home is most congenial to family life, experience has shown that for development and progress, each family of producers cannot afford to be independent of its neighbours. Yarn has to be obtained, finished goods have to be marketed and more capital than a family can afford has to be secured. Consequently, families of handloom workers group themselves under co-operative societies, usually at the rate of one per village or town. With the help of this organisation, they obtain more capital on easy terms, and larger supplies of yarn at wholesale rates. This organisation also enables them to dispose of the finished goods in the most paying markets at the most advantageous rates.

* With the kind permission of the All India Radio, Madras.

There are now in Madras over 300 such Co-operative Handloom Weavers' Societies, where about 30,000 handlooms are at work. Realising that if union at the bottom, in the village or the town, provides strength, union at the top, in the metropolis, should furnish greater strength, all these Handloom Weavers' Societies have federated together in the Provincial Co-operative Handloom Weavers' Society at Madras. This central organisation provides yarn to the local units and takes over the finished products for sale through the emporiums of which there is at least one in every district. This elaborate organisation of the handloom industry on a co-operative basis now produces and markets about 2 crores of rupees worth of handloom products in a year.

3. The largest Weavers Co-operative Society in the province is the one situated at Yemmiganur in Bellary District. It commands about 1000 handlooms and produces about 3 lakhs of rupees worth of goods per annum. The articles manufactured by it are of innumerable varieties like towels, sheets, sarees, shirting-cloth, suiting-materials, table-linen, furniture-covers etc. It has its own dye-house for dyeing yarn, its own designers for inventing introducing new patterns, its own carpenters for manufacturing pit looms as well as frame looms. Its products obtain a ready sale not only at the emporiums of the Provincial Handloom Weavers' Society, but also at the hands of private traders.

4. Emboldened by the strong reserves which it had built up during the last 3 years, it has recently launched an ambitious enterprise. Dissatisfied with the conditions of housing in the village, it has planned to acquire about 70 acres of land on the outskirts of the village in a compact block. This area is to be provided with roads, common wells, public latrines and a park. One hundred houses are to be constructed costing about Rs. 2,500 each. The society is to have its own building on the new site with a yarn-room, a finished goods store, a show-room, a library and a recreation room. This building will also have two halls, one of which is to be used for sizing operations and another for trying out new patterns on 40 frame looms. Government have been pleased to supplement the resources of the society with a loan of one lakh of rupees for the construction of the dwelling houses which will be allotted to 100 members of the society. When the loans are paid off by the members in a period of 20 years out of their wages, they will become the owners of these houses. In place of rented dungeons situated

amidst filthy surroundings, they will have houses of their own built on modern lines with proper drainage and other facilities. The houses will accommodate four looms each and handloom weaving will continue to be carried on, on the existing basis of a cottage industry at which the members of the family work according to their own convenience.

5. While the Yemmiganur Weavers' Co-operative Society provides a glorious illustration of a co-operative society which promotes a cottage industry retaining its cottage character, the Kumbakonam Leather Workers' Co-operative Society is an example of a Co-operative Society which promotes leather goods manufacture on a small scale in a factory. The members of this society work together during fixed hours in a common workshop, under the supervision of the President of the society. Machinery, tools and implements are provided by the society. Raw materials are distributed to the members according to the type of leather goods which they have to make. Wages are fixed at so much per article. When the members have manufactured the goods, the society takes charge of them and arranges for their sale either at the premises of the society or through the Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society situated at Madras. A qualified Leather Instructor is provided for the society by the Provincial Co-operative Bank for introducing improvements in the manufacture of leather goods. The number of workers in the society is gradually increasing; for, they realise that the work provided is steady and the wages paid are liberal. The bonus given at the end of the year on wages earned is an additional attraction which can never be had from either a consumer who employs them casually or from a trader who employs them for a longer period. Consumers who wish to have specified patterns of goods and traders who require numerous articles of the same variety now book their orders with the society and the latter supplies them their requirements within the appointed times. When sufficient orders are not booked in this manner in advance, the society manufactures goods on its own account for the open market.

6. While the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society and the Leather Workers' Co-operative Society provide its members with full-time work on small scale industry, the women's co-operative societies in Madras provide their members with part-time work; on such industries. Usually, women cannot undertake full-time work for they have to attend to their family duties and look after their

children. Yet, they need some occupation during their leisure hours to enable them to supplement their husbands' income or to earn a little pocket money. They have therefore grouped themselves under seven women's co-operative societies in the city, each member subscribing at least a share capital of Rs. 5. With the funds so gathered, and with the addition of borrowed funds from the Central Co-operative Bank, the members of these societies do tailoring work on cloth purchased and distributed by the society. Twice in a week, the members meet in the society's premises and take from the society's Tailoring Instructor their quotas of cloth for being worked into pillow cases, or handkerchiefs, or blouses or shirts. They do their work in their own homes during their off-hours and bring the goods to the society for sale either at its premises or through the Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society. There are some members who have earned Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month in this way. Some of them have invested their earnings on new sarees or jewels and go about with the additional joy of having acquired them out of their own earnings. The example of the Women's Societies in Madras has been taken up by Trichinopoly, Madura and Vellore; and, with their increase in numbers, many a home in the country will become happy.

7. Towards this end of introducing increased happiness in every home, Government have under consideration a five year plan of the organisation of women's co-operative societies in the province on a large scale. They have also another scheme under their consideration for the improvement of cottage industries among men on a five year plan. When both these schemes are finally approved and initiated with financial and other help from Government, the future of the progress of the cottage industries in this province on a co-operative basis will indeed be bright. What is needed is only a will to work on the part of the members like comrades in a common cause.

Once the villagers realise what the society proposes to do for them, how it proposes to assist them throughout from beginning to the end of their agricultural operations, then there will be no difficulty in persuading every single cultivator to join the society.

—The Hon. Dr. K. N. Katju.

T. U. C. S. Day, 1946.

BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR.

The T.U.C.S. has completed 42 years since its inception and we are to-day celebrating its 43rd BIRTH-DAY which synchronises with the resumption of Popular Government all over India and it is a source of pleasure that in Madras too the Congress Government is to come into being. We are sanguine that co-operation will take giant strides and great progress will be achieved by Co-operative Stores during the year. Co-operative institutions have been an anathema to private enterprise and let us hope with the resumption in office of peoples government great change in outlook will be in evidence. We are passing through the throes of famine and we assure the incoming Government of our unstinted co-operation in carrying out policies laid out by them faithfully and loyally, as we did during the dark days of Emergency which we passed through unscathed and with credit. The Society which began with 14 members and a Share Capital of Rs. 310 on 9-4-1904 has now a Share Capital of Rs. 1,45,000.

The Society has now 31 branches and 33 depots and the total sales for the year ending 31st December 1945 amounts to Rs. 72,75,000 as against Rs. 68,00,000 during the previous year.

The financial position of the Society as on 1-4-46 is as follows:—

	Rs.
Share Capital	... 1,45,000
Deposits	... 3,75,000
Stock	... 4,00,000
Reserve Fund and other reserves	... 2,75,000
Cash on hand and with Banks	... 2,75,000
Building	... 1,00,000
Investments in shares, debentures and Government securities	... 1,60,000

With the withdrawal of the Emergency Scheme in April 1945 the Society had to repay the Government advances and loans to the extent of 3 lakhs and also other amounts of over 2 lakhs due on account of the working of the Emergency Scheme. It has been possible for the Society to pay off all these dues except for about Rs. 60,000 on account of profits on the working of the Emergency depots for the 9 months ending 31-3-45 (which are not yet worked out) without any outside borrowing. The Society has however arranged for an overdraft of 2 lakhs with the Madras District Co-operative Central Bank to meet any unforeseen demands but so far it has not been found necessary to utilise it on any occasion.

The Society continued to run its branches as ration shops. During the year, informal rationing has been introduced in Chingleput District and thus our branch at Tambaram also has come within the range of rationing. All our branches are having the maximum number of cards registered with them. During the year the Government have enforced the payment of Security deposit for running ration shops by the Co-operative Societies also, though to our pointed reference to this question (then under consideration) at the last T.U.C.S. Day Sir Norman Strathie assured us that there was no such proposal under contemplation. Of late the rationing authorities have been forfeiting portions of our Security Deposit for some mistakes committed in the day to day transactions by our branch staff. While we are second to none in wishing the rationing scheme the complete success it deserves, we feel, that such forfeiture is not necessary in the case of Co-operative Societies, for small lapses on the part of its paid staff here and there in the detailed working of the shops should not be penalised, so long as these lapses do not affect the fundamentals of the rationing, unless it be Government's intention to make these fines another source of revenue. The Society offered to inflict whatsoever punishment the Rationing Officer thought necessary on the erring staff, but the City Rationing Officer has not found his way to accept our point of view. We have made strong representations to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and we hope it will be possible to work out a more satisfactory way of dealing with this question. We have been always feeling and have never concealed in our various representations to the authorities that as a public body we are at a disadvantage in this respect as it is not possible for us to resort to methods open to private individuals in dealing with such small complaints and as such we are always entitled to special treatment in this regard at the hands of the authorities concerned.

The Government are pleased to appoint the Society as one of the quota holders for rice in the City and it is hoped when this G.O. is given effect to, it will be possible for us to give better satisfaction to our constituents in the matter of quality which of late has never been uniform. While we do not minimise the present difficult food situation facing the country it is hoped that the Government will give us an early opportunity to work out the Scheme in our limited sphere and thus enable us to save a substantial quantity of rice, otherwise left unaccounted at present.

In the matter of piece-goods supply has been stinted and niggardly and in spite of our repeated requests to the Textile Controller supply of mill goods has not been even on a scale obtained by retail

and petty dealers in Madras. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has recommended to the Provincial Textile Controller for allotment of a definite quota to T.U.C.S. and so far nothing tangible has resulted.

In a sale of 6 lakhs per month the sale of piece-goods last month roughly was in the nearabouts of six thousands. We will be failing in our duty if we do not record our appreciation of the fair deal by the Buckingham & Carnatic Mill agents as regards fair distribution to us, proportionate to our status as the premier Consumers Co-operative Stores in India.

We hold a drug control license and in spite of it we have not been getting a fair quota of articles like florlicks, Glucose, Ovaltine, etc. The supply of these articles to us especially are niggardly and while private merchants are able to get large quota from wholesales of these articles, we are definitely under a disadvantage as other factors decide the supplies and not fairness. Unless the Civil Supplies Commissioner intercedes in this behalf we will not be able to make any advance in meeting the needs of our members in this behalf.

We are grateful to the Government of Madras for having been pleased to sanction us an exgratia grant to the extent of half the profits earned in the working of the Emergency Scheme. The amount is proposed to be utilised for the reconstruction of our Head Office Godowns and Offices on up-to-date lines and the plans and estimates submitted by us have already received the general approval of the Government. We have applied for the acquisition of the old house next to us so as to provide sufficient moving space for our lorries and make the proposed building sufficiently spacious for the growing needs of the T.U.C.S.

It is hoped that Government will find it way to acquire the house in question as soon as possible and thus enable us to complete the new building before we celebrate the T.U.C.S. Day next year.

Now that the War is over we were expecting for better conditions in the current year. But the failure of monsoons and havoc caused by the cyclones in our province and the famine conditions prevailing in many of the war devastated countries of the world, the food situation in our province has changed for the worse. We are not unaware of the prompt steps taken by the Central Government to meet the situation, but it is unfortunate that they could not get sufficient import quotas and thus were compelled to impose a 25% cut in the rations. While the cut may keep us on for a longer time it is our bounden duty to point out the inadvisability of imposing such a cut on a population already living under starvation conditions.

The excellent way the food situation was tackled by the Madras Government from the very start must be a sufficient recommendation to the Government of India and the United Nations to meet our demands in full and thus enable us to restore the cut in rations at the earliest possible opportunity. In this connection may we request the Government to reconsider their decision to include wheat products under rationing. While it may be quite sound in principle, we find in practice, very few people would think of purchasing these articles in preference to rice in a rice consuming area like Madras. Especially in these days of cut in rice rations it is up to the Government to arrange for the supply of these wheat products as additional rations so that they may serve as a kind of supplementary food to compensate the cut in rice. A kind of informal regulated distribution of these articles could be arranged through ration shops as in the case of Bengal Gram, etc. Similar distribution arrangement could be made in the case of sugar also and it will be possible to devise a method entailing the least administrative arrangement in this respect also.

Available for Sale.

DISTRICT WHOLE-SALE STORES.

The book gives a full and excellent account of the District Wholesale Stores in Madras, their development, their special problems and their future. The services of these stores in this province which constitutes a very fine achievement and which very largely contributed to check profiteering and black-markets, have been reviewed and suggestions for strengthening the movement during the Post-War period offered. The book will be of great use to all co-operators in the whole of India—where similar problems exist.

Only very few copies available.

Price per copy is Re. 1-4-0. Postage extra.

Copies can be had from: The General Secretary,
The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union,
Esplanade, Madras.

News and Notes.

The Third Trichinopoly District Co-operative Stores Societies Conference.

The Third Trichy District Co-operative Conference held on 17-6-46 at Trichinopoly was opened by W.R.S. Sathianadhan Esq., I.C.S., Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, and presided over by Sri D. Mahalingam Pillai B.A., B.L., Public Prosecutor, Tanjore and the Vice-President of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union. Representatives of Stores and others numbering 150 attended the Conference. Eight resolutions were passed, in one of which Government were requested to entrust the food grains procurement scheme to co-operative institutions wherever they were working and in another resolution Government were requested similarly to entrust the informal rationing distribution to co-operative institutions. Before taking up the resolutions for consideration, Sri A. Hirudayaswami Reddiar, Professor of Economics, St. Joseph's College, delivered an interesting speech.

The Second Anniversary of the Trichinopoly Central Co-op. Stores.

The Second Anniversary of the Trichinopoly Central Co-operative Stores was presided over by Sri Rao Bahadur K. Subrahmanyam Naidu, Additional Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras. Over 250 members of co-operative institutions and others were present. Mr. Naidu made an instructive speech on a few aspects of the development of co-operative stores after which Sri T. P. Vedachalam Pillai, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Tennur, spoke on the role of co-operative stores in raising the standard of living of the people. Rao Saheb L. N. Paramasivam Pillai, President of Central Stores welcomed the gathering.

Co-operation in Kashmir State.

The work of the co-operative societies in the State is daily increasing with tremendous speed. In all there are 3,892 agricultural and non-agricultural societies in the State and they consist of 1,05,433 members. There are 15 central financing institutes in the State for financing these societies with a working capital of Rs. 42,66,814. During the year 16 new Primary Agricultural Societies were registered and the number at the end of the year stood at 2886. The societies had Rs. 14,03,779 as share capital and Rs. 18,28,696 as reserve and other funds. They had Rs. 27,132 as deposits and Rs. 12,68,730 as loans from Central Banks. The largest amount of loans was advanced for the purchase of cattle, payment of land revenue, the purchase and construction of buildings etc.

The Co-operative Department had 218 societies for consolidation of holdings. During the year about 7598 kanals of land was consolidated and 1810 fields of small tracts were converted into 287 big fields. Previous to

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consolidation while average area of field was 4 kanals, but after consolidation average area of a field came to be 35 kanals. Thus it is evident that this Department has done a rare service to the tillers of the land.

There also existed 12 Purchase and Sale Societies with 1633 members, 978 non-agricultural societies with 39,183 members and Rs. 21,90,0008 working capital and 290 non-agricultural societies.

Milk Supply Societies and Unions Conference at Coimbatore.

The first Conference of Milk Supply Societies and Unions will be held on the 6th and 7th May 1946 at Coimbatore with the object that all milk supply societies and unions may have the opportunity to see the working of one of the best Unions in the Province thereby benefit themselves, and model their societies on the lines of the Coimbatore Union. As such, the Conference will be of very educative value. Circulars have been sent to all Milk supply Societies and Unions to elect their delegates to attend the Conference.

Tinnevely District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. Supervisors' Conference.

The 11th Business Conference of the Supervisors of the Tinnevely Dt. Co-operative Central Bank was held on the 9th and 10th March 1946 at Tinnevely under the presidentship of Sri M. D. Kumaraswami Mudaliar, President of the Bank. The Secretary Mr. R. Ratnaswami Chettiar in his introductory speech drew the attention of the supervisors to the brilliant achievement made successfully in the past two years in the matter of collections and exhorted them to maintain the same reputation and good record this year also and show 'nil' balance under overdues during the current year, much in advance, not later than 15-6-46.

Various subjects such as chalking out definite programmes for collections, ways and means for further development of transactions with Central Bank, formation of Labour Contract Societies for Ex-Service men etc. were taken up for discussion and resolutions passed. Among them was a resolution to the effect that the supervisors should collect the entire overdues under interest before 30-4-46 and principal before 15-6-46. The supervisors evinced lively interest in the deliberations. During the course of discussions, the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, gave valuable suggestions on all subjects brought for discussion. The President at the end gave a short and inspiring speech touching all important points discussed at the conference and advised the supervisors to carry out the instructions given to them faithfully. Then he distributed prizes for two selected supervisors for their all round satisfactory work in 44—45.

Compilation of the Year Book on Co-operation.

It is understood that the Andhra Desa Co-operative Union has elected Sri N. Satyanarayana of Alamuru as the Chief Editor for the compilation of

NEWS AND NOTES

the Year Book on co-operation depicting the various phases of the co-operative movement from 1904 to 1946.

Co-operative Propaganda in Rayalaseema.

Sri S. Krishnaswamy, Manager of the Andhrs Desa Co-operative Union who has been carrying on co-operative propaganda in the Ceded Districts organised a Ladies Co-operative Society at Cuddapah in March 1946. The first meeting was presided over by Sri Agniswaran Pillai, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Cuddapah. Srimatis A. V. Rajakumari and B. Kottamma are the chief promoters of the society. He also during his tours in Rayalaseema encouraged the people to start the slab industry at Yerraguntla and other places and advised the workers to form themselves into a society.

The Annamalai University Students' Co-operative Stores 1944—45.

The above stores has completed the 15th year of its working. The stores has made alround progress during the year and the profits and turnover have reached a high watermark in its existence of 15 years. The membership of the stores has increased from 398 at the beginning of the year to 498 at the end of the year and the share capital from Rs. 1,358 to Rs. 1504. The year under review marks a phenomenal increase in the turnover. It has increased from Rs. 89,631 in 1943—44 to Rs. 1,41,238 in 1944—45. In the course of the year every attempt has been made to secure the supplies direct from the producers and wholesalers which marks definite progress from the previous practice. The stores earned a net profit of Rs. 7979 whereas the society incurred a net loss of Rs. 693 in the previous year. The society has been classified as 'B' class.

The widest basis of co-operation must in the long run be that of consumers.

They are the market for the producers. They can combine not only to bring economic savings to themselves, but also through their increased purchasing power provide a stable and growing market to the producers free from middle charges and commission.

—The Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander.

Reform of Local Administration.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTIFICATION.

The following Statement of the reasons which have moved His Excellency the Governor to enact the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1946, in exercise of the powers of the Provincial Legislature assumed by him under the Proclamation issued under section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935 is published for general information :—

STATEMENT.

Panchayats were till now governed by the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. In view of their general unsatisfactory condition, the Government considered it essential to have a separate enactment for panchayats so as to improve their administration and the Madras Village Panchayats Bill was published for criticism in 1941. This necessitated their removal from the scope of the Madras Local Boards Act and the carrying out of all consequential amendments in that Act. It was also found that certain amendments to that Act were necessary either for the purpose of removing difficulties encountered in working the Act or for the purpose of improving the administration of district boards in the light of the experience gained since 1930, when the last comprehensive amendment of the Act (Madras Act XI of 1930) was passed. A Bill was accordingly published for criticism in 1941 and the objections and suggestions received with respect to the Bill were carefully considered. The Madras Village Panchayats Bill having since been enacted as the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1946, His Excellency the Governor has now enacted the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1946. The amending Act removes panchayats from the scope of the principal Act and confines its operation to district boards. Certain amendments which are considered to be both essential and non-controversial have also been made and the more important of these are explained below.

Section 6—Clause (ii).—The proviso to section 6 (2) of the principal Act has become unnecessary, since the Act as now amended makes it clear what functions should be exercised by the district board in non-panchayat areas and what functions should be exercised by it both in non-panchayat and in panchayat areas. Section 6 (2) of the principal Act has therefore been recast.

Section 9.—New section 10 (2) makes it clear that the Government may also alter the strength of a district board by their own motion and also empowers them to direct that an alteration in the strength of a district board

REFORM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

shall take effect only from the date of the next ordinary elections where the alteration necessitates material changes in the circles of the board.

Section 14.—The executive authority of a district board has power under section 22 of the principal Act to incur expenditure without the board's sanction in cases of emergency. In all other cases, the sanction of the district board is required before the expenditure can be incurred. As the obtaining of the prior sanction of the district board in petty cases of contingent expenditure results in delay and difficulties and friction, provision has been made in new section 22-A empowering the executive authority to incur contingent expenditure not exceeding Rs. 25 in each case subject to the existence of provision in the budget, for such expenditure and subject also to a report being made to the district board at its next meeting.

Section 18.—The amendment provides on the analogy of the provision contained in section 21 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, that disputes relating to the production of records between district boards and their executive authorities should be referred to the District Collector, as is unnecessary that such disputes should be referred to the Government.

Sections 27 (ii) and 28 (iv).—The amendments made by these sections to sections 45 (2-A) and 45-A (7) of the principal Act secure that the next general elections to district board as reconstituted shall take place in the same year as that in which general elections to the district boards included in the same group of districts take place.

Section 33 (ii).—Under section 56 (1) (h) of the principal Act, if an ordinary meeting and a special meeting are both held on the same day and a member is absent from both those meetings having been absent at a previous meeting, he will lose his office. As this entails considerable hardship, it has been made clear that two or more meetings held on the same day should not be treated as consecutive meetings for the purpose of the section.

Section 34.—Under the principal Act, the jurisdiction to decide disputes as to the disqualification of the members is vested in the District Judge and pending his decision the member is entitled to act as if he were not disqualified. The District Judge can, however, act only on the application of the member concerned or any other member or the executive authority of the district board acting on the request of the board. It has been found by experience that neither the board nor the member concerned or any other member takes the initiative for getting the decision of the District Judge and this results in the member often continuing to hold office after his disqualification. To prevent this, the Government have taken power, on the analogy of the provisions of section 54 (1) of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, and section 51 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, to direct the executive authority of the district

board to apply to the District Judge for a decision on the question of disqualification or otherwise of a member.

Section 44 (iii).—The new proviso to section 70-A (1) of the principal Act makes it clear that no transfer of any officer or servant of a district board shall be made by the Government to the service of any other district board, municipal council or panchayat except after consulting the district board and the other district board, municipal council or the executive authority of the panchayat, as the case may be.

Section 50.—Section 75 of the principal Act has been simplified so as to provide that the only tax which may be levied by the district board in non-panchayat areas is the profession tax.

Section 52.—New section 92 provides for the crediting of three-fourths of the land cess to the district fund and of one-fourth of the cess to the panchayat fund.

Section 55.—New section 98 empowers the executive authority of the district board on the analogy of the provision in section 97 of the District Municipalities Act, to call upon employers, etc., to furnish a return of the income of their employees to facilitate the levy of profession tax on them.

Section 58.—Section 111-A of the principal Act has been amended so as to provide that where the District Collector or a revenue officer is responsible for the collection of any amount, for example, land cess, the power to write it off when it is irrecoverable should be exercised by the Board of Revenue or subject to its control by the District Collector or any officer authorized by him and not by the district board.

Section 66.—New section 121-B makes it clear that the district board should not exercise any of the functions referred to in section 122 to 136 and 140 to 146 of the principal Act in panchayat areas unless otherwise directed by the Government.

Section 68.—The amendment made by this section makes it clear that the control of district boards over the waterways referred to in section 126 of the principal Act is only for the purpose of maintenance, repair and improvement thereof and that the district board should not seek to derive any income from such control.

Section 72.—New section 138-A empowers the Government to direct that vaccination in any panchayat area shall be enforced by the panchayat and its executive authority.

Section 79.—This section rectifies a lacuna in the principal Act, viz., that while there is a provision for the destruction of unlicensed pigs, and days there is no provision for the issue of licences in respect of those animals.

Section 85.—New section 166 exempts, on the analogy of section 244 of the District Municipalities Act, the Government and also the market

committees established under the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, 1988, from the necessity of taking out licences or obtaining permissions under the principal Act.

New section 166-A makes it clear that so far as panchayat areas are concerned, the district board will exercise jurisdiction only in respect of markets classified as district markets. Provision has also been made for the payment of a contribution by a district board to a panchayat and *vice versa* in the case of markets situated in panchayat areas. In cases where both the bodies are interested in a market, control will be vested in one body and contribution will be paid by that body to the other.

Sections 88 (ii), 100 (ii), 104 (iii) and 117 (ii).—Under the principal Act, if orders on an application for licence or permission are not communicated to the applicant within 30 days after the receipt of the application, it must be deemed to have been allowed. This made it necessary to pass orders long before the date from which it was required. Provision has therefore been made that in all cases, applications for a licence or permission or the renewal thereof should be made not less than 30 days and not more than 90 days in advance.

Section 90.—This section makes clear the intention underlying section 175 of the principal Act, namely, that the unlicensed market referred to in that section is one which has not been duly licensed either by a district board or by a panchayat.

Section 94.—Provision has been made for an appeal to the Government against orders passed by the district board under section 171 (8) of the principal Act in regard to private markets.

Section 97.—Power has been given to the district board to make a reference under section 183-B of the principal Act even in respect of places situated in a panchayat area. To safeguard the interests of the panchayats, it has also been provided that a reference should not be made in respect of any place in a panchayat area by the district board without obtaining the special sanction of the Government.

Section 101 (iii) and 117 (i).—The amendments make it clear that a district board may entrust the collection of rents and fees to persons of its choice or farm out such collection for any period not exceeding three years at a time.

Section 104.—*Clause (i)* makes it clear that the district board may issue a notification under section 193 of the principal Act in general terms extending it to all non-panchayat areas in the district or confine the notification to a specified non-panchayat area.

Clause (ii).—The addition made by this clause is intended to avoid a conflict of jurisdiction between municipalities and district boards and

prohibits a district board from issuing a notification under section 198 of the principal Act in regard to any area within three miles of the municipal limits without obtaining the previous sanction of the Government.

Clause (iv).—Provision has been made for an appeal against an order of the executive authority of a district board to the district board and for an appeal to the Government against an order of the board.

Section 105—Clause (ii).—Electrical installations were not excluded from the operation of section 194 of the principal Act. It was however not the intention to bring such installation or small domestic appliances within the scope of that section and consequently, power has been taken to make rules for the exemption of such appliances.

Clauses (iii), (v) and (vi).—Under the principal Act, every case where an application was made for the grant of permission under section 194 had to come to the Inspector of Factories for the approval of the plans of the factory, workshop, etc., irrespective of its importance or size. On the suggestion of the Commissioner of Labour, the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, was amended in 1936 so as to restrict the scrutiny of plans to the case of premises declared, or likely to be declared to be factories under the Factories Act, that is to say, to cases where more than nine persons were employed in aid of manufacturing process. The present amendment has been made to the principal Act on the same lines. Provision has also been made for subjecting the power of district boards under section 194 to some measure of control, in important matters like the replacement of machinery, levy of fees, and the like.

Section 109 (ii).—In order to avoid multiplicity of jurisdiction, it has been provided that the executive authority of the district board is not to exercise the power of granting licences under the Places of Public Resort Act in respect of places which are to be wholly or partly used for the holding of cinematograph exhibitions. In such cases, the licences under the Places of Public Resort Act and the Cinematograph Act will both be granted by the officers of Government.

Section 111.—The proviso added to section 202 of the principal Act will avoid conflict of jurisdiction between panchayats and district boards so far as panchayat areas are concerned.

Section 120 (2) makes it quite clear that the Government can modify or cancel the orders passed by a person to whom they have delegated any of their powers under section 233 of the principal Act.

Section 128 (iv).—The reasons for making this amendment are the same as those in respect of the amendments made by sections 27 (ii) and 28 (iv) of the amending Act.

Section 128.—This section removes the hardship caused to the keeper of a lodging house who was required to get licences both under the principal Act and under the Public Health Act.

Section 132.—This section provides for the distribution of the land-cess in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as now amended with effect from the 1st of July immediately preceding the coming into force of the amending Act.

The following Statement of the reasons which have moved His Excellency the Governor to enact the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1946, in exercise of the powers of the Provincial Legislature assumed by him under the Proclamation issued under section 93 of the Government of India Act 1935, is published for general information :—

STATEMENT.

Panchayats were formerly governed by the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. They were subject to the control of the district boards and the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards. It was reported that the condition of these panchayats was generally unsatisfactory and that the dual control provided was ineffective. It was therefore considered necessary to exclude panchayats from the ambit of the Madras Local Boards Act, and to frame a separate enactment and place them in charge of District Collectors. A Bill for this purpose was published for criticism in 1941. The objections and suggestions received with respect to the Bill were considered by a representative committee consisting of presidents and ex-presidents of district boards and other persons interested in panchayats. The committee recommended certain changes in the Bill. These recommendations were carefully considered by Government and certain changes have been made in the Bill as published for criticism. His Excellency the Governor has now enacted the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1946. The important provisions of the Act which follow mainly those of the Madras Local Boards Act are briefly set out below :—

CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT AND CONTROL OF PANCHAYATS.

[Chapter II (sections 3 to 44.)]

Constitution.—Ordinarily, the jurisdiction of a panchayat will be co-terminous with the limits of a revenue village ; but in special circumstances, a panchayat may be constituted for two or more revenue villages or for portions of such villages. The actual strength of a panchayat will be neither less than 5 nor more than 15, and will be regulated by rules which will prescribe a sliding scale for the strength of panchayats with reference

to the population in their areas. The village headman or, if more than one revenue village is included within the panchayat, all the village headmen concerned will be *ex officio* members of the panchayat and the other members will be elected. Seats may be reserved in panchayats for Muslims, Indian Christians, members of the Scheduled castes, Europeans and Anglo-Indians and the electoral roll of the Provincial Legislative Assembly will be the roll for panchayat elections also.

The term of office of the members will be three years, and those elected in casual vacancies will hold office only for the residuary term for which their predecessors would have held their offices. The qualifications and disqualifications of members will continue to be as before.

Officers and establishment.—There will be a president and a vice-president as before ; but provision has been made authorizing the Collector to appoint any member as president or vice-president if the incumbent of either of these offices is not likely to perform his duties. There will also be a whole-time executive officer appointed by the Government in the case of panchayats notified by the Government. The executive authority will be the executive officer in the case of a panchayat notified by the Government and the president in the case of a panchayat which has not been so notified.

The strength and the scales of pay of the staff of panchayats will be fixed by the Registrar-General of Panchayats.

Procedure.—The powers of the president and members and the procedure at meetings of the panchayat will more or less be the same as before. Provision has also been made as before for the constitution of joint committees of two or more panchayats or of a panchayat and other local authorities.

The annual administration report of each panchayat will be submitted to the Collector who will prepare a review of the administration reports of all the panchayats in his district and submit it to the Registrar-General of Panchayats. The latter will then submit a general report on the administration of all panchayats in the Province to the Government.

Supervision and control.—Provision has been made for the appointment of a Registrar-General of Panchayats who will have powers to supervise panchayats, distribute grants, if any, and lay down the general policy in regard to the administration of panchayats. Subject to the control of the Registrar-General, the Collector will also supervise the administration of panchayats in his district with the assistance of District Panchayat Officers and Assistant Panchayat Officers. Provision has also been made for the appointment of inspecting and superintending officers and the powers to be exercised by them. The entire cost of supervision will be met from the provincial funds.

Provision has also been made for the suspension or cancellation of resolutions, licences, etc., for the removal of presidents and vice-presidents and of members of panchayats who are guilty of misconduct in the discharge of their duties and for the dissolution and supersession of panchayats.

FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND PROPERTY OF PANCHAYATS.

[Chapter III (sections 45 to 55).]

The functions of panchayats have been classified into two categories, viz., those which are obligatory and those which are optional. Village roads, drainage, lighting, sanitation and water-supply fall under the former category, while elementary education, libraries, markets cart-stands, etc., fall under the latter.

Panchayats will also have power, subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed, to regulate the use of *porambores* in ryotwari tracts and the use of certain communal lands in proprietary estates.

TAXATION AND FINANCE.

[Chapter IV (sections 56 to 68).]

Taxation. Every panchayat has to levy a house-tax and a vehicle tax. The house tax may be levied not only on the basis of the annual or capital value but also on any other basis prescribed as suitable. The vehicle tax will be levied on all vehicles kept or used in the village other than motor vehicles and the rates of that tax will be subject to the prescribed minimum and maximum. A panchayat may levy with the sanction of the Collector a land-cess at the rate of three pies in the rupee on the annual rent value of all occupied land and a tax on advertisements subject to a prescribed maximum. It may with such sanction and subject to rules levy also any other taxes which may be conveniently and suitable levied in the village.

Panchayat funds and audit.—Every panchayat will have a panchayat fund. Provision has been made to the effect that the proceeds of any particular tax or additional tax levied for a special purpose should be utilized for that purpose only.

Every panchayat has to sanction an annual budget of receipts and expenditure and the budget as so sanctioned will be submitted to the prescribed officer who may make alterations, if necessary for the carrying on of all essential services.

The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of every panchayat will be audited by officers appointed by Government.

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PUBLIC SAFETY, CONVENIENCE AND HEALTH.

[Chapter V (sections 69 to 84).]

All public water-courses, springs, tanks, etc., will vest in the panchayat, but the Collector will have power to define or limit the extent of the panchayat's control. Works of irrigation will not however vest in the panchayat.

Special contributions may be levied by a panchayat from persons having control over places of pilgrimage if the pilgrimage necessitates the incurring of expenditure by the panchayat for sanitary and other purposes.

Power has been taken to classify markets into district markets and panchayat markets. In the case of district markets in a panchayat area, neither the panchayat nor its executive officer will exercise any functions; but the district board may be required to make a special contribution to the panchayat out of the income derived from the market.

Power has also been taken to prescribe the offensive and dangerous trades for which licenses may be required and to make rules empowering the panchayat to set apart specified areas in the village for industrial purposes.

Licenses under the Places of Public Resort Act, 1888, will be granted by the executive authority except in respect of places which are to be wholly or partly used for the holding of cinematograph exhibitions. In such cases both the licence under the Places of Public Resort Act and that under the Cinematograph Act will be granted by officers of the Government.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

[Chapter VI (sections 85 to 99).]

This Chapter contains general provisions regarding licences and permissions, powers of entry and inspection, limitation, etc. The executive authority and members of panchayats will be liable for loss, waste or misapplication of panchayat property caused by their neglect or misconduct.

RULRS, BY-LAWS AND PENALTIES.

[Chapter VII (sections 100 to 109).]

The provisions relating to the rule-making powers have been made as elastic as possible. All rules are subject to the condition of previous publication except in respect of the first set of rules under the Act.

Power has been given to the panchayats, subject to the approval of the Registrar-General of Panchayats, to frame suitable by-laws and enforce them by adequate penalties.

REFORM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

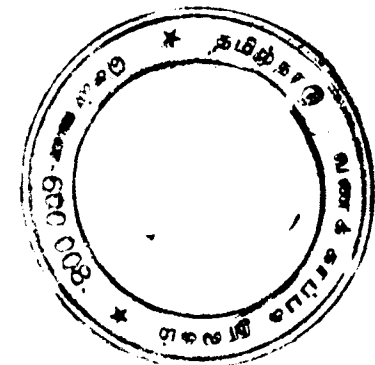
SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.

[Chapter VIII (sections 110 to 121).]

Special provisions have been made in respect of panchayats to be constituted for the first time. Power has been given to panchayats to farm out the collection of any fees due to them. It has been made clear that the fees for licences and for the use of public markets, public landing places, public slaughter houses, cattle sheds provided by the panchayat etc., need not be restricted in amount merely to cover the costs incurred by the panchayat on account of the services rendered by it but that they may be so levied as to be a source of revenue to the panchayat. Provision has also been made for the extension, if necessary, to any panchayat area of any of the provisions of the District Municipalities Act or the rules made thereunder. The functions vested in a district board may be allotted to the panchayat and vice versa by the Government.

The functions of the Government may also be delegated to any authority or person but the acts of the delegate have been made subject to control and revision by the Government or by other persons empowered by them. The Government have also retained power to control and revise the acts of any person so empowered. Provision has also been made for the adjudication of disputes between local authorities.

Consequential amendments have been made in the Madras Public Health Act, 1939, and power has also been taken to remove difficulties which may arise in first giving effect to the provisions of the Act.





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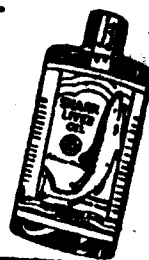
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