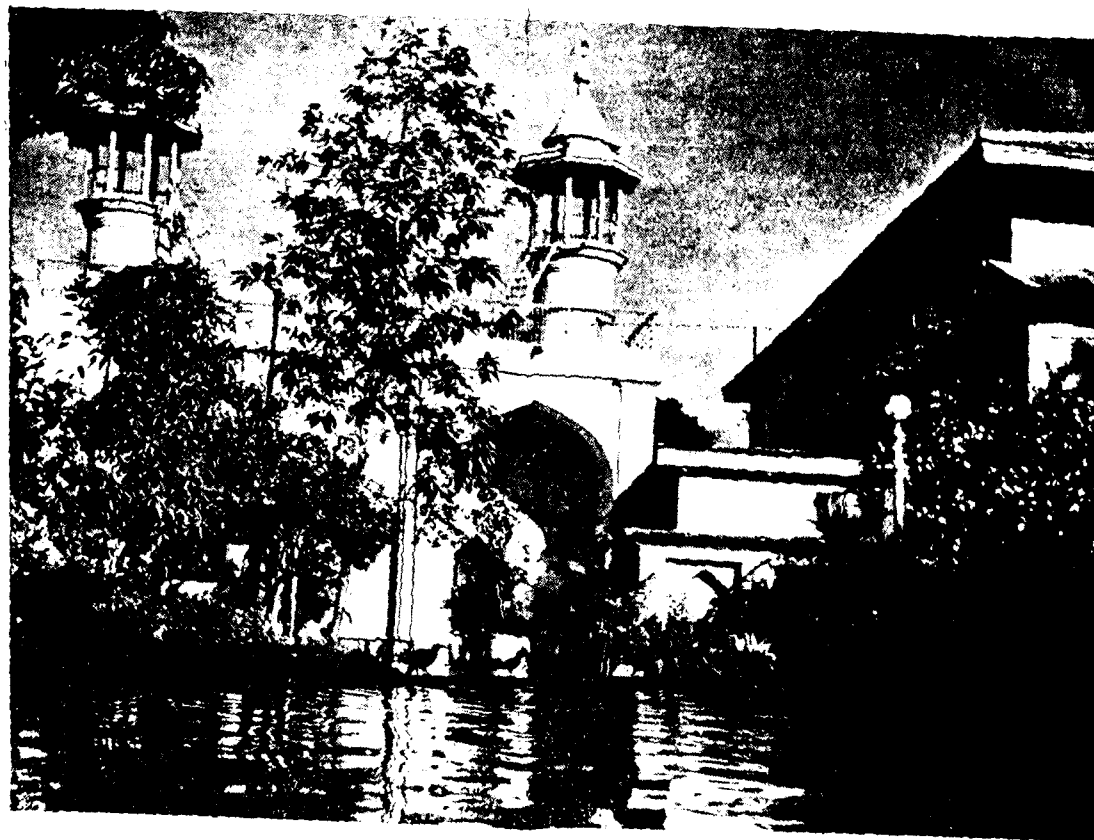


INDIAN INFORMATION





The Persian Mosque at Bombay.

H. E. THE VICEROY APPEALS FOR INDIAN LEADERS' GOODWILL



H. E. Lord Wavell addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta.

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MAIN CONTENTS

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

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

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

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

	Page
Viceroy Lays Foundation Stone of New Hospital at Ranchi	4
Survey of India's Food Policy in 1944-45	18
Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference of the United Nations at Quebec	22
Mr. M. R. Ahluja on the Expansion of Indo-Canadian Trade	26
Government's Scheme for Higher Technical Education	34
Mr. Geoffrey Tyson on Bengal's Twenty-Year Post-war Plan	38
Lady Louis Mountbatten's tribute to the Indian Red Cross	42
Sir Akbar Hydari (Biography)	47

COVER PAGE PICTURE: The river Godavari at Nasik. This place is sacred to the Hindus and thousands of devotees gather here to have a dip in the river.

“I THANK you, on behalf of my wife and myself, for your cordial welcome and for the kind things you have said about us,” said H. E. the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, addressing the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce on December 10, 1945.

“We have both a very genuine desire to help India; we both realise how much there is to do and with what difficulties our task is beset. We shall both continue to work for India to the best of our abilities and understanding.

“I entirely share your regret at the impending departure of your Governor, Mr. Casey. No man has worked more wholeheartedly for Bengal than he has done during these two years, no man could have accomplished more in so short a time. He has certainly shown Bengal the road to recovery and progress. Of your new Governor I can assure you of this; that he is a man of

courage, character and sympathy — the three great qualities that make a man.

“Mrs. Casey has worked with the same single-mindedness as her husband; I am sure that her goodwill and her charm will be greatly missed when she leaves Calcutta, and will be long remembered.

“The world situation has indeed changed since I spoke here a year ago. Our enemies have collapsed; have collapsed more suddenly and completely than anyone could have expected. Yet, though the mighty have fallen, the weapons of war have not perished; a deadlier weapon than ever before devised by the brain and hand of man has appeared on the earth, in the splitting of the atom. If used with greed for power, it will prove a monster such as Frankenstein made, and will kill its creators; if used with wisdom and sense, it may be a beneficent genie, with miraculous gifts for mankind — a world released

from war; plenty and leisure in place of poverty and toil; flying carpets at Woolworth prices for everyone. It is in safe hands at the moment, we can only hope that it will be always used with wisdom.

"Meantime we are faced with the problems of peace. One of the most resolute and clear-sighted leaders of the First World War—Georges Clemenceau, sometimes called the Tiger—wrote, after it was all over, a book to which he gave the title 'Les grandeurs et les miseres de la Victoire'—the greatnesses and the tribulations of Victory. It is of these that I will say something.

"Let us deal with our greatnesses first. India has without doubt emerged from this war with increased financial and industrial strength, with increased reputation all over the world, with increased consciousness of her power and destiny, with the greatest opportunities she has ever had, if she can shape her future aright. I will speak on that presently. Meantime let us recognise two things: the gravity of the perils from which we have been delivered, and the gratitude due to those who have delivered us.

"The evidence that continues to accumulate of German and Japanese arrogance and brutalities shows what would have been the fate of India and the East as well as of Europe, had the Axis powers not been defeated. Their defeat and our salvation were due chiefly to the gallantry and endurance of the soldiers and workers of the United Nations, among whom the Indians played so distinguished a part. I ask you to pay them in your thoughts, in your words, and above all in your deeds, the debt of thanksgiving which we all owe them.

Tribute to Executive Council

"I am glad that Sir Renwick paid a tribute to the Members of the Executive Council. They deserve it. We in the Central Government are, I must confess, more used to criticism than to praise. Like the beggar in the proverb we get more kicks than half-pence; but you, Mr. President, have given us quite a generous sixpence. I say in all seriousness that when the records are examined dispassionately, it will be found that India has had, on the whole, as wise and courageous guidance in this war by her Counsellors, mainly Indian, as it is reasonable to expect in the imperfect direction of human affairs.

"It is true, as your President has said, that the sudden ending of the war found India unprepared for peace. But that is not to say that there had been lack of foresight, or that a great deal had not been done. Preparations to meet the outbreak of peace had been going on for more than a year; but like almost everyone

else all over the world we had expected at least another six months of war. It is much easier to prepare for war during a peace than to prepare for peace during a war. In war, when a nation is in peril and fighting for its existence, or even if it is striving to complete a victory already half-won, it cannot afford to reduce its effort and withdraw its man-power from the armed forces or munition factories in anticipation of peace—or only to a very limited extent. In other words, you can turn as much of your butter as you like into guns, but it is much more difficult to reverse the process and to churn your guns back into butter. Still, we have been doing our best. Before I deal with the Government's plans for reconversion, I will say something about controls.

Controls

"During all wars, there is an unjustified belief with some people that as soon as the fighting ceases life will return to normal and all restrictions can be lifted. That belief is always disappointed, and a little reflection will show that it has no sound basis. A man who has suffered for many days from a high fever does not become a healthy man as soon as his temperature drops, nor is he able at once to enjoy a full diet; there is bound to be a period of convalescence. If he tries to cut short his convalescence, he sometimes finds himself back in hospital.

"Wartime controls, such as the rationing of foodgrains and cloth, or the restriction of movement, do not arise from the actual fighting, but from causes which continue to operate long after the fighting ends, and cannot immediately be eliminated; such as the diversion of industry to wartime purposes and the dislocation of all means of transportation by sea, land and air. Until our factories can work normally again and until ships and railway wagons are available on demand for peacetime requirements, we shall have a shortage of supply and difficulties of movement. As long as these factors obtain, which they will do for many months yet, control must remain, to ensure that the limited supplies available are distributed as fairly and equally as possible. Controls will have to be relaxed gradually and in an orderly way. This will be done as soon as it becomes possible.

Black-Marketing and Corruption

"It is alleged against controls that they cause black-marketing and corruption. It is true that there has been in India a shameful amount of corruption, used to evade controls, during the war. It still exists. But it is the shortages that cause the corruption and not the controls. Wherever there is shortage, the anti-social greedy man will try to get more than his fair share, and will be unscrupulous in his methods.

He flourishes in his black-market or languishes in goal, in proportion to the lack or existence of public honesty and public spirit—honesty which will refuse to take advantage of illegal opportunity and public spirit which will refuse to deal in the black-market and will expose those who do. But if all men were honest and none were greedy, government would be a simple business.

"I think, on the whole, Government can claim a great measure of success for its control of some of the main items of supply—food, coal, cloth and drugs. I will say a few words on these.

"The general food situation of India continues to demand vigilance on the part of Government and co-operation and restraint on the part of the public. Our troubles in India date from the time when Burma and Siam were closed to us as sources of supply by the Japanese. While it is true that those countries have now been liberated, and that rice from Burma and Siam will again be available for India's use, the flow of rice from those sources, although considerable, will not for sometime to come, be as large as it was before the war.

"We are not at present free to purchase as much as we like in those markets; nor can we leave it to the normal processes of trade to secure its movement to India. World shortages of production and the number of urgent demands on shipping make it still necessary for world surpluses of cereals to be allocated by the Combined Food Boards in Washington and for world shipping to be carefully planned. The Government of India has to make good its demands for grain and shipping before the bar of world opinion as represented by the Combined Food Boards in Washington, and imports can only be arranged by Government. The Government of India, with the support of the Secretary of State for India and the London Food Council, will continue to press for India's due share of world surpluses.

Need to Increase Production

"In these circumstances, not only must we do our best to increase production in India but we must procure as much as possible of our internal production and distribute it on the basis of essential needs to deficit areas. It is imperative that we both utilise our own resources to the full and present to the outside world an example of rationed and controlled distribution in which waste and extravagance have no place.

"The present outlook is on the whole not unfavourable. The late rains which occurred in Eastern India—although they did damage in certain areas—have done immeasurably more

good than harm and have resulted in what might have been a very poor winter rice crop in parts of Bengal and Bihar becoming a very fairly good crop. Damage to crops from drought and cyclone has been reported from Madras, Bombay and some other areas; but with the imports which we are justified in expecting, we have every hope of keeping the food situation stable during the forthcoming winter and spring.

"The coal situation which has been almost as great an anxiety as food for some years, is now much improved, though strict control is still necessary.

"I am aware of the hardship that has been caused by the cloth shortage, but thanks to the measures of control taken over production and distribution the strain on the consumer has been progressively lightened. We shall not be able to purchase all the cloth we want, nor always the qualities we require, until the present world shortage in textiles is satisfied. But India is on the whole better off than many countries, including indeed the United Kingdom.

"There is still a shortage of a few specialised drugs, but I hope these will soon be available in sufficient quantities.

Use of Troops in Indonesia

"The soldier's relief from stern duty after a war comes no more quickly or easily than the return of comfort to the civilian. A playwright has written this: "Nothing has ever been made until the soldier has made safe the field where the building shall be built, and the soldier is the scaffolding until it has been built." The soldier is still the scaffolding of the new world which it is hoped will arise from the present very battered one. We see him on guard all over the world—in Germany, in Italy and elsewhere in Europe; in Japan, in Malaya and elsewhere in the East—administering, protecting, controlling, till statesmen and diplomatists and peoples can decide how to harvest the fruits of his victory.

"We are specially interested in the use of our troops in Indonesia, the facts of which have been much misrepresented. Our soldiers are not there to suppress the Indonesians; they went there on an errand of duty and on an errand of mercy—disarm the Japanese and to rescue Allied prisoners and internees. Those tasks are not yet completed and have been rendered difficult by the action of extremists and lawless elements, instigated by our Japanese enemies, and admittedly not under the control of those who claim to be the leaders of the Indonesians. It is these extremists whom our troops have had to fight.

"I can tell you this after seeing a number of reports; that the courage and discipline of

Indian troops, attacked without provocation while rescuing defenceless women and children, and murdered while protecting the peaceful citizen against mob rule has been worthy of their highest standards. There is no more difficult and unpleasant duty for the soldier than that of keeping law and order in civil commotion, and no one will be more glad than I when Indian troops are relieved of this responsibility.

Government Planning

"I turn to the matter of Government planning for the years ahead. This has been on two lines; short-term planning for the transition period from war to peace; and long-term planning for the general development of India. The former includes the training of Servicemen and women for civil life; the establishment of Employment Bureaux all over the country; the resettlement of soldiers; and the preparation in all Provinces of works projects on which unskilled labour can be absorbed.

"But, however carefully the Central Government and the Provinces may plan, the next year or two will be difficult, and there will be some hardship. It is not possible to pass from a period of very full Government employment, during which factories are working multiple shifts to feed the insatiable war machine, large numbers of young men are enlisted into the Armed Forces, and large clerical establishments are assembled, to a period of renewed private enterprise, without dislocation and difficulty.

"When you have been flying at say 15,000 feet, a quick descent causes serious discomfort to the human system. A considerate pilot brings his crew and passengers down slowly and gradually; the Central Government will make the landing to the ground-level of peace as shock-less as they can and I am sure the Provincial Governments will do the same. As your President has said, it is necessary to pay special attention to the welfare of our returned soldiers.

Agriculture and Industry

"We have all of us—administrators, businessmen and soldiers—said some hard things in our time, I am sure, of the restrictions imposed by financial considerations. I can assure you that at present the Finance Department is helping in every possible way, and is prepared to find the money for all reasonable and fruitful enterprises which will absorb labour.

"Our long-term planning is based on the parallel development of agriculture and industry. For prosperity—indeed for mere survival of the population at its present rate of growth—great improvements in both directions are necessary, and are fortunately possible. There is not now a great deal of new land that can easily be made fertile; but the yield of the land already under cultivation can be greatly increased by improved methods and improved seeds; while further irrigation projects, if they cannot fertilise great tracts of waste-land as in the past, can at least ensure that much land now dependent on rainfall will be permanently supplied with water.

"For industrial development, we have available abundant raw material, labour and enterprise. Our chief need is power of two kinds—hydro-electric power to run the machinery and skilled man-power to direct it. A number of

"I do appeal most solemnly and earnestly at this critical moment of Indian history for goodwill on the part of all leaders. We are going through a difficult and testing time, and it will need coolness and wisdom if we are to avoid calamity. In so far as I can help by personal contact, I am always prepared to do so."—Lord Wavell.

important hydro-electric schemes have been planned and will soon be taken in hand. These will supply the power necessary, but they will of course take time to construct. Many of them will present complex problems of administration, since they concern more than one Province or State. India's other great need is more trained technicians of every kind. We are doing all we can to provide training for them. I hope that a proper proportion of the youth of the country will study the practical rather than the theoretical branches of learning.

"Sir Renwick has raised the issue of commercial safeguards. I do not propose to enter into any detail on this somewhat controversial subject. I do not think that there is any likelihood of the complete removal of the safeguarding clauses of the Act until there is a general revision of the Constitution Act and a commercial treaty between Great Britain and India; but the Government of India is aware of the natural desire of Indians to develop and control the basic industries with their own capital and management as far as possible; and will not disregard it. To my mind, however, goodwill and cordial relations are of great importance to both British and Indian business than clauses in an Act; and the establishment of such relations is at present and will be in the future the real safeguard for the interests of both. I firmly believe that co-operation between Britain and Indian enterprise in an atmosphere of goodwill provides

the best means for the industrial development of India in the quickest and most fruitful manner.

"I come to the political situation, on the issue of which all depends—progress or catastrophe. I intend to give you my views as clearly and frankly as I can.

"India has before her great opportunities, the greatest she has ever had, for political freedom, for industrial and agricultural development, for progress towards solving her problems of poverty, illiteracy, ill-health. I need not enlarge on this theme. You are all, I am sure, aware of it yourselves. My tours over India in the last two years have certainly made me aware of all that is being done and of the quickening spirit of enterprise and earnestness in plans to improve agriculture, industry, health, education, and other branches of welfare.

An Assurance

"India's opportunities are hers to take. I can assure you unreservedly that the British Government and the British people honestly and sincerely wish the Indian people to have their political freedom and a Government, or Governments, of their own choice. But there are certain elements of the problem which we must recognise. It is not a simple problem; it cannot and will not be solved by repeating a password or formula. "Quit India" will not act as the magic "Sesame" which opened Ali Baba's cave. It cannot and will not be solved by violence. Disorder and violence are in fact the one thing that may check the pace of India's progress.

"There are various parties to the settlement who must somehow or other reach a measure of agreement amongst themselves—Congress, the largest political party in India; the minorities, of whom the Muslims are the most numerous and most important; the Rulers of Indian States; and the British Government. The objective of all is the same—the freedom and welfare of India. I do not believe an agreed solution between the parties is impossible; I do not believe it would even be very difficult, given goodwill, common-sense and patience on all sides. And yet we stand on the edge of a tragedy. For it will be a grim tragedy for India and for the world, if an atmosphere of racial and communal hatred is allowed to prejudice the discussions which are to take place next year; and if violence results from that atmosphere. In the commercial world you do not, I imagine, preface delicate negotiations with another firm by unbridled abuse of that firm and its methods of business. Yet that is how delicate political negotiations are being prefaced in India at present.

"I can assure you that His Majesty's Government, and I as their agent, will do our best to secure agreement, to help India to form a Constitution, and to secure the support of the principal parties in the Central Government so as to enable them to bear a full share of responsibility for administering the country during the interval before the change of constitution can be made. His Majesty's Government has recently said so clearly, has emphasised the urgency it attaches to a solution; and means what it says. But I must have help and co-operation in securing a satisfactory solution and no solution will be satisfactory which will result in chaos and bloodshed, interference with trade and industry, and perhaps famine and general misery.

"You are men of business, you realise better than anyone the necessity for peaceful development. I am an old soldier, I perhaps know better than any of you the horrors and wastefulness of bloodshed and strife, particularly civil strife. We have to avoid this; we can avoid it. We have to agree between ourselves; we can agree, if we are really determined to do so. Hindus and Muslims have got to live together in this great land; they surely can arrange the terms on which they will do so.

"The Indian States, which include so large a part of India and its peoples, have to be accommodated within the Indian Union, if that is to prosper; they represent a very important element in the life of India, and often a very progressive one. Finally, there is the British Government and the British people; I repeat that it is our earnest wish and endeavour to give India freedom; but we cannot and will not abandon our responsibilities without bringing about some reasonable settlement.

"I do appeal most solemnly and earnestly at this critical moment of Indian history for goodwill on the part of all leaders. We are going through a very difficult and testing time, and it will need coolness and wisdom if we are to avoid calamity. In so far as I can help by personal contact I am always prepared to do so.

I. N. A. Trials

"I will now refer to a matter on which as a soldier I hold strong views.

"A great deal of political heat and feeling has been engendered by the way in which the I.N.A. trials have been represented to the public. I will say nothing of the trials themselves or of the men under trial, it would be quite improper for me to do so. But I do propose to say something for the men who were prisoners of war but did not join the I.N.A., who under pressure and punishment, under hardships and want, stood firm to their ideals of a soldier's duty, a soldier's

faith. They represented some 70 per cent out of the Indian Army who became prisoners of war in Malaya and Hong Kong. Whatever your political views, if you cannot acclaim the man who prefers his honour to his ease, who remains steadfast in adversity to his pledged faith, then you have a poor notion of the character which is required to build up a nation.

Efficiency of Services

"I say to you that, amongst all the exploits of the last five or six years for which the world rightly extols the Indian soldier, the endurance of those men in captivity and hardship stands as high as any. As a proof of what they endured as the price of their loyalty to their ideals of a soldier's duty, I will tell you this: the 45,000 Indian prisoners of war who stood firm are estimated to have lost about 11,000 or one quarter of their numbers, from disease, starvation and murder; the 20,000 who went over to our enemy's side lost only 1,500, or 7½ per cent.

"One other thing. The welfare of the people, the greatness and prosperity of a nation depend on the efficiency and devotion of its Services—the Civil Service, the Police, the Armed Forces—who must be servants of the Government, not of a political party. There could be no greater disservice to the future of India than to endeavour to undermine the confidence of the Services or to draw them into the political arena. I can assure the Services, as His Majesty's Government has just done, that they will receive all support in the proper fulfilment of their duty.

Need for Settlement

"Gentlemen, I have tried to put before you two things which I see, or think I see, clearly: the golden opportunity in front of India, if her leaders will exercise goodwill and moderation; the peril in which we stand today of violence and strife which may ruin India for a generation or more. It is a time when every man in any position of responsibility must determine to do all in his power to bring about a just and lasting settlement of India's problem without plunging this great land into conflict. The leaders of India, that is all of us who have power or responsibility in any field—political, administrative, commercial, proprietary—are, or should be, only the servants of the masses, the four hundred millions of India who stand in such need of advancement, enlightenment and refreshment. On our wisdom and on our understanding of one another hangs their fate."

VICEROY AT PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

DURING his visit to the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, on December 9, H.E. Lord Wavell evinced keen interest in its activities, occasionally trying for himself some of the instruments and apparatus used by research workers.

On arrival at the Institute H.E. the Viceroy was received by Mr. S.H.Y. Oulsnam, Secretary, Health Department, Government of India, who presented to His Excellency Lt.-Col. C. K. Lakshmanan, Director of the Institute. At the entrance, members of the staff and students consisting of post-graduate workers in medicine and research, took Lord Wavell round the different sections of the Institute, where they had laid out a well-organised display of exhibits, illustrating the work of the Institute.

The Institute is the first of its kind in India and it has an interesting history. From 1922 to 1933 the diploma of Public Health Course was conducted by the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine. In 1933 the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health was established with the aid of an endowment from the Rockefeller Foundation, which provided the scheme with the present building and its initial equipment. The Government of India allow a grant of Rs. 3,00,000 per year.

Two-fold Object

The object of the Institute is two-fold; firstly, the training of public health personnel and, secondly, the pursuit of research on the several aspects of public health, including the study of diseases like malaria. There is no other institute in India which gives similar facilities for students and research workers, although it is well known that some of the American colleges and hospitals furnish opportunities of research.

A medical graduate of any university in India is eligible for admission to the Institute. The usual course occupies nine months which is the equivalent of one academic year. Entrants to the Institute come from the different provinces, Indian States, railway administrations, etc. As it is a course of post-graduate proficiency, the fee amounting to Rs. 400 per year is considered by no means excessive.

The Institute does not confine itself to qualifying students for the Public Health Diploma. There is, for instance, the Diploma for Maternity and Child Welfare (shortly known as D.M.C.W.) which calls for one year. There are also several courses for periods as short as three months to improve the knowledge of the medicos who join



Lord Wavell in one of the sections of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health at Calcutta.

the Institute. Those who emerge from training in the Institute have not only greater capacity in service but they command better scope for a career in public health and social welfare.

The Institute today is an independent unit with an all-India director in charge. Lt.-Col. Lakshmanan, formerly Director of Public Health, Bengal, is at the helm at present and is assisted by a staff of 16 gazetted officers and 34 demonstrators who impart instructions and also assist in the research work of the scholars attending the various sections, which embrace subjects such as malaria, nutrition, maintenance of blood banks, elements of sanitary engineering, maternity and social welfare, epidemiology, health statistics, etc.

Earlier in the afternoon H.E. the Viceroy and party visited the B. and A. Railway marshalling yard at Naihati where they were received by Mr. R. G. Manson, General Manager, and other railway officials. Here His Excellency saw the working of the marshalling yard by the "hump" system used for breaking up goods trains and sorting out wagons according to destinations.

H.E. the Viceroy was informed that a train of 60 wagons could be broken up in 10 minutes. If the old flat system were employed the same job would take two hours.

LORD WAVELL VISITS ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

H. E. the Viceroy spent about an hour on the afternoon of December 10, with the members of the Executive Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

On his arrival Lord Wavell was received by Dr. Meghnad Saha, F.R.S., President of the Society, who presented the other members of the Society. The Viceroy went round the museum of the Society and inspected the collection of manuscripts. The society has one of the largest collection—nearly 50,000—of Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit manuscripts. Lord Wavell also garlanded the statue of Sir William Jones, the founder of the Royal Asiatic Society.

Among those present were the Metropolitan of India, Sir John Lort-Williams, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Edgley, the Maharaja of Burdwan, Sir U. N. Brahmachari and Sir David Ezra.

The Royal Asiatic Society, founded in 1784, is one of the oldest cultural societies in India.

Earlier during the day, Lord Wavell inspected the working of the Control Office installed at Howrah. His Excellency was received by Rai Bahadur N. C. Ghosh, General Manager, Mr. O. R. Tucker, Chief Operating Superintendent,

The Viceroy keenly interested in another section of the Public Health Institute





Lord Wavell at the Howrah Control Office.

Mr. A. G. Stavardy, Divisional Superintendent and Mr. H. P. Mathur, Station Director. The staff was at work when the Viceroy was shown the chart and design upon which the control system was worked.

LADY WAVELL VISITS WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL CENTRE

Her Excellency Lady Wavell paid a visit on the morning of December 10, to one of the industrial centres organised and run by the All India Women's Conference in Calcutta. Mrs. Anurupadevi, President of the local Managing Committee, and Miss K. Gupta, Secretary, conducted Lady Wavell round the various sections of the centre.

Nearly, 3,000 workers, mostly destitute women, are being provided with employment at this centre where they are taught knitting, tailoring, embroidery, confectionery-making and the preparation of condiments, etc.

Lady Wavell was interested in the new system of teaching at the school which is conducted by the All India Women's Conference for the benefit of the children of the workers of the industrial centre. She made special enquiries into the progress made by the children and also talked to some of them.

Her Excellency also visited another Women's Home in South Calcutta, the Nari Seva Sangha Industrial and Health School where she was received by Mrs. Sita Chowdhury, Honorary Secretary of the Sangha. Lady Wavell visited

the weaving and embroidery classes as well as the small exhibition of handicrafts which was organised by the inmates of the Home. She expressed her appreciation of the work done by the Sangha and made a few purchases.

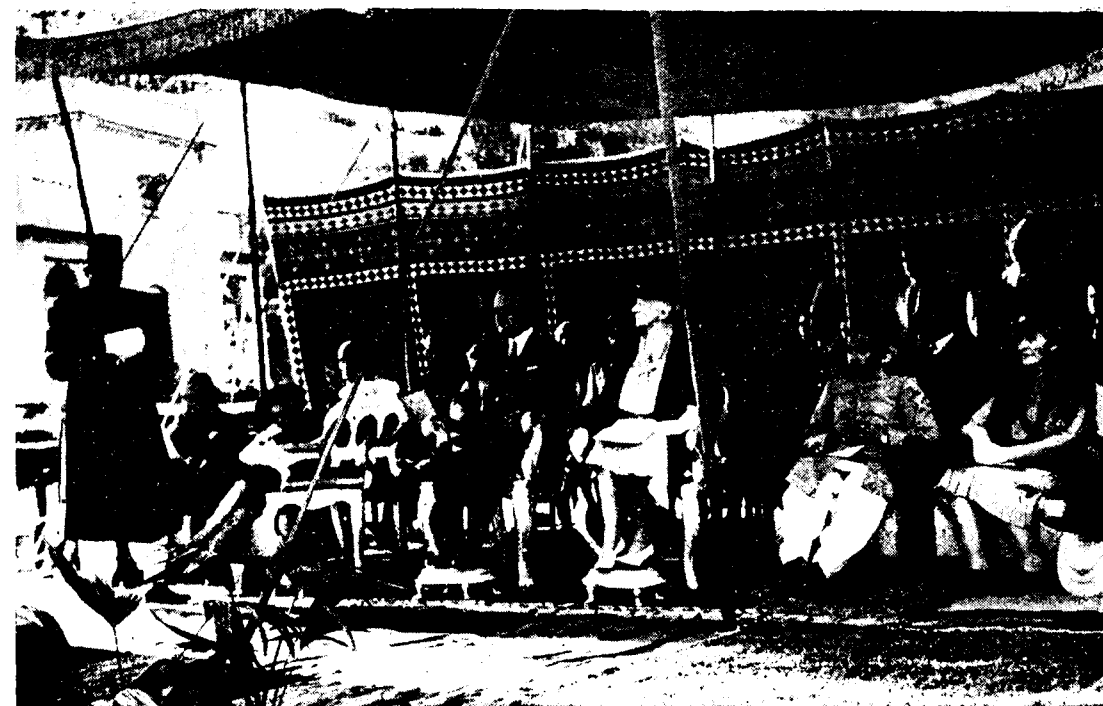
The Nari Seva Sangha deals with the problem of relief and rehabilitation of afflicted women of Bengal. It works as a central co-ordinating institution between the various relief organisations in Bengal, for example, the Bengal Women's Food Committee, the Friends Ambulance Unit, the Y.W.C.A., the Nari Seva Sangha, etc. Besides a Home in Calcutta for destitute women, it also runs a few industrial centres in various districts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FOR HOME DEPARTMENT

The Home Department of the Government of India have appointed a Public Relations Officer to keep the Department in closer touch with editors and newspapermen, press correspondents, members of the Central Legislature and the general public on matters of concern to the Department.

Captain R. L. Rau has been appointed to this post. He has had many years' journalistic experience in association with leading newspapers in India and until recently he was attached to the 14th Army as a Public Relations Officer and Indian Army Observer.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1946.



H. H. the Nawab of Bahawalpur reading an address of welcome to the Viceroy when he laid the foundation stone of the Wavell-Sadiq Victory Hospital.

VICEROY LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF NEW "W" BAHAWALPUR HOSPITAL

"We need a peaceful atmosphere in which to approach the complex constitutional problem that must be solved; this means that law and order must be firmly maintained throughout India. We must be ready to undertake public works as soon as possible to counteract the effect of unemployment caused by the elimination of war expenditure. And we must plan boldly and generously for the future so that India may become strong, prosperous and healthy," said H.E. the Viceroy laying the foundation stone of the Wavell-Sadiq Victory Hospital at Baghdad-ul-Jadid (new name for Bahawalpur), Bahawalpur State.

Lady Wavell, the Hon'ble Mrs. Astley, the Hon'ble Mr. W. H. Thompson, C.I.E., I.C.S., Resident, Punjab States, Mrs. Thompson, Sir Richard Crofton, C.I.E., I.C.S., Prime Minister, Lady Crofton, Brigadier J. H. Marden, G.O.C., Bahawalpur State Forces, Mrs. Marden, Col. A. M. Dick, O.B.E., Chief Medical Officer, Mrs. Dick, and Mr. R. W. Parkes, O.B.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Resident, Punjab States, were among those

present. The Ministers and officials of the State were dressed in the uniform of the State, namely, black *achkans*, white *churidar* pyjamas and fez cap.

The hospital forms part of a new Town Plan for Bahawalpur which was prepared by Mr. M. Fyazuddin, F.I.A.A., A.R.I.B.A., A.A.Dip. (London) Architect and Town Planner, whose services were loaned to Bahawalpur by H.E.H. the Nizam's Government. Under this plan, 1,300 acres of land, including 400 acres of the old military grass farm, have been acquired by the Bahawalpur Government. A special feature of the plan is the zoning system with its educational, industrial, shopping and residential areas, and a civic centre where the most prominent buildings will be the Central Secretariat and the Wavell-Sadiq Victory Hospital. A qualified engineer has been appointed and demarcation of the residential area has begun; some four miles of roads have been recently aligned and it is hoped that a number of sites may be ready for disposal early in 1946.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1946.

VICEROY'S SPEECH

The Viceroy said: "I accept most gratefully Your Highness' generous offer of Rs. one lakh for my War Purposes Fund. Post-war demands on the Fund for such needs as the rehabilitation of the wounded and the care of widows and orphans are even more important than many of the demands that were made during the war itself. As a recent appeal has shown, the Joint War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John's is still in need of large sums of money for necessary purposes, and, with Your Highness' approval, I should like to allot this Rs. one lakh to the current appeal on behalf of this Organisation.

"Now that victory has been won, I should like to congratulate and thank Your Highness and your State on the services that you have rendered during the war. You yourself have undertaken long and most valuable tours overseas. You have been unsparing in personal efforts and in gifts of money; and have placed property, both in England and in India, at the disposal of the Government.

"Your State made important contributions in manpower. I regret the misfortune that befell

the 1st Bahawalpur Infantry Battalion in being taken prisoner by the Japanese during the Malayan campaign. I am glad to hear that most of them have now returned safely. Your State provided also one Mountain Battery, two Infantry Companies, one Garrison Battalion and one Light Motor Ambulance Section for active service, as well as one Labour Unit of 1,200 men, which did good work on aerodrome constructions. You rightly mention the achievements of your State in the Grow More Food Campaign, and your successful efforts to encourage Defence savings as further valuable contributions to the war effort of India.

Need for Law and Order

"We have now come to a very difficult period of transition to peace. Our general policy must be based on certain essential principles. We need a peaceful atmosphere in which to approach the complex constitutional problem that has to be solved; this means that law and order must be firmly maintained throughout India. We must be ready to undertake public works as soon as possible to counteract the effect of unemployment caused by the elimination of war expenditure. And we



Lord Wavell lays the foundation stone of the Wavell-Sadiq Victory Hospital.



Lord Wavell, with Brigadier Marden, G.O.C., Bahawalpur Forces, reviewing recruits.

will be a separate Out-Patient Department and medical, surgical, eye, ear, throat, skin and dental clinics. There will also be a modern steam laundry and a combined central laboratory. Rs. 10 lakhs have been sanctioned in next year's budget to enable the completion of the first stage. A Rs. six crore five-year post-war plan for the State included medical provision for new combined hospitals also at the district headquarters of Rahim-

yarkhan and at the towns of Khanpur and Bahawalnagar, as well as a separate hospital at the new Central Jail now under construction.

Public health service, said His Highness, was also being organised for the whole State, which counted on obtaining a certain number of medical officers under the demobilisation scheme. Arrangements were also made recently with the authorities of the Medical College, Aligarh, for the admission and training each year of four State candidates in the M.B.B.S. classes.

Dealing with the State's war effort, His Highness said that the War Purposes Fund, inaugurated in the early days of the war, stands at Rs. 38 lakhs, which has been utilised mainly to provide amenities for serving forces, to Service Benevolent Funds, to Relief and Demobilisation Funds, etc.

"To Your Excellency's War Fund we have contributed Rs. 4½ lakhs and, in memory of today's ceremony, I hope Your Excellency will be pleased to accept a special further contribution to your Fund of Rs. one lakh."

In conclusion, the Nawab paid a tribute to all his officials, especially those employed in the Revenue and Irrigation Departments, "who, in spite of difficulties attending all public works activities during the war years, have succeeded in bringing large extra areas under profitable cultivation." Although the State's contribution to Defence Loans and savings might be humble, said the Nawab, it has succeeded in the last four years in making capital payments to the Government of India to the extent of Rs. 8 crores, inclusive of schedule payments under the Sutlej Valley Project Loan.

must plan boldly and generously for the future so that India may become strong, prosperous and healthy.

"Your Highness' policy in founding this hospital clearly conforms with these requirements. By the speedy construction of this hospital you will be preventing unemployment in the present and preparing a great legacy for the future. I congratulate Your Highness on your choice of the architect; Hallet Hospital which I opened at the beginning of this year (1945) was a very good design.

"I wish all success to the new hospital and to those who will work in it. I am sure you are all conscious of the need of providing a nursing service in the State for the needs of this hospital and of others. A doctor without good nurses is like a general without a staff. There can be no greater service to humanity than to relieve suffering and to promote health."

His Highness the Nawab, requesting Lord Wavell to lay the foundation stone, said: "Nothing could be more appropriate, to commemorate in this State, the victory of the allied nations than a great modern central hospital, designed to meet to the fullest possible extent, the medical needs of my people."

The architect of the hospital is Mr. P. L. Sharma, who also designed the Hallet Hospital at Cawnpore which was opened by the Viceroy early in 1945. Thirty acres of land already acquired and reserved in the Town Plan for this institution adjoin and include the site of the existing hospital. The hospital is to be constructed in two stages and will consist of male and female sections with children's wards. The building will be air conditioned. There

VICEROY INSPECTS PANJNAD HEADWORKS

THE effect of the construction of the Bakhra Dam on irrigation in Bahawalpur State was the unexpected subject of discussion on December 1, when H. E. the Viceroy and Lady Wavell visited Panjnad Headworks.

Their Excellencies arrived at Khanpur at noon from Delhi and were received by His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur and motored to Jajja Abbasian for lunch. Accompanied by the Nawab, Their Excellencies drove for 50 miles past cotton fields and along canals which, in some places, exceeded the width of the Thames. At the end of a shady avenue just over the Punjab border Panjnad Headworks revealed itself.

Leaning against a glass showcase containing a model of the Headworks, His Excellency discussed at length the Sutlej Valley Project which was explained by the Chief Engineer, Bahawalpur Government, Sir Richard Crofton, Prime Minister, Bahawalpur, and other officials. At one stage, to clarify a point, H.E. the Viceroy sent an A.D.C. to his car to bring a map folder which he placed alongside a large-scale map exhibited by engineers.

"I am not keen on tea at present," remarked Lord Wavell when gently reminded that tea

was ready. Lady Wavell led the guests to the *shamiana*, to be followed later by the Viceroy when he had been completely satisfied on points at issue.

The Sutlej Valley Canals, of a total length of 3,950 miles, have converted extensive sandy tracts into fertile cultivable zones and have attracted over 700,000 immigrants from British India. The total area ultimately to be irrigated is 51,08,000 acres of which three million are now being cultivated in the State, one million nine hundred acres in the Punjab, 341,000 acres in Bikaner State. Bahawalpur wages ceaseless warfare against the encroachments of the Great Indian Desert and had borrowed over Rs. 14 crores at one period from the Government of India.

Improved Financial Resources

As a result of improved financial resources largely due to this, the debt has been reduced to Rs. 5 crores which the State expects to repay completely within the next two years. Bahawalpur now ranks second only to Punjab in foodgrain exports. The "Grow More Food" campaign has resulted in the State being able to export in 1943-44 not less than 170,000 tons of foodgrains to Bengal, Bombay, Travancore, Cochin, N.-W.F.P. and for the Defence Services. During the current year exports are expected to amount to over 140,000 tons.



Lord and Lady Wavell studying a model of the Panjnad Headworks exhibited in a glass show case. On the left are Sir Richard Crofton, Prime Minister, and Mr. James Roy, Chief Engineer.



NEW WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FOR BAHAWALPUR

IN Ahmedpur East on December 2, Lady Wavell laid the foundation stone of the Lady Wavell Zenana Hospital and then motored 26 miles to Baghdad-ul-Jadid (Bahawalpur) where she visited the Sadiqgarh Girls High School and an Eye Camp, the only free institution of its kind in India.

The Zenana Hospital owes its origin to Mrs. Marden, the wife of Brigadier Marden, General Officer Commanding, Bahawalpur State Forces. Encouraged by the enlightened ruler and the enthusiastic Prime Minister, Sir Richard Crofton, she toured the State in torrid heat and bitter cold, living sometimes under appalling conditions in remote villages, pleading the cause of women. Over Rs. 1,00,000 was raised by public subscription. His Highness' Government, the municipality and cantonment authority and the State Forces have contributed additional grants, and it will be a State hospital under the technical and general administrative control of Col. A.M. Dick, a reputed eye surgeon, whose services have been loaned by the Punjab Government as Chief Medical Officer, Bahawalpur State.

Lady Wavell was received by the Hon'ble Mr. W. H. Thompson, Resident, the Punjab

Mrs. Marden reads an address of welcome to Lady Wavell when she laid the foundation stone of the Lady Wavell Zenana Hospital. (Below) Lady Wavell replies to the address of welcome.



States, and Sir Richard Crofton, who presented Sardar M. Amir Khan, Household Minister; Lala Ram Narain, Divisional Officer, Palace Division; Col. and Mrs. Dick; Major C. H. Ahluwalia, Secretary, Municipal Committee; Mrs. Thompson; Major Sheikh Hafizullah, Political Secretary to the Nawab; Lady Crofton and Mrs. Marden.

Lady Wavell's Appeal

Lady Wavell said: "I have seen many hospitals throughout India; I know that none fulfils your more urgent need than those for women and children. To you Mrs. Marden and to all the organisers of this project and to those whose generosity has made the erection of the hospital possible, I tender my sincere congratulations. I am delighted to hear that your work parties are to continue, providing many additional comforts for the sick. But I ask that the ladies residing here should also pay regular visits to the wards perhaps undertaking diversional therapy and other tasks, bringing interest and happiness to the patients and thus brightening long hours of illness. We all know what fine work was done by volunteers throughout India during the war years. Let us hope that equally unselfish tasks will be accomplished by women for women and children down through the years of peace."

At the Eye Camp a long line of aged filed past Lady Wavell to receive spectacles presented to cataract patients on discharge. At the six camps, held in rotation in the various towns of the State since the arrival of Col. Dick in Feb-

ruary, 1945, over 1,400 cases were operated and many more received treatment and advice. Penicillin and Sulphonamides are being utilised, all treatment being free. Col. Dick is now planning mobile eye dispensaries to visit the villages and, besides treatment, conduct propaganda about the care of eyes and emphasise the need for vaccination against small-pox, which is a common cause of blindness.

Col. Dick told Lady Wavell that, thanks to the help received from Sir Patrick Spens, four sisters three of whom, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Dawes and Mrs. Dick, he introduced of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, had offered their services and rendered valuable assistance. Seth Ganga Shamdas (also introduced) had borne the cost of the present camps. Syed Fatch Mohammed Shah contributed liberally to the Bahawalnagar Camps.

Lady Wavell put many questions to three medical officers: Dr. Ahmed Ali, Civil Surgeon, Dr. Abdul Wahid (Bahawalpur Camp) and Dr. B. N. Kaul, (Bahawalpur Camp) the Prime Minister and Maj. Shams-ud-din Mohammed, Minister for Education and Health, who interpreted for the blinded war prisoners now recovering rapidly.



Lady Wavell laying the foundation stone of the Lady Wavell Zenana Hospital.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1946.

SCHEMES FOR THE ABSORPTION OF DISPLACED RAILWAY STAFF

AS there seems to be considerable apprehension in the minds of temporary Railway servants, employed during the war, regarding the extent of retrenchment, the prospects of re-employment of displaced personnel in rehabilitation works and in new works to be undertaken by the Railways, the Government of India feel it expedient to clarify the issues raised and explain their position *vis à vis* the problems inherent in the transition from war to peace economy.

The employment of temporary Railway servants is a normal and inevitable feature of railway working. This is necessary (a) to meet seasonal periods of high traffic or when particular types of work can only be done at certain seasons of the year; (b) for specific work which will only last for a certain time or (c) for an indefinite period when the necessity or otherwise for their permanent retention cannot be foreseen.

It is true, however, that, during the war, the load on Railways increased to such an extent that there are now in Railway service an abnormally large number of temporary employees due to the last named cause. Moreover, quite apart from temporary hands for Railway work, munition work was undertaken, the Railways acting as agents for other Government departments although they actually engaged and paid the men. These men perhaps naturally, also claim to be Railway employees but they have not been employed on Railway work.

New Works

It is clear that the cessation of hostilities must reduce certain types of work on the Railways. For instance, the munitions work which Railways did for other departments must, of necessity, disappear at once, while in certain other directions, the purely war load on the rail transportation system is diminishing. On the other hand, there is much fresh work which now has to be undertaken. There are large arrears of maintenance in regard to track, railway buildings and rolling stock. There are new works and new construction in accordance with a comprehensive post-war programme already framed up to 1952. Some of these activities can be developed more quickly than others.

Much rehabilitation work is already being taken in hand and is only in some cases held up for want of material or due to the difficulty of withdrawing rolling stock from the line. On the other hand, the construction of new lines

cannot be undertaken until proper surveys and estimates which are, of course, already in hand have been completed.

It is clear, however, that there will be a progressive development of additional work, on which many surplus Railway works can be employed, while there is always normal wastage to be made good. Subsidiary measures are also being taken in order to absorb the maximum numbers. Some types of work, normally let out on contract, are to be handled temporarily by departmental labour, while additional facilities to those who could not be spared for lengthy periods during the war to proceed on leave will absorb, if not temporarily, other surplus staff. Again, permanent-way labour are, on some Railways, being given more generous periodic rests so as to bring them into line with general practice. Passenger services curtailed during the war are gradually being restored. Lines dismantled are, in some cases, being re-opened and, in many other ways, work is being found for surplus men.

Relief for Discharged Employees

In regard, however, to those who have to be discharged because no suitable alternative employment can be found for them, including those who are not willing to undertake alternative employment, a bonus is being given either at a rate of one day's pay per month of service in the case of daily-rated staff or two-thirds of a month's pay for each whole year of service in the case of others, and they are being allowed to continue to deal at the Railway Grain Shops at concessional rates for a period of one month. Particulars of the men who have to be discharged are being sent to the local Employment Exchange so as to give them an opportunity of finding alternative employment outside the Railways, while lists are also being maintained so that if more Railway work materialises in a reasonable time, they can be offered further employment. Moreover, when any large bodies of such employees have to be discharged, Administrations contact their recognised Unions and discuss with them any ways and means which may be possible to avoid throwing them out of work.

In accordance with the policy of the Government of India, 70 per cent. of the permanent vacancies which have occurred since the middle of 1942, are to be offered to ex-service men on their release from war service. These vacancies up to December 31, 1945, when such reservations cease, amount to some 70,000. The posts are now, of course, filled (as Railway work had to

be carried on) by railwaymen serving in a temporary capacity, although they have, in fact, been given the conditions of service applicable to permanent hands, apart from a notice that they will, in due course, have to make way for men with war service.

In so far that demobilisation will be spread over a considerable time, the displacement of the present occupants of these posts will be correspondingly slow. This being the case, there is every chance of their being absorbed either in permanent vacancies, which occur after December 31, 1945 due to wastage or to new work being available, or in temporary posts which always exist on Railways to a greater or less degree. It is not considered, therefore, that any appreciable number of these men will be thrown out of employment. Even if they have to be absorbed in temporary posts, they will count past service if they subsequently achieve permanent status.

Federation's Claim

The All-India Railwaymen's Federation have claimed that, on no account should our railwaymen, temporary or otherwise, be discharged. The Railway Department cannot accept this claim nor, in fact could any Government Department. Such a proposition would amount to an undertaking that any Railway servant who has been given temporary employment for however short a period should be permanently retained in railway service—a suggestion which could not be entertained either at this or at any other time. The Railways, as indicated above, are doing everything possible to minimise the number of staff who will have to be discharged.

As announced a short time ago, out of well over 850,000 employees, only 8,000 have been or are in the process of being discharged, many of whom were employed on war work for other Departments. The Railway Department firmly believe that no considerable numbers will have to be discharged in the near future or during 1946, but it is impossible to foresee with precision the extent to which additional work can be found or, in fact, what volume of traffic the Railways will be asked to handle in the next year or 18 months. A close watch is, however, being kept on the labour situation month by month and the Board will continue to give this subject their closest attention.

Money order service with Burma will be resumed with effect from January 2, 1945. Only ordinary money orders will be exchanged. The conditions will be the same as before the suspension of the service.

DISCHARGE OF RAILWAY WORKERS

THE Railway Board met the All-India Railwaymen's Federation under their President Mr. V. V. Giri on December 5, 1945. The Federation pointed out the insecurity which was now felt by many sections of Railway servants owing to their apprehension of discharges being necessary. They had noted the remarks made by the Hon'ble Member for War Transport in his speech at the recent opening of the Session of the Indian Railway Conference Association to the effect that the Federation's estimate of 2 1/2 lakhs of workers who might be discharged was greatly exaggerated and that, while not more than 8,000 men were in the process of being discharged at the moment, less than one per cent of the total labour strength and inclusive of considerable numbers who have been employed for other than Railway work, it was improbable that this figure would be augmented up to the end of the year or that, in fact, any considerable numbers would be discharged during 1946.

Commenting on this statement, the Federation said that they could not accept that it was necessary to remove from service any employee if the means which they had suggested to the Railway Board of organising alternative employment were fully exploited. These various methods, such as the development of rehabilitation, new railway projects, reduction in hours of work etc. were discussed at length, the Railway Board explaining the extent to which action had already been taken in these various directions; the extent to which action would be further considered; and the limitations of such expedients in the absorption of staff who might become redundant.

Continued Employment

The Federation, however, reiterated their claim that it should not be necessary to discharge any staff at all and asked for a categorical assurance from the Board on this point. The Chief Commissioner of Railways said that the feelings of the men were fully appreciated and that both the Board and General Managers of Railways, with whom he had discussed this matter the previous week, were of the opinion that the present and anticipated conditions are such as to require the continued employment of the greater number of these men.

Administrations were well aware of the attitude of Government in regard to this matter through various instructions which had been

issued concerning the handling of surplus staff. At the same time, it was impossible to foretell how the position would develop during the next 18 months in connection with the various activities which would of themselves absorb staff or in regard to the general level of traffic, so that he was not able to give the categorical undertaking for which the Federation were asking. In order, however, that the Federation should be kept in close touch with developments, he said that the Board were ready to meet a small committee of Federation officials in two or three months time or even earlier, when the position could again be reviewed and the Federation informed of the position then obtaining regarding surpluses and discharges on Railways with such indication of future developments as might then be possible.

INDIAN MILLS' IMPRESSIVE WAR EFFORT

Official figures, showing the material supplied by Controlled Woollen Mills against Defence Department orders give another illustration of the immensity of India's war effort. These impressive figures show production from October 1939 up to November 9, 1945.

During that period Indian Mills supplied, among other items, 2,276, 557 vests, 1,582,746 drawers and 6,873,819 socks. The figure for angora shirting was 4,930,072, while the total number of blankets supplied was 1,478,601 (including 650,386 for military hospitals).

Changes in the Indian Services' requirements as the war proceeded are illustrated by the annual figures. While 1,394,325 hose-tops, for instance, were delivered up to the end of 1943, production dropped to only 20,570 in 1944 and none were ordered in 1945. Production of the old-style blanket for the Forces ceased in 1943, at a total of 500,057, in favour of the new light-weight olive green blanket, then produced at the rate of approximately 100,000 a year to make a total of 254,008.

Other large orders filled were for pullover jerseys, cap comforters, gloves, puttees and serge.

Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, has set up a committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, M.L.A., (Central), Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha, Member of the Council of State, Dr. Zakir Husain and Dr. Tarachand to advise the Government of India on the Hindi-Urdu question and its bearing on broadcast programmes.

MORE COMMODITIES DECONTROLLED

BY a notification published in the *Gazette of India* of December 1, 1945, the Central Government have withdrawn control over the distribution of the following articles by removing them from the schedule to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945:-

Slate pencils, boot and metal polishes, steel pens, fountain pens and parts of fountain pens, enamelled ironware, kerosene oil lamps, incandescent mantles, zip fasteners, razor and razor blades, cutlery, typewriter ribbons, wireless receiving sets and parts of wireless receiving sets and wireless bulbs, photographic negatives and printing papers, clocks, time pieces and watches and parts thereof, cartridges, crockery, spectacle frames, lenses and other optical goods, sanitary fittings, sports goods, grindery, camphor in all forms, thermoses and thermos flasks.

Supply Position Improved

The supply position of most of the above articles has now greatly improved and the supply of the rest of them is expected to improve in the near future. Importers and producers will now be free to sell these articles without reference to the Controller-General of Civil Supplies, Bombay, or any of his subordinate or regional officers.

The provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, in respect of these articles will remain in force, so that the control of their prices is not affected.

Items now remaining in the schedule to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order are :-

Lead copying and coloured pencils, pure and artificial and silk yarn and thread, pure and artificial silk fabrics, hand knitting wool, woollen fabrics, woollen and worsted weaving and machine knitting yarns, umbrellas and parts of umbrellas, kerosene hurricane lanterns, cycles, cycle parts and accessories.

INDIA SUPPLY COMMISSION, LONDON

Mr. C. N. Sharples, I.C.S., till recently Deputy Secretary in the Supply Department in charge of the Directorate of Shipbuilding and Repairs, Bombay, has been selected for the post of Deputy Director, India Supply Commission, London, the new organisation recently set up by the Commerce Department for the procurement of capital and other goods from the U.K.

At the same time it must not be forgotten that, for the moment, the needs of countries overrun by the Japanese in the East and the Germans in the West make an exceptional demand on the world supplies of foodgrains, and the allocations are made by the Combined Food Boards in Washington. India, with the rest of the world, is left in an unhappy state of food shortage at the end of the war, and patience, forbearance and self-sacrifice will be needed if food regulation is to ensure adequate supplies and a fair distribution to the hungry nations of the world.

Storage Accommodation

The problem of storage is one of the most fundamental which faced the authorities in charge of food administration at the Centre, in the Provinces and States. Government have had to procure, through official machinery normally unaccustomed to trading practices and with practically no trade background, large stocks of foodgrains within a few months after the harvest, so as to prevent the marketed surplus getting into the hands of hoarders. Under such conditions, and owing to the strain on the limited amount of transport available, the losses due to deterioration had increased considerably. While this to a certain extent was inevitable, it was realised that much food could be saved through adequate storage accommodation. To prevent the present waste of food ranks with the production of food as a means of increasing the total resources of the country.

Government's storage scheme has been designed, to increase with all speed, both temporary and permanent storage accommodation under the control of Government in markets, at railheads, and in consuming centres; to establish 'buffer stocks' in producing areas; to set up officially controlled inspection agencies; and to encourage with material and advice the construction of private foodgrains storage. The results are impressive. Construction of storage accommodation of approved scientific design, to store 12,00,000 tons of foodgrains has been undertaken. Most schemes have either been

completed or are nearing completion. Of this capacity, the cost for 1,60,000 tons has been borne entirely by the Central Government.

The Central and Provincial Governments have shared the expenses, on a 50-50 basis, of another 1,00,000 tons capacity; and of the 2,60,000 tons of storage in which the Central Government are interested, accommodation for more than 2,00,000 tons has been completed. Provincial Governments are adding, at their own expense, 8,50,000 tons capacity, and private enterprise, aided by Government, about 50,000 tons. In addition, the Central Depot at Karachi, functioning since 1944, can hold 200,000 tons of foodgrains. It is interesting to note that the quantity of controlled building materials i.e. steel, cement, timber, and coal for burning bricks released by Government, for the construction of this storage against applications submitted, amounts to over 100,000 tons.

"Rescue" Operations

During the period of food administration under review, various kinds of disasters,—floods, drought, temporary failure of local supplies—have had to be anticipated and provided for. Here are a few examples of emergency schemes that were carried through successfully with the co-operation of the War Transport Department and the railway authorities:—(1) To meet the acute wheat position in the U.P. towards the end of the Rabi crop year, about 75,000 tons had to be despatched by special trains from Karachi and other areas to U.P. within a period of two months. (2) To avoid a breakdown in the supplies of wheat products for the fighting forces, large quantities of

wheat were moved from Karachi to Northern India in May. (3) In March and April, Delhi would have had to face a severe breakdown in its wheat rationing arrangements, but for the timely arrival of special trains carrying wheat supplies from Karachi.

Reshipping of wheat from one port to another is an expensive operation. Several lakhs of rupees would have been lost to the national exchequer, but for the strict watch kept throughout the period on wheat arrivals from abroad, and the immediate action taken to secure diversion of ships at sea in the light of requirements of wheat at various ports.

Planning Better Diets

The Famine Inquiry Commission has affirmed that Government should not only take every possible step to prevent starvation, but must regard it as their duty to improve nutrition and create a healthy and vigorous population. The Food Department has, accordingly, accepted the responsibility of improving the general nutrition of the people by active steps, of stimulating thought and knowledge on the subject of correct diet, and of improving the supply of individual items of diet which are necessary to remedy deficiencies. In the discharge of this responsibility a Planning Section has been set up in the Department, and enquiries which are now being conducted by it should make possible the formulation of a dietary standard for health, based on precise knowledge of the diets of various classes of people in different parts of the country.

It may be possible to conquer famine, the widespread lack of a sufficiency for life; far more intractable is malnutrition, the lack of the right kinds of food which both fosters specific diseases and generally lowers resistance to all. It is recognised that sustained and prolonged efforts are necessary to combat malnutrition, and relief measures must be based on extensive individual enquiry. By enlisting the co-operation of specialists in nutrition by the enforcement of priority milk schemes already in operation in many areas, and by various special arrangements for directing supplies to those who most need them, the Central Food Department can help to lay the foundations of a healthier nation. At this stage, more than that can hardly be expected.

Against the background of the past 12 months we can look at the future. The prospect it is not too gloomy, not forgetting the damage done to crops in some parts of the country either by drought or floods. When the Kharif Plan was discussed two months ago, all that the country heard were warnings of a new austerity. Those warnings were wise, but with the expectation of more imports particularly of rice, in which

India has had to go extremely short for the past three years, we need not be unduly pessimistic. So far as is known at present, Army demands are not likely to be more than one-third of their previous volume. In 1946, therefore, we can expect a maintenance of the basic ration; a transition from planning for bare sufficiency to planning for better diets; special provision for expectant and nursing mothers; for workers in canteens, for school children, and young people in general. Such measures will return a rich dividend in general contentment.

Until the battle against famine and malnutrition is won, a successful year of food administration is only a milestone. With the end of the war, food regulations become more irksome, but the reasons why their relaxation must be a gradual process are well understood. Economic regulations are the means by which India, as a part of the world organisation, must adapt itself to the chaos of the aftermath of war.

Food administration has been a long and difficult process of experimentation. Lessons have been learnt which will reduce its inconvenience and improve its efficiency, in the course of adaptation from the needs of an emergency to the requirements of future prosperity. The prize of success is a working combination of planning and freedom from widespread famine; the penalty of failure is short-lived chaos followed by planning without adequate food.

VITAMIN A IN VEGETABLE DIET

The chief source of Vitamin A in a vegetarian diet is traceable to certain yellow pigments found in green leaves and other tissues of plants. They are called carotenoid pigments and, when consumed, are converted into Vitamin A in the body. Out of 20 to 30 such pigments only four to five have Vitamin A activity.

The amount of active carotenoid pigments in the various plant foods has been the subject of study at the Punjab University for some time. The Indian Research Fund Association, New Delhi, has financed the inquiry. A large number of foods have been examined and a technique worked out to estimate the different pigments. In one of the earlier studies, 15 samples of different varieties of maize grown in the Punjab were examined. This cereal was found to contain seven to eight different carotenoid pigments in various proportions. Thirty-one to 42 per cent. of the total pigments was found to contain Vitamin A.

Artificial development of pigments of nutritional importance has also been under investigation at the University.



Transplanting rice plants.

FOOD FOR ALL: UNITED NATIONS' SCHEME



The first Plenary Meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference of the United Nations at Quebec.

FREEDOM from want to all men, irrespective of race or colour, is the objective of the World Food Scheme proposed by the United Nations Food Conference which recently met at Quebec. The representatives of the signatory nations accepted responsibility to provide, as far as possible, food and health standards for all the people they comprised.

The Conference was held in Chateau Frontenac, the hotel made historic by the two Churchill-Roosevelt meetings during the Second World War. Representatives of 30 countries from all corners of the world, including India, attended the Conference, and signed the constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (F.A.O.), the main purpose of which is to consolidate peace by fostering food production, by bringing scientific technique to the service of mankind, and by saving the people in the war-devastated areas and other countries whose economy has suffered a serious jolt due to the

repercussions of the war. Soviet Russia alone among the big countries did not sign the constitution as their Government felt that the organisation forces of F.A.O. required further studies and they had to consult some of their constituent Republics. But their representatives took part in the proceedings of the committees and the panels of the Conference.

The preliminary meeting of the Conference met on October 16. Mr. L.B. Pearson, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.A., presided.

Plenary Sessions

At seven plenary sessions of the Conference, members read statements detailing special features of the agricultural position in their respective countries, their food situation and the type of organisation they expected F.A.O. to develop in tackling their special problems.

At the eighth meeting, Sir John Boyd Orr was appointed as the first Director-General of

F.A.O. Sir John renounced his nationality and became the first world citizen on accepting the post of Director-General. In his address he outlined the task of F.A.O., and observed that the time had come when tanks were turned into tractors and the factories which manufactured explosives were converted to produce fertilizers and humanity entered an era of peace and plenty.

The delegates, keenly alive to the horrors of the war just ended and the ruination of agriculture and industry in all parts of the world, held that unemployment, poverty and hunger are the basic causes of war. They felt that another slump in the prices of agricultural commodities similar to that which paralysed agriculture and industry in 1930 must be prevented, and the producer of agricultural commodities must be guaranteed a fair and equitable price. Mr. Wilson, Member for New Zealand declared: "Neither political alliances nor military commitments nor atomic bombs nor regional organisations can guarantee security for life in a world thus afflicted with poverty pestilence and famine".

The delegates from India placed the particular needs of their country in a forceful manner before the Conference. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai was the Member for India and Chairman of the Indian Delegation. The Delegation got

a fair share of the various offices. India found a seat on the Executive Committee. Sir Girja presided over the Committee on Constitutional and Diplomatic questions which dealt with such important topics as the taking over of the International Institute of Agriculture, (Rome) and the admission of new members.

Mr. D. R. Sethi presided over the Panel on Special Needs for Countries in Tropical and Sub-Tropical Regions, which was particularly important from the Indian angle. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao served as rapporteur to the Statistics Committee while Dr. Aykroyd and Sir Herbert Howard served as rapporteurs of the Nutrition and Food Management Committee and the Forest Products and Rural Welfare Sub-Committee respectively.

Achievements of the Conference

The main object of the Conference was to create a Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and in this it has succeeded. One objective of the F.A.O. is to undertake a complete world survey of production, consumption and international trade in the major agricultural products, so that information about surpluses is made available and international trade regulated. F.A.O. will also undertake comparative studies of the world food needs and



Mr. L. B. Pearson, Chairman of the Food Conference, welcomes the Member for India, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.

making arrangements for diverting surpluses to areas which are suffering from nutritional deficiency. A world census in 1950 is proposed with the object of collecting data on the world food and agriculture conditions and thus preparing a World Food Plan. The results of scientific research will be compiled and made available to member countries through a bibliographic service.

F.A.O. will also maintain panels of technical experts and will send missions to countries which may desire their services. In co-operation with the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development it proposes to render help to less developed countries in the field of credit.

Constitution of F.A.O.

F.A.O. will not be a centralised body like the old League of Nations but will have regional offices through which it will maintain intimate contacts with the peoples and problems of different countries. It is likely that India, too, will have a regional office. It has also been decided that the personnel of F.A.O. will be truly international in character and representative of the various geographical regions. Vacancies will be widely advertised and selection will be made by the Director-General on a competitive basis. The seat of F.A.O. will be at the same place as the headquarters of the United Nations Organisation. For the time being it will be located in Washington.

India stands to profit by her membership of such an organisation. She will have the accumulated experience of the more advanced countries at her disposal. The plant and animal stock for breeding will be particularly useful to us. The pamphlets, charts, posters, radio discs and films which F.A.O. will distribute to member countries from time to time will help in the organisation of extension work. Technical advice from world authorities on their respective subjects will also be available. India will have access to agricultural machinery through the agency of F.A.O. Scientific and technical information, which we will get through the bibliographic service of F.A.O., will be useful to scientific research workers, and they will be able to keep abreast of the latest developments in agricultural sciences throughout the world.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated December 22, the Central Government have cancelled the notification of the Controller General of Civil Supplies, in which certain additions to landed cost in respect of imported chemical reagents were sanctioned, says a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India.

ASSISTANCE TO BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS

In response to an invitation of the Central Food Department, leading biscuit manufacturers in India met in New Delhi recently to discuss problems relating to the switch-over of the biscuit industry from war to peacetime production, and to place before the Central Government the assistance they required. These factories supplied about 15,000 tons of biscuits a year to the Defence Services, which demand has now ceased.

Explaining the official viewpoint, Mr. K. L. Panjabi, Joint Secretary, Food Department, reiterated Government's promise given during the war to afford necessary assistance to the factories during the transition from war to peace. He explained, however, that, in view of the overall shortage of sugar and wheat in the country, the Food Department was unable to meet the demands of the factories for these two commodities for peak production, but the Central Government would endeavour to release sufficient quantities to help factories to maintain economic production.

Small exports of biscuits would also be permitted to enable Indian manufacturers to establish contacts in foreign countries. On the question of further protection to the industry and exemption of excise duty on sugar and vanaspati utilised in biscuit manufacture, the Department agreed to take necessary action on receipt of definite proposals from the manufacturers.

According to a notification in the *Gazette of India* dated December 1, 1945, the Central Government have authorised the following officers to exercise all the powers of the Controller-General of Civil Supplies under the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order 1945:—

Director, Silk Directorate, North Block, New Delhi, in respect of (i) silk yarn and thread, (ii) artificial silk yarn and thread, and (iii) pure and artificial silk fabrics.

Director, Liaison Directorate, Directorate General of Supply, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi, in respect of (i) hand knitting wool, (ii) woollen fabrics, and (iii) woollen and worsted weaving and machine knitting yarn.

These officers, however will exercise the above powers only with effect from December 15, 1945, and, as such matters arising out of the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945, should be addressed to them from that date onwards.

PRODUCTION OF FOOD YEAST IN INDIA

VEGETABLE oils are being used in increasing quantities for lubrication of machine parts in India. Their use received a great impetus during the war years, and their continued use in the face of competition from mineral oils could be ensured if effective means are found to prevent their deterioration. The addition of certain chemicals is known to inhibit the oxidative deterioration of oils. But there is another type of corrosion due specifically to the presence of the metal; and there are comparatively few additives which are known to check the corrosion due to this cause.

Extensive studies carried out in the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have shown that dibasic dicarboxylic acids are specially effective in inhibiting the corrosion due to the presence of metal. The laboratory studies have been confirmed by service tests. Oxalic acid and its homologues, in conjunction with anti-oxidants like alphanaphthol, give effective over-all protection to bearings against corrosion. The results of these investigations have been published in the October 1945 issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

Potassium Chlorate

Potassium chlorate, an important constituent of the dipping composition for safety matches, was being imported almost wholly into this country prior to the war. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research financed a scheme of research at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, to explore the possibilities of manufacturing this important chemical in India. As a result of the investigations, a process was developed which is now being employed on a commercial scale by the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation. The process consists in passing chlorine through a slurry of lime to obtain calcium chlorate, from which, in its turn, potassium chlorate is obtained. The details of the process have been discussed in an article appearing in the *Journal*.

In any effort to improve the nutrition level of the vegetarian diet which is known to be deficient in proteins, the provision of easily digestible proteins of high biological value demands prior consideration. Food yeast satisfies all the requirements and is a supplement *par excellence* for the vegetarian diet. The raw materials required for its manufacture are

available in India in abundance and the establishment of a yeast factory is an urgent necessity. The problem is examined from all aspects in an article appearing in the *Journal*. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has financed investigations on the production of food yeast in India.

The *Journal* also contains a comprehensive article on the coal resources of India. It deals with the origin of coal, its physical properties, chemical composition, geological distribution and prospecting.

Among other articles of interest, mention may be made of one on the preparation of medicinal charcoal from groundnut husk, and another on the secondary metal industry in India.

BETTER TRAINED GEOLOGISTS FOR INDIA

India will soon have better trained geologists for the exploitation of her mineral wealth. The Labour Department of the Government of India has decided on a scheme for providing foreign university training to Indian geologists. Improvement of Indian University Faculties teaching Geology and practical training in metalliferous mining to stipendiary students are also under consideration. It is expected that as a result of these schemes the standard of geological training available in India will be considerably improved.

Foreign training will be given to about 12 to 14 permanent Assistant Geologists of the Geological Survey of India who are now being recruited from among graduates in geology. After recruitment they will be given field training in India for some months and then sent to the University of Melbourne, Australia, for practical training for a period of about eight months. The choice of the Melbourne University is mainly due to two reasons: the geology of Australia is very similar to that of India and the academic year there is from March to October which coincides with the recess period in the Geological Survey of India.

The scheme will be operative for three years in the first instance and the first batch of trainees is expected to leave early next year.

Mr. I. G. H. Ariff, B.A., (Cantab), Assistant Agent, Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co., P.O. Narayanganj, District Dacca, and Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohd Esmail, M.L.A., have been appointed members of the Advisory Committee for the Dacca Station of All-India Radio, vice Messrs. Naimuddin Ahmed and Salim respectively.

EXPANSION OF INDO-CANADIAN TRADE

Mr. M. R. Ahuja's Radio Talk

“HOWEVER hard India's Trade Commissioners may strive to push the sale of Indian goods, and however sincerely India's diplomatic representatives abroad may try to uphold her position in the international sphere, in the final analysis it is by the quality and finish of our goods and the nature of the services she renders to the world at large that she will be judged. It is, therefore, in your hands—the producers, the manufacturers, the shippers and the exporters—that the good and fair name of our country lies and the position that she may come to occupy in the post-war world.” Thus observed Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Government of India Trade Commissioner in Canada, in a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station of the All India Radio on December 4, 1945.

Non-competitive

After giving statistical details regarding Indo-Canadian trade, which, he said had steadily grown over the war years, Mr. Ahuja stated that the economic structure, national resources as well as actual and potential lines of export, both of India and Canada, were not only non-competitive but also complementary in nature. That was not enough, in his opinion, to expand trade relations between the two countries although that was a favourable factor in itself. To achieve the most favourable results both Government and the trade must play their parts separately as well as in co-operation with each other.

He then pointed out that the elimination from the world markets, at least for some time to come, of two powerful industrial countries, namely Germany in the West and Japan in the East, provided India with opportunities beyond measure.

Expressing his pleasure at the growing industrial-mindedness and export-consciousness of businessmen in India, he emphasised that the tendency to cash in on present shortages and to make money somehow should be avoided, since this practice, if continued unchecked, might very well defeat the very purpose of expanding our trade relations. In order to succeed in marketing Indian goods at home and abroad and to hold these markets, we must have, he emphasised, continuity of supply, uniformity of quality and competitive price.

Mr. Ahuja said: “Contrary to impressions prevailing in some commercial circles, India's trade with Canada has not only steadily grown over the war years, but the balance of trade between Canada and India has continued to be overwhelmingly in favour of India. According to the Indian sea-borne returns, the total Indo-Canadian trade in value registered during 1944-45 amounted to more than Rs. 10½ crores which is more than three times the corresponding figure for 1938-39. Of this total trade valued at Rs. 10½ crores, imports from Canada amounted to about Rs. 3½ crores while exports from India were worth double that figure, namely Rs. 7 crores.

“According to Canadian statistics, which, unlike the Indian returns, also include shipments from and to India of war materials and goods shipped on Government account, Canada's trade with India during 1944, both in total as well as in imports and exports, was exceeded only by that with the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In other words, India has come to be not only Canada's third best customer but also the third most important source of supply. That, despite wartime controls, shortages and shipping difficulties, exports from India to Canada during the war years should have increased more than 3½ times in value is, in the main, due to our having sold to Canada, in addition to our traditional lines of exports, goods that Canada was unable to procure from her pre-war sources of supply such as edible nuts, minerals, etc.

Future Problems

“How about the future? What will happen to our wartime exports when normal peacetime sources of supply again become available? What should we do to retain this trade and if possible to expand it? Are there any other goods that we can profitably add to our traditional lines of export which will stand world competition, and are there any possibilities of our developing our export trade with Canada in semi-manufactured and finished articles? What should be the pattern of our industrial development to meet local requirements as well as from the point of view of our prospective overseas markets? Is there any possibility of our securing capital goods and technical assistance from Canada? What does the Government of India propose to do to help Indian exports and what services can the Trade Commissioners render to the business community? Those are some of the questions I have discussed with the mercantile community all over India.

“It is generally true that the economic structure, national resources as well as the

actual and potential lines of exports both of India and Canada are not only non-competitive but also complementary in nature, so that there is no likelihood of Indian and Canadian goods clashing either in their internal markets or leading to serious competition in their respective markets abroad. It is also true that, in Canada today, there is a good deal of goodwill towards India's problem and aspiration. It is equally true that Canada would desire the expansion of trade with India to our mutual advantage.

Need for Co-operation

“But will this trade automatically grow and expand merely because the trading conditions between the two countries are in their very nature favourable for such expansion? In the world that is now emerging, helpful understanding and appreciation of each other's problems and aspirations is, in my opinion, essential for the development of trade between any two countries. This, though an essential step forward, is certainly not enough to carry us farther on the road that lies beyond. To travel safely and to carry increasingly larger loads on this road, we must not only understand and practise the necessary traffic rules on our side of the road, but also watch as well as keep clear the traffic moving in the opposite direction.

“To achieve the most favourable results, both Government and the trade must play their parts separately as well as in co-operation with each other thus co-ordinating as intimately as possible also their respective individual actions and functions. The Government of India are fully conscious of their responsibility in this matter, and the Commerce Department are taking definite steps to meet the situation by re-organising and strengthening the Trade Commissioners Service with a view to Indian exporters having at their command a competent machinery in overseas markets for their guidance and assistance.

“Industries established on a sound basis are now entitled to protection or assistance under the terms of the newly constituted Tariff Board. As mentioned in the statement on Export Policy issued recently, the Government of India feel that the time has come for a comprehensive review of their export control policy with a view, not only to rebuilding trade on the old export lines, but also with a view to capitalising the opportunities now available—thus developing old markets and cultivating new ones. But, whatever the position and strength of our domestic and foreign official organisations, in order to be effective they must not only have the co-operation of Indian industry and trade but also their fullest possible support.

“The elimination from the world markets, at least for some time to come, of two powerful industrial countries, namely Germany in the West and Japan in the East, has provided India with opportunities beyond measure. To make full use of these opportunities we must so plan our economy that it is capable of yielding the maximum results in national interests. Side by side with the establishment of major and key industries we must develop our small as well as our cottage and handicraft industries. In any scheme for the development of such industries both domestic and export requirements must be carefully studied, and attempts at haphazard and mushroom growth merely with a view to advantage being taken of existing conditions must be discouraged.

“I am more than glad to see the great urge that is evident everywhere in India to industrialise and to export semi-manufactured and finished goods. While growing industrial-mindedness and export-consciousness of businessmen in this country are to be welcomed, the tendency to cash in on present shortages and to make money somehow, if continued unchecked, may very well defeat the very purpose so near to our hearts and so very essential to our economy. This unfortunate tendency on the part of some indigenous industries has no doubt its counterpart, and is bound to react seriously as much on these industries as on our national economy.

“It is no wonder that the average consumer in India today, instead of patronising Indian products, is clamouring for imported goods whose supply was cut off because of the war and which are still difficult to obtain. In order to succeed in marketing our goods at home and abroad and to hold these markets, we must have continuity of supply, uniformity of quality and a competitive price. I have no doubt that, if we all pull our weight, there need be no cause for anxiety regarding the future. I sincerely feel that India's increased industrialisation, together with her great potentialities, must prove an important factor in the economic reconstruction of the post-war world.

An Assurance

“I have been assured by the mercantile community of their fullest support in my work including the supply to me of representative samples for a showroom that I propose to establish as a part of my office as soon as circumstances permit. I have on my behalf promised to collect and forward for their information complete data of capital goods that may be available from Canada indicating, wherever possible, the time of delivery. I have, however, pointed out that Canada is the only country in the Commonwealth of Nations which is not in the

sterling bloc and that the Canadian Dollar is almost on the same basis as the American Dollar. I have also promised to do whatever may be possible to assist the industry in the matter of securing technical advice and personnel from Canada. I have further promised to furnish, for the information of the industry and of the export trade, a list of manufactured goods that are likely to find a ready market in Canada with particular reference to those imported from Japan before the war. This and anything else that may be found necessary in the direction of assisting and expanding our export trade to Canada I shall always be willing to do.

"But however hard India's Trade Commissioners may strive to push the sale of Indian goods, and however sincerely India's diplomatic representatives abroad may try to uphold her position in the international sphere, in the final analysis it is by the quality and finish of her goods and the nature of the services she renders to the world at large that she will be judged. It is, therefore, in your hands—the producers, the manufacturers, the shippers and the exporters—that the good and fair name of our country lies and the position that she may come to occupy in the post-war world."

CAPITAL GOODS FROM AUSTRALIA

Before the war India generally obtained her requirements of capital goods, technicians and technical experts from the U.K., the U.S.A. and a few countries in Europe. As a result of the war, many of the European countries, which used to be suppliers, are not in a position to meet India's requirements. The U.K. is also not in a position to supply India's needs in full immediately. In the case of the U.S.A. and other non-sterling countries, exchange difficulties arise; and the shortage of shipping space, particularly when long distances are involved, is another difficulty.

Australia, which is much nearer to India and is also a sterling area, is in a position to supply some of India's requirements either immediately or within a reasonable time. In view of the imperative need of getting quickly the capital goods and technical assistance required for India's industrialisation, there can be no doubt that greater attention should be paid to Australia as a useful source of supply.

Those who are interested may approach the Indian Trade Commissioner in Australia and the Australian Trade Commissioner in India, who will be glad to supply information and afford every possible assistance in obtaining equipment and technical personnel from Australia.

IMPORTS OF IRON, STEEL AND NON-FERROUS MATERIALS

THE Steel Import Controller has so far been issuing licences marked 'for exchange control purposes' against applications from importers, if he agreed to allow the import of the material. This licence enabled the importers to get the material shipped from the country of origin, and, in the case of non-sterling areas, enabled them to obtain exchange facilities. When the material had been shipped from the country of origin or arrived at the Indian port, the importer was required to obtain another licence for customs clearance purposes.

It has now been decided to discontinue the issue of the customs clearance permit at the time of the arrival of the material. The following will be the revised procedure for the issue of import licences and customs clearance permits for steel and non-ferrous items:

- (a) When it has been decided to allow the import of any particular material from the U. K. or any sterling countries, a licence will be issued marked 'For Customs Purposes'. This will enable the importer to get the material shipped from these countries as well as get it cleared at the Indian port.
- (b) When it has been decided to allow the import of any particular material from non-sterling areas, two copies of the licences will be issued simultaneously one marked 'For Exchange Control Purposes' and the other marked 'For Customs Purposes'. It will not be necessary to obtain a customs clearance permit at the time of arrival of the material.

INDIAN IMPORTS INTO AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government have recently removed or eased import licensing restrictions on a large number of goods.

Among the items exempted from licensing control, the following are of interest to India: beeswax, handkerchief cloth in the piece, potassium, nitrate, shellac, seedlac, cutlery, spoons and forks.

Other items of interest to India on which restrictions have been eased are: precious stones and semi-precious stones, manufactured tobacco and cigarettes and finecut tobacco, tapestries and moquettes.

MR. AHUJA'S ADDRESS TO HYDERABAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DIRECT trade between Hyderabad State and Canada, and the procurement of capital goods from that country for the development of industries in the State, were two of the principal questions dealt with by Mr. M. R. Ahuja, in his address to the Hyderabad (Deccan) Chamber of Commerce on November 30, 1945.

Mr. Ahuja declared that he appreciated Hyderabad's desire to eliminate middlemen and develop direct trade with foreign countries. He regarded this desire, which was not confined to Hyderabad or to India, as an indication of growing export-consciousness. The Trade Commissioner said that he wishes to assure both Government and the mercantile community that he would be only too happy to render them every assistance possible in the development of direct trade.

Here, however, he declared, it was necessary for him to issue a note of warning. If the Indian Mercantile Community wished to succeed, it was essential that the producer, the manufacturer and the shipper should make a close study of the technicalities of export trade. He particularly asked them to pay attention to the quality of their goods and the method of grading and packing them. The fair name of the Indian producer abroad, he averred, should thus be fully upheld.

Procuring Capital Goods

Turning to the question of procuring capital goods, Mr. Ahuja expressed his pleasure that the Hyderabad State shared in the industrial-mindedness that was manifest all over India. He assured them that he would make every effort to help them in procuring such capital goods and technical knowledge as were available from Canada. Here, however he would like to sound a warning note. In any plan for industrialisation, due attention should be paid to the reorganisation and development of cottage industries side by side with the large-scale industries.

The Trade Commissioner affirmed that, in his opinion, whatever the political demarcation of India might be, the whole country was a single economic unit. Therefore, Indian Trade Commissioners would be glad to give any assistance they could to the Indian States to the same degree as to British India. But the initiative for such assistance must come from the mercantile community, who should not hesitate to approach their Trade Commissioner in the field for the solution of any problems they might have.

"Indian manufacturers should seize the opportunity created by the cessation of exports from Japan and try to fill the void to as great an extent as possible", declared Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Government of India Trade Commissioner in Canada, addressing the Mysore Chamber of Commerce on December 3, 1945. Mentioning only one item, which, although seemingly small and unimportant, held vast possibilities of development, the Trade Commissioner said that, before the war, Canada imported tens of thousands of bamboo ladders for use in the orchards. When war cut off supplies, they were replaced by ladders made from lumber, but these had not proved satisfactory as they were too heavy to carry. Here, therefore, was a field which could be examined with advantage by Indian producers.

Showroom to be Opened

Assuring the mercantile community of every assistance that lay within his power, the Trade Commissioner said that he proposed to open a showroom to display samples of Indian goods to Canadians. He requested the business community to send him such specimens, which should be kept up-to-date by renewal from time to time. He emphasised the need to maintain a very high quality if their goods were to be acceptable to Canadians.

Mr. Ahuja expressed his agreement with the Chamber's suggestion that the exchange of trade delegations between India and foreign countries would contribute to a better appreciation of one another's problems. He added that a publicity section was being attached to his office very shortly, which would be concerned with publicity not only on trade but general matters.

On December 2, Mr. Ahuja visited Mysore where he saw the Sandalwood Oil Factory, the Mysore Silk Factory and other industrial concerns. He also called at the Palace. In Bangalore, the Trade Commissioner visited the Indian Institute of Science, the Government Electric Factory, the Porcelain Factory and Chemical Works. He saw rural uplift work in the surrounding villages.

All letter mail services with the exception of insurance formerly available by the surface route to British North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak have been resumed under the usual conditions, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India.

Considerable Increase in Life Insurance Business in India

THE total number of insurers who stood registered under the Insurance Act, 1938, on September 30, 1945, was 330 of which 234 insurers were constituted in India and 96 out of India. One hundred and fifty one Indian insurers carry on Life insurance business only, 47 carry on life and other classes of insurance business and 36 carry on only non-life business. Four non-Indian insurers carry on Life insurance business only, 11 carry on life and other classes of insurance business and 81 carry on only non-life business.

The new life insurance business effected in India by Indian insurers during 1944, amounted to about 4,32,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 95.20 crores and yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 5.12 crores, showing an increase over the previous year of about 1,49,000 in the number of policies, Rs. 32.26 crores in the sum insured and Rs. 1.64 crores in the premium income. The corresponding figure for non-Indian insurers were about 19,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 11.00 crores and yielding a premium income of Rs. 0.62 crore, showing an increase over the previous year of about 6,000 in the number of policies, Rs. 1.82 crores in sum insured and Rs. 0.13 crore in the yearly premium.

The net amount of life insurance business effected by Indian insurers in India and in force at the end of the year amounted to about 19,40,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 366.15 crores and having a premium income of Rs. 18.10 crores recording an increase over the previous year, of about 3,12,000 in the number of policies, Rs. 72.07 crores in the sums insured and Rs. 3.26 crores in the premium income. The corresponding figures for non-Indian insurers were about 1,87,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 76.98 crores and having premium income of Rs. 4.33 crores.

The net amount of life insurance business effected outside India by Indian insurers during the year 1944 and the amount remaining in force at the end of that year was about 9,200 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 3.06 crores and about 69,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 18.73 crores respectively.

The total revenue income for the year 1944 of Indian and non-Indian insurers in respect of their Life insurance business in India was Rs. 22.99 crores and Rs. 6.13 crores respectively. The total outgo, including amounts disbursed as claims, surrenders, etc., was Rs. 13.08 crores and Rs. 4.42 crores respectively, the balance of Rs. 9.91 crores and Rs. 1.71 crores, representing the increase in the life funds of Indian and non-Indian insurers respectively.

The rate of interest on mean life funds of Indian insurers, during the year after deductions of income-tax at source was 3.64 per cent., as compared with 3.88 per cent. in the previous year. The total expenses of management expressed as a percentage of the premium income during the year worked out to 31.2 per cent. as compared with 27.9 per cent. in the previous year.

The corresponding figures for non-Indian insurers were 3.35 per cent. and 18.6 per cent. as compared with 2.79 per cent. and 16.0 per cent. for the previous year.

Of the 35 new valuations of Indian insurers published in the Year Book, 23 disclosed a surplus, in 10 of which the surplus was allocated to policyholders and or shareholders and in the case of remaining 14 the surplus was carried forward unappropriated and 11 disclosed a deficit, in 3 of which the deficit was covered by the free paid-up capital and in the case of remaining 8, the deficit was not so covered.

The net total Indian premium income of Indian insurers under business other than life insurance, was Rs. 3.22 crores, comprising Rs. 1.79 crores from Fire insurance, Rs. 0.77 crore from Marine insurance and Rs. 0.66 crore from Miscellaneous insurance, showing an increase of Rs. 0.13 crore in the case of Fire insurance, Rs. 0.04 crore in the case of Marine insurance and Rs. 0.16 crore in the case of Miscellaneous insurance. The corresponding figures for non-Indian insurers were: Fire insurance, Rs. 1.66 crores, Marine insurance, Rs. 1.70 crores and Miscellaneous insurance, Rs. 0.81 crore registering a fall over the previous years of Rs. 0.59 crore in the total Premium income non-Life business in India.

Provident Societies

On September 30, 1945, there were 137 provident societies registered under the Act. The total new business effected by these societies during 1944 was about 18,700 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 83.81 lakhs showing an increase over the previous year of about 4,600 in the number of policies and Rs. 26.53 lakhs in the sums insured. The total business remaining in force at the end of the year was about 72,500 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 225.66 lakhs registering an increase of about 9,000 in the number of policies and Rs. 47.63 lakhs in the sums insured.

The Year Book contains interesting observations on many problems of far-reaching importance to insurance industry in this country, such as New Business Trends; Interest Trends;

Nationalisation of Insurance; Expenses of Management of insurance companies with particular reference to the proposed limitations; licenced Agents and Provident Societies. The various problems have been thoroughly discussed from all angles and some thought provoking suggestions have been made for the concerted action of the interests concerned.

The Report of the Superintendent of Insurance devotes a considerable portion to the discussion of questions which are likely to face the Insurance companies now that the war is over.

On the subject of forecasting new business trends, the report points out that life insurance being directly concerned through economic freedom with happiness, dignity and security as applied to individuals, its expansion will naturally acquire momentum in the post-war period as a means for the attainment of the principles aimed at, and observes that, although there may be some drop in the volume of new life insurance business effected in this country for a few years after the cessation of hostilities and till the effects of the projected industrial expansion come to tell, there would ultimately be recovery to the present level.

Trend of Interest Rates

Discussing the trend of interest rates, the report observes that the conditions at present seem to point to a rate definitely less than 3 per cent. as evidenced by over-subscription within half an hour of the opening of the 2½ per cent. Loan 1950 and the progressively increasing control of interest rates by Government appears likely to continue. Discussing the pros and cons of cheap and dear money policy of the Government, the Superintendent of Insurance has suggested a substantial concession in the rates of tax to which the Insurance business should be subject, and has supported the request made by insurers transacting life insurance business for further reduction in the ceiling rate of tax applicable to them.

The Superintendent of Insurance feels very strongly against the suggestions for nationalisation of Insurance and has adduced a number of very convincing arguments against the same. The report warns that, "from every point of view, the nationalisation of insurance would be an entirely retrograde step and it would be inadvisable to embark on this venture without giving careful consideration to the various untoward repercussions which the change would engender".

Referring to the uneconomically large number of licenced Agents in this country the

report says: "It is an illusion to think that the larger the number of agents the larger would be the business secured" and adds that experience has proved otherwise. "When a larger number than necessary attends to any type of work, the output suffers both in quality and quantity", says the report.

While on the subject of licenced Agents the report makes a reference to the particular hardship on agent imposed by the introduction by some insurers of two sets of tables for the same class of policy under one of which the premium rates are substantially lower than the other. Usually the tables with lower rates of premium are applicable to a specified class of policyholders, e.g., "directors and their friends," no commission under that table is payable.

The report advises all those provident societies who have been functioning for a period of 10 years or more and yet have less than a thousand policies on their books to realise in their own interests and those of the policyholders whom it is their desire to serve that they have not been able to secure the confidence of the public and that therefore they should amalgamate with larger societies.

EXEMPTION LIMIT FOR CAPITAL ISSUES RAISED

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on December 7 said:

The Government of India have decided to increase from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs the figure up to which issues of capital in any period of 12 months may be made without their consent or recognition. This applies to all companies except banking and insurance companies.

Applications will still be required from companies proposing issues not covered by this exemption, but the form of questionnaire prescribed in connection with such applications is being simplified, the details of which will be announced shortly.

It has also been decided that where, in accordance with the established procedure relating to long-range schemes, certain sums have to be invested pending release in due course, such investment will no longer be confined to new loans of the Government of India but may be in any Government securities or other "approved securities" as defined in the Insurance Act.

CURRENT BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN AMERICA

"ESTABLISHED importers here are anxious to have information about supply possibilities and relaxation of export controls, particularly regarding cotton hard waste, soft waste, thread reelers and crushed bones. A number of other parties interested in the development of exports in new lines would greatly appreciate information regarding prospects of supply, particularly of silks, brassware and silver jewellery. Brassware is already known in this country and the demand is certainly keen. The potential market for the other two commodities, as also for ivory and woodware, would appear to be fairly substantial."

Thus observes the report of the Government of India Trade Commissioner in America for October 1945, reviewing business conditions in that country in that month and the prospects of certain Indian commodities in the American market.

Labour Agitation

Labour agitation for higher wages would appear to be still dominating the economic situation in America. In October, about 300,000 workers were on strike in various industries all over the country. On October 30, the President of the U.S.A. made an important speech setting out the wages and price policy of the Administration. Hitherto the avowed policy has been to permit wage increases by collective bargaining between labour and management, provided there was no increase in the price of commodities over the level of 1942. Now, by Executive Order, the Stabilisation Administrator is authorised to approve a wage or salary increase in certain cases in which such an increase is found by the National War Labour Board or any other designated agency to be necessary to correct any maladjustment or inequity which would otherwise interfere with effective transition to a peacetime economy.

The War Production Board has been liquidated, with effect from November 3, 1945, and replaced by a Civilian Production Agency. The Foreign Economic Administration has been ordered by the President to wind up by December 31. The work done by this department will be distributed among the State, Commerce and Agricultural Departments.

The International Cotton Study Group has not found it possible to assemble in second

session either in October or early in November, as originally planned. It looks as if the second session cannot assemble before the middle of January 1946. It is likely that the second session will be of short duration, held chiefly for the purpose of receiving a statement of the situation from the Brazilian delegation. If a cotton commodity agreement is to be effective with a quota year starting July 1, or August 1, 1946, the Study Group may have to assemble in a third and final session some time in February 1946.

Prospects for Indian Commodities

Examining prospects in the American market for certain Indian commodities from the latest business indications in the United States, the report states that, released of war work, carpet mills are being rapidly switched back to civilian production. Although the wool stock position is positively bullish, the mills are anxious for larger imports from India as they expect a great demand for new floor coverings next year, when new housing projects will have reached on advanced stage. It would appear that preference is given to import of wool from India, largely because of the price.

There is a keen demand for turmeric, but there is a certain amount of hesitancy in accepting this commodity, since substantial consignments received earlier were found to be to a large degree, weevil infested. The trade was not quite sure whether available stocks in India were old and infested or fresh and comparatively free from infestation.

With the cessation of hostilities in the Far East, there was some optimism in the paper market over the possibility of substantial trading with India at an early date. This feeling is now affected by reports of high prices. Recent offerings indicate that the price level in India is approximately twice as high as the domestic ceiling in the United States.

Burlap Trade

There have been better offerings recently of shellac, but the offers have been for mixed lots of T. N. and higher grade plus seedlac. There has been a slight increase in the price of cashew nuts.

Burlap moved in a routine manner against quota certificates to bag manufacturing channels throughout the month. There was an expectant attitude in trade circles that activity would develop amongst private importers during the latter part of October or as soon as the War Production Board announced the Import Authorisation to be given to respective importers.

Consumption of burlap during September was 53,000,000 yards as compared with 54,000,000 yards in the previous month, and 55,000,000 yards in the same month of 1944. Total stocks showed a decline, being 105,000,000 yards as compared with 120,000,000 yards at the end of the previous month.

Certain restrictions on the end use of the material have been removed; it can now be used for linoleum and carpet backing, webbing, upholstery purposes and covering for cotton bales. The quota allocation for the fourth quarter of 1945 is 85,000 bales or 170,000,000 yards of burlap. This is a slight decline from the 93,000 bales allotted during the third quarter. For the fourth quarter allocation, no restrictions have been placed in regard to the type or construction of burlap that could be applied for by users.

It has been announced that burlap would revert to private purchasing with effect from January 1, 1946. The current public purchasing programme will run through December shipments from India.

BRASS AND COPPER (CONTROL) ORDER AMENDED

The Government of India have made certain amendments to the Brass and Copper (Control) Order, 1945.

The expression "Light scrap" referred to in clause 3 of the Order has now been defined as light gauge scrap which results in a higher percentage of melting loss, and "Heavy scrap" as heavy gauge scrap which results in a lesser percentage.

By an amendment to sub-clause (b) of clause 4, it is now laid down that no dealer shall sell any handmade brass or copper utensils on which the price as determined in accordance with schedule II is not stamped, or if the nature of the utensils does not permit of stamping, marked in ink.

Sub-clause (c) of clause 4 of the Order is now so amended that handmade Brass utensils made with Moradabadi *Kalai* both inside and outside, irrespective of the place at which they are manufactured, can be charged at seven annas per lb. above the rates permitted by the Order.

The prices given in schedule II of the Order apply only to brass utensils. For all copper utensils, an additional amount of annas three per pound may be charged.

MACHINERY CLOTH TO BE CONTROLLED

The Government of India, by a notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated, December 8, 1945, have amended the Textile Industry (Miscellaneous Articles) Control Order, 1945.

A proviso has been included in the Order which provides that all notifications and orders issued under the old order are to be deemed to have been issued under the new order.

Importers of shuttles are required to furnish to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, within 15 days of the arrival of any consignment containing shuttles, certain information relating to such consignment and are prohibited from selling or otherwise disposing of this consignment except in accordance with the Textile Commissioner's instructions; but if such instructions are not received by the importer within 30 days after the date on which this report is received by the Textile Commissioner, the importer is at liberty to dispose of the shuttles.

Another Amendment

Another amendment to the Control Order provides that Machinery Cloth (that is to say, roller cloth, clearer cloth, sizing flannel and endless clearer cloth) has been brought within the purview of the Order, and sale and purchase thereof are now subject to the restrictions enacted in the said Order.

By another notification published in the same issue of the *Gazette*, the Textile Commissioner has fixed the maximum prices of the varieties of machinery cloth mentioned above.

ENEMY TRADING REGULATIONS

The Enemy Trading Regulations no longer apply to the territories in the Far East which were formerly under Japanese occupation.

Mail communication has now been resumed with Malaya, Burma, French Indo-China, China (including Shanghai), Hong Kong, the Philippines and Guam. Business correspondence can be carried on with these territories in accordance with the postal notices issued by the Director-General, Post and Telegraphs, from time to time.

As regards private trade, persons and concerns in India can now carry on such trade only with persons and concerns in the British Far Eastern territories and the Philippine Islands, subject to the existing export, import and financial regulations.

GOVERNMENT'S SCHEME FOR HIGHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

All-India Council Set Up to Survey Position

AN All-India Council for Technical Education has been constituted by the Government of India to study the needs of the country for higher technical education. The immediate task of the Council will be:

(a) to survey the whole field of technical education in consultation with the Provincial Governments and such Indian States as may be willing to co-operate with it;

(b) to advise in what areas Technical Institutions should be established, for what respective branches of technology they should provide and up to what standards they should co-operate;

(c) to consider such projects as are already under consideration by various Departments of the Government of India, e.g., the provision of senior All-India Polytechnics on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or the establishment of a Technical College for Electrical (Power) Engineering, and to assign their functions in an All-India Scheme; and,

(d) to conduct preliminary investigations to ascertain the conditions on which the authorities in control of the existing technical institutes would be prepared to co-operate.

Constitution of Council

This step has been taken in pursuance of the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education that technical education at the higher (above High School) stages cannot, under modern conditions, be effectively organised on a provincial basis. Also, because it will help other branches of post-war reconstruction which will demand a larger increase in the available supply of Indian technologists and technicians.

The Council will have, in the first instance, advisory functions only, and the decision to set up such a Council is without prejudice or commitment to the full implementation, at a later date, of the proposals approved in this behalf by the Central Advisory Board.

The Council will be composed of (a) Chairman (b) Educational Adviser to the Government of India (c) representatives of the Departments of the Government of India (d) one member of the Council of State elected by it (e) two members of the Legislative Assembly

elected by it (f) one representative of each Provincial Government (g) five representatives of Indian States to be nominated by the Governor-General in consultation with the Crown Representative (h) fourteen representatives of industry, commerce and labour to be nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Delhi), the Employers' Federation of India, the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Indian Federation of Labour and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation (i) two members of the Central Advisory Board of Education (j) two members of the Inter-University Board to be nominated by the Board (k) two representatives of the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions in India (l) one representative of the Institution of Engineers, and (m) two nominees of the Government of India to represent any other interest which they may consider desirable.

Mr. N. R. Sarker has been appointed chairman of the Council. The names of members will be announced after the representatives of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly have been elected in the next session of the Central Legislature.

The tenure of office of the non-official members, including the Chairman, will be three years. The Council will be attached to the Department of Education, Government of India. A member of the staff of the Department will be the Secretary of the Council.

BRITISH GOODWILL MISSION

The United Kingdom Goodwill Supply Mission has now completed its programme in India. Its main purpose was to express Britain's appreciation of the help given by India during the war and also to study the present position in regard particularly to factories developed with the assistance of His Majesty's Government.

The Mission was led by Major-General F. G. Wrisberg, Director of Weapons and Instrument Production in the United Kingdom, and among its members was Sir Charles McLaren, Director-General of Ordnance Factories in Britain.

Coming to India early in November, the Mission visited such centres as Calcutta, Bombay, Jubbulpore, Cawnpore, Amritsar and Lahore.

PROBLEMS FACING INDIAN COAL INDUSTRY

New Enquiry Committee Set Up

IN the last 25 years, three Committees were appointed by the Government of India to enquire into and report on certain defined problems affecting the coal industry in the country. The first of these, appointed in 1920, dealt with Mr. Treharne Rees' recommendations for avoiding waste of coal deposits due to defective methods of extraction. A subsequent Committee in 1926 had the more limited objective of proposing measures necessary for stimulating the export of suitable coal from Calcutta to Indian and foreign ports. A third Committee in 1937 reported on the measures deemed necessary both for the prevention of avoidable waste of coal deposits and for securing the safety of those employed in the extraction of coal.

A number of recommendations made by these Committees have been implemented by the Government, but others have not been acted upon, primarily because they were not considered, at the time, feasible or expedient.

A great deal of attention has been focussed on the coal industry in recent times all over the world. The experience of coal problems in India during the war, especially since the introduction of control over production and distribution, has emphasised the need for vigorous action in respect of both conservation and rationalisation if the coal industry is to play its full part in the economic re-planning of the country.

Terms of Reference

The Government of India consider that the time is now opportune for a comprehensive review of the recommendations made by previous Enquiry Committees which have not hitherto been implemented; in addition, investigation of certain fresh problems is also necessary. They have accordingly decided to set up a small Committee to go into the questions set forth in the following terms of reference:

"To review the recommendations made by the various Committees dealing with the problems of the coal industry which were set up by Government from time to time, and to consider (a) which of these recommendations have been adopted and with what measure of success; and (b) what further action needs to be taken by Government in respect of the recommendations which have not been adopted or which have been adopted only in part.

"To consider and to report what further economic and administrative measures are

necessary to deal with the problems of the industry of a non-technical character and, in particular, to report on the conservation of high-grade metallurgical and steam coal, the problem of fragmentation of colliery holdings, the opening of new fields, the economics of the coal industry and the stabilisation of coal prices."

Members and Assessors

The Committee has been constituted as follows:

Mr. K. C. Mahindra, lately Head of the India Supply Mission, Washington (Chairman); Mr. C. A. Innes, Partner, Messrs. Andrew Yule & Company, Limited; Mr. K. C. Neogy; Mr. M. Ikramullah, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Supply Department; and Mr. P. R. Nayak, M.B.E., I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Supply Department (Secretary).

The Committee will be assisted in technical matters by the following Assessors: Mr. J. R. Harrison, C.I.E., Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production); Khan Bahadur G. Faruque, O.B.E., Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution); and Mr. W. Kirby, C.I.E. Chief Inspector of Mines in India.

The Committee, designated "The Indian Coal-fields Committee", will have its headquarters at Calcutta. It will assemble early in January, 1946, and will submit its report to Government as soon as possible.

PRICES OF IMPORTED MOTOR

CYCLES FIXED

The Government of India have repealed the Commercially Imported Motor Cycles Control Order, 1945 and the Civil Motor Cycles Control Order, 1945. They have, however, issued the "Motor Cycles Control Order, 1945" in the *Gazette of India*, dated December 1, 1945, which provides only for the control of prices of motor cycles imported either on Government account or through commercial channels.

The distribution of motor cycles of all types will no longer be controlled after December 10, 1945, and no permit will be necessary for the purchase of a motor cycle. The maximum retail price of the motor cycles, however, will be fixed by the Central Government.

Purchases of these motor cycles can be made through the distributors, dealers or sub-dealers appointed under the Control Order.

Use of Ground-Nut Cake For Sizing of Papers

GROUND-NUT cake, a bye-product of the oil industry, can be utilised for the sizing of papers and boards. The process is described in the Indian Forest Bulletin No. 126 recently brought out by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

In 1943 and 1944 Indian paper mills experienced considerable difficulties in procuring adequate supplies of alum and rosin for sizing purposes for the increased output of paper attained by them in those years. The difficulties were due mainly to (1) the practical cessation of imports of alum and sulphur from abroad. Supplies of sulphur being very short, sulphuric acid and alum could not be manufactured in the country to meet the entire local demand including that of the paper industry, (2) increased demand for rosin by war industries other than paper, e.g., textiles, soap, varnishes, etc., and (3) transportation difficulties. Experiments were initiated at the Institute to find out a method of sizing papers and boards which would lead to economies in the use of alum and rosin or, if possible, to find substitutes for one or both of these reagents.

Investigations carried out at the Institute show that the use of ground-nut cake protein as such or in the form of *gro-nut* size (alkaline, extracts of ground-nut cake) for the production of free rosin protein, dispersions or combined rosin protein dispersions for sizing of papers appears to be quite promising. The use of such dispersions effects a saving of about 50 per cent. in the consumption of rosin. In addition there is a fair amount of saving (15 to 27 per cent.) in the use of alum. The cost of additional equipment required is likely to be more than compensated by the savings effected in the consumption of both rosin and alum. Use of crude alkaline extracts of ground-nut cake (*gro-nut* size) by itself gives a very satisfactory sizing effect. Considering, however, the average relative price of ground-nut cake and rosin such a use as substitute for rosin appears to be neither economical nor attractive.

For hand-made papers, however, the use of *gro-nut* size by itself in place of rosin size or starch is likely to prove profitable, if small units can afford the cost of the simple equipment required for its preparation. Air drying of sheets is enough if they are sized with *gro-nut* size. Rosin sized sheets required to be heated in order to obtain good sizing effects and arrangements for these are not usually available in hand-made paper units.

INDIAN SHORT STAPLE COTTON AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT

DESPITE restricted acreage of cotton cultivation and increased consumption of Indian cotton by Indian mills, there is a larger and growing surplus of Indian short staple cotton available for export. This is accounted for by the fact that, as a result of the war, an annual market to the tune of 2½ million bales, mainly of short staple cotton had been lost to India by the loss of the European Continent and Japan as markets. Consequently, despite restricted productions and increased local consumption, the carry-over stocks at the end of every season have been progressively on the increase in the hands of the trade.

At the end of the 1938-39 season, i.e. practically on the eve of the outbreak of the war in the West, stocks of short staple cotton, i.e. cotton less than 7½ inch Staple, amounted to 526,000 bales with the trade. They progressively increased to 2,300,000 bales at the end of the 1943-44 season and are estimated to have amounted to 1,780,000 bales at the end of the 1944-45 season.

Surplus Cotton

The surplus of short staple cotton available for export is, therefore, considerable. Thus, the statement, purported to have been made by the Chief Director of Japan's Textile Association and quoted by a recent press message from New York, that "since India's spinning industry with its wartime expansion now consumed virtually all India's output of raw cotton, the Japanese textile industry was planning reluctantly to manage without Indian raw material in the future", is based on a misapprehension.

Between the 1936-37 and 1940-41 seasons, Japan's off-take of Indian cotton, most of which was short staple, varied between 826,000 and 2,324,000 bales a year.

The Commerce Department is taking steps to clarify the position to the proper quarters and apprise them of the vital interests of India in the cotton trade with Japan.

The Railway Board have sanctioned Engineering and Traffic Surveys being carried out by the agency of the North Western Railway Administration for a line of railway on the Board Gauge from Karachi to Quetta through Kalat, a distance of about 410 miles.

The survey will be known as Karachi-Kalat-Quetta Railway Survey.

Development of Tobacco Cultivation

THE inaugural meeting of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee held in New Delhi has decided that the headquarters of the Committee will in future be at Bombay. The Committee also approved proposals to increase the inspectorate staff under the Agricultural Marketing Adviser, in connection with the Central Government's scheme for the compulsory grading of tobacco for export from India.

Mr. H. R. Stewart, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, who presided at the inaugural meeting, reviewed the work of the previous Tobacco Committees. He pointed out that tobacco had not received much attention in the past for various reasons. Nevertheless, it was important to trade and industry. During the war, a new type of Virginia tobacco, called Amarelo 5, had been involved at the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at Guntur, and is claimed to be superior to Harrison Special in certain qualities, such as earliness, shorter curing time and larger percentage of high-grade leaf.

He also mentioned the valuable contribution which had been made mainly by trade interests by the introduction of Virginia cigarette tobacco in limited areas in the country.

Work of the Committee

Mr. Stewart claimed that the establishment of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee marked the beginning of practical and concerted action to improve and develop all types of tobacco. The tobacco crop occupied less than one half of one per cent. of the total cropped area in the country.

Discussing the work of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, Mr. Stewart said there had been some delay in setting up the Committee. Though this was to be regretted, it had its advantages, for, in the meantime, funds had accumulated from the annual grant of Rs. 10 lakhs which first became available in 1943, and the Committee could now proceed with its plans in the security of those reserves. A considerable sum of money would be needed for such activities as the establishment of experimental farms, research stations and a technological institute, all of which required not only staff but lands, buildings and equipment.

He referred to the assistance received from various sources in the setting up of the

Committee, particularly from the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company who placed at the disposal of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, since November, 1943, the services of one of its senior officers for appointment as Tobacco Adviser at a purely nominal salary and for agreeing to continue that assistance till March, 1947, when the Committee expected to be in a position to provide its own Adviser.

The Committee elected Mr. Mohanlal Ambalal Parikh, representative of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as its first Vice-President. A number of sub-committees were also appointed to deal with finance, agricultural research and development, marketing, technology, etc. It was announced that the Imperial Tobacco Company of India had awarded two annual studentships of the value of £500 per annum for training abroad in agriculture with special reference to tobacco cultivation.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES ABROAD IN AGRICULTURE

A Press Note issued by the Agriculture Department, Government of India, on December 8, stated:

The Imperial Tobacco Co. of India Ltd. has instituted two studentships of the value of £500 each, tenable for two years, to Indian students for studies abroad in agriculture with special reference to tobacco. The Company has left the studentships to the administration of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee constituted by the Government of India.

Pending the formal registration of this Committee, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has accepted the Company's generous offer and the Government of India have agreed to assist in placing the students in suitable institutions abroad. Arrangements for the selection of students are now in hand and it is hoped that they will proceed abroad as soon as the necessary facilities have been secured. The places of study will probably be in the U.S.A.

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have, by a notification issued in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated December 14, 1945, amended the Paper Price Control Order, 1945, and increased the ceiling prices of Kraft and imitation kraft fixed therein by 3 pies per lb. This increase will have effect from January 1, 1946.

BENGAL'S TWENTY-YEAR POST-WAR PLAN

Mr. Geoffrey Tyson's Radio Talk

"**Q**UITE obviously it is not possible to do anything like justice to a Twenty-Year Plan in a broadcast talk of rather less than twenty minutes duration, and all I can hope to, do tonight is to try to direct your attention to the main outlines of Bengal's post-war rehabilitation plan, which, in the language of the official document itself, is designed to raise the standard of living of the common man and to promote his well-being," said Mr. Geoffrey Tyson C.I.E., M.L.A. (Central) in a talk on "Bengal's Post-War Plan" from the Delhi Station of A.I.R. on November 24.

Mr. Tyson continued: "To raise the standard of living of the common man and to promote his well-being is a broad, comfortable and acceptable formula which applies to almost all of the dozens of plans—Indian and otherwise—with which we have been made familiar in recent times, and which are part of a natural and widespread desire to make the post-war world a rather better place than it was before, particularly those parts of it which have suffered most from the ravages and upheaval of war. And let it be said quite frankly, by one who has lived and worked in Bengal for many years—both before and during the war—and who knows most corners of India pretty well, that no other part of India has had to carry quite the same share of the total war effort.

Bengal's Economy

"For Bengal this is not so much a matter of self-pity as of hard fact. Any objective and impartial assessment of the economic stresses of the war in the East will, I think, show that they have fallen with astonishing severity upon a part of India which, in spite of appearances, was ill-equipped to take the strain. The fact is, of course, that Bengal's industrial wealth (real and substantial as it is) is a top-dressing which only serves to hide the exigencies and unstable rural economy that lies beneath, and upon which the vast majority of her 45 million inhabitants depend for the bare means of subsistence and the small cash incomes with which, if they are lucky, they are able to meet their not very elaborate social and family obligations.

"I need not recapitulate all that has happened in the last four or five years. The tragedy of the Famine is recent history; but it is I think worth emphasising that in addition to its grievous physical consequences, the psychological effects of the Famine will be felt in what I may call the Province's nervous system for a good long time to come. Clearly, that is a circumstance of some importance for those who are concerned with the execution of a plan which has as its central objective the promotion of the well-being of the common man of Bengal.

"Perhaps less well known to listeners in other parts of India is the extent to which almost every department of the Province's economic life has been affected by, or subordinated to, the prosecution of the war on the Burma front. Her geographical proximity to India's eastern land and sea border rendered this inevitable, but I doubt if it is generally understood. Denial policy, the closure for long periods of the sea-routes in the Bay of Bengal, the presence in our midst of large concentrations of Allied military forces, the diversion of material resources of all kinds to their maintenance and the construction of military works, the assumption of control over almost all the chief forms of transport—these and other things were all necessary to the successful prosecution of the war on the Burma front.

Post-War Reconstruction

"They imposed a strain upon Bengal's economy which was only just tolerable in a regime of rapidly growing shortages, but when on top of these things there came such major calamities as the Midnapore Cyclone and the Damodar Flood, the ordinary man might well be forgiven if at one time he began to think Bengal had been totally deserted by an unkindly Providence.

"I have roughed in this rather gloomy background at some length, not because I want to pitch a hard-up tale on behalf of Bengal, but because some understanding of it is essential to consideration of the Bengal Plan itself and also because it is necessary to say, quite simply, that when we talk of post-war reconstruction in Bengal, we mean reconstruction in its most literal sense—reconstruction of almost the whole economic fabric of the Province. By comparison with other Provinces more happily circumstanced, Bengal starts the work of planning and reconstruction behind scratch. On a twenty-year view, a Bengal, better, happier and more prosperous than in 1939, will emerge; but at short-range the first task is to correct the economic dislocation and disequilibria which are the immediate legacy of the war.

"Now, to the Plan itself. The fact that it has been drawn up to cover a span of 20 years, obviously means that during this period it will undergo modification, enlargement and revision in the light of changing conditions—both economic and political. However, a first instalment announces projects which are regarded as the most urgent and which can, it is calculated, be executed within the first five years of the Plan's operation. It is pointed out that they also carry the germs of a long-term policy; but as I have already suggested on further examination, and with the effluxion of time, both means and ends are likely to undergo some modification.

"In the forefront of Government's immediate objectives stand the liquidation of the Permanent Settlement, comprehensive irrigation and land reclamation projects, the development of subsidiary industries, improved agricultural, veterinary and health services, the construction of over 3,500 miles of new roads, the implementation of the Sargent Report so far as it applies to Bengal and the strengthening of the administration.

"The emphasis is on agricultural and rural development. The liquidation of the Permanent Settlement will begin first in five selected districts of the Province, and it is estimated that this will take 11 years to complete, but progress after the sixth year will be accelerated and the entire Province will be covered in 23 years. In the first five years, the cost of this particular item is estimated at Rs. 12 crores.

Better Irrigation

"Apart from a number of smaller irrigation schemes, the highlights of the plans for better irrigation are the Damodar Valley Project and the More Reservoir Project, both of which will benefit large areas of the Province which will be called upon to finance irrigation, and drainage schemes amounting to Rs. 37.19 crores. Land development and reclamation schemes are to go hand in hand with the expansion of agricultural research, the improvement and care of livestock, sericulture, pisciculture, afforestation, etc.

"The Plan does not deal with major industries, the development of which comes within the purview of the Government of India, although a number of technical institutions are to be reorganised or set up to help to resettle the returned soldier, and produce technicians to meet the post-war requirements of industry.

"Comprehensive measures are proposed in the field of public health and all existing hospitals are to be improved and their equipment increased. Five hundred new rural dispensaries are to be added to the 1,700 already func-

tioning, and qualified doctors are to be encouraged to settle and practice in rural areas. The creation of a systematised rural water supply system aiming at one source of supply for every hundred people and the establishment of a Bengal Nursing Service, as well as vigorous anti-malarial measures under the direction of a malariologist of international repute, are some of the chief items of a public health campaign that should command universal support. The co-operative movement is to be overhauled and reconstructed, a decision which was urgently necessary.

Financial Implications

"Such in very broad outline are the proposals for the first five years, at the end of which period the total cost of all schemes (omitting national highways which are a Central responsibility) will amount to Rs. 145 crores. This is a very big sum of money, and having regard to the current state of Bengal's finances, I cannot see that she will be able to carry the programme through without a generous measure of extraneous help.

"The Government of India have suggested that Bengal may 'tentatively assume' that her share of the Central Post-War Development Fund will, during the first five years' period be approximately Rs. 69 crores, which leaves a balance of Rs. 76 crores to be found, in one way or another, by the Province itself. The authors of the Plan frankly admit that, without assistance from the Government of India, the Province could not possibly carry the annual burden which the complete programme will impose upon provincial revenues. Loans, additional taxation, and budgetary surpluses are the only possible means by which this balance of Rs. 76 crores can be found over a period of five years, and there will necessarily be honest differences of opinion as to whether any or all of them are feasible.

"You see, whilst most other Provinces already possess substantial post-war reconstruction balances, Bengal is carrying a heavy burden of unproductive debt owed to the Central Government on account of heavy and inescapable commitments in the field of civil supplies. Whilst this liability will progressively diminish and I hope ultimately disappear altogether, it is clear from the calculations of the Woodhead Commission that for some time at least it will carry into and overlap the period in which the development plan will be gaining its original momentum.

"That is one of the things I had in mind when I said that this matter of post-war reconstruction and planning in Bengal is starting

(Continued on page 51)

LADY LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN RED CROSS

RS. 13,000,000 were subscribed by the people of India towards Red Cross supplies for the troops in the 14th Army Theatre alone. This was revealed by Lady Louis Mountbatten in a broadcast talk entitled "The Joint War Organisation of the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association" from A.I.R., New Delhi, on Saturday, December 1, 1945.

Commenting on the great task of bringing comfort and relief to the sick, wounded and prisoners of war carried out in the face of untold difficulties, Lady Louis Mountbatten said: "The sudden capitulation of the Japanese presented the Indian Red Cross with a tremendous task, since with the British and Australian Red Crosses it played a great part in the recovery and relief of over 260,000 Allied nationals, who had been in Japanese hands. The work was co-ordinated by a Red Cross Committee at the Headquarters, South East Asia Command, and proved outstandingly successful, although the operations presented untold problems.

"Indian women were among the welfare workers who were at the assembly areas ready to meet their released prisoners and internees. It was perhaps there that their help was most needed and their cheerful sympathy and practical work most appreciated. Over 50,000 destitute women and children were clothed from supplies sent from India."

Lady Louis Mountbatten added: "I have just come back from Batavia after a journey that has taken me through 16 different countries, in all of which the great work of the Red Cross has been carried out. The Indian Red Cross service has penetrated to the heart of Burma, Siam, Malaya, Java, Sumatra; Borneo, Manila and Hong Kong. It was a particular happiness for me to find Indian prisoners of war in the first camp and the first hospital I entered the day after the Japanese surrender in Tokyo."

Appeal for Funds

Referring to the task of rehabilitation of disabled Indian soldiers and appealing for funds, Lady Louis Mountbatten said: "That is why we are appealing to you to add to your already more than generous donations to the Indian Red Cross so that the further demands of military and civil relief may be met. Those members of the Indian Red Cross who have worked so gallantly throughout the war, want to feel they can finish the job. With your help they can; and they also will be left with sufficient funds to enable them to make at least a beginning of their vast peacetime programmes."



Lady Louis Mountbatten.

Lady Louis Mountbatten said: "I feel privileged to have this opportunity of speaking to you today, for, during the war, I, more probably than any other single individual, have seen for myself the tremendous task that has been carried out by the Indian Red Cross and St. John not only in India, Burma and the recently liberated territories, but throughout the Central Mediterranean, the Middle East and in Paiforce. It is perhaps natural also that I should have taken a very close and personal interest in it as India has contributed over 80 per cent of my husband's gallant troops who fought throughout the Burma campaign. During the whole war and in many parts of the world, it has been a real pride to me, as it is to so many of my colleagues of the British Red Cross and St. John, to work alongside the members of the Indian Red Cross in their great task of bringing comfort and relief to the sick, wounded and prisoners of war.

"Every one knows of the magnificent achievements of the 14th Army, even though, to attain them, fighting had to take place over some of the worst country in the world and in the world's worst climate and conditions. Their job, however, was made easier by the fine work of the Indian Red Cross who gave

practically all the Red Cross service that the armies needed. Thirteen million rupees were subscribed by the people of India for the troops in that theatre alone, so many of them the gallant sons of India. The British Tommy, who fought alongside his Indian comrade, will always remember with gratitude the enormous range of Red Cross supplies as well as those little personal comforts that mean so much to him amid the horrors of a jungle campaign. He will also remember the Indian Red Cross workers in the hospital units distributing the supplies, writing letters for the patients and running the libraries and entertainments for the men.

Tracing the Missing and Wounded

"There was also an enquiry office for tracing the missing and wounded. Reports on the patients were sent to their homes, and news of their families obtained for the men. Specially trained members taught the men handicrafts of all kinds such as leather work, embroideries, toy-making, which not only helped them to pass the time, but assisted them in regaining their confidence and their health.

"The sudden capitulation of the Japanese presented the Indian Red Cross with a tremendous task, since with the British and Australian Red Crosses, it played a great part in the recovery and relief of over 260,000 Allied nationals who had been in Japanese hands. The work was co-ordinated by a Red Cross Committee at the Headquarters, South East Asia Command, and proved outstandingly successful, although the operations presented untold problems. It was tackled by stages. First came the dropping of medical, food and Red Cross stores by air into the prison and internment camps, these camps having been located by special groups of men who had previously parachuted into the territories still occupied by the Japanese, and who, risking their lives, sent out information regarding the positions of the camps and their most urgent requirements. Many medical personnel were dropped at the same time.

Clothing for Women and Children

"Imagine the feelings of prisoners of war and internees as they opened these parcels to find not only food, clothing and much needed medical supplies, but all those little luxuries of which they had been deprived for so long—sweets, cigarettes, writing and reading material and, above all, soap. Then there were toilet requisites that meant so much to the women who had suffered long years of internment. More than half of these special parcels came from

the Indian Red Cross, and I myself was in many camps when the parachutes and containers descended. Indian women were among the welfare workers who were at the assembly areas ready to meet the released prisoners and internees. It was perhaps there that their help was most needed, and their cheerful sympathy and practical work most appreciated. Over 50,000 destitute women and children were clothed from supplies sent from India. These welfare workers carried their work still further, traveling home with the released prisoners and ministering to their wants on the voyage.

"Throughout the whole recovery and evacuation which was carried out with such speed and efficiency, there has been the closest co-operation between the Indian and other Red Crosses and the welfare organisations operating in South East Asia. They worked hand in hand with R.A.P.W.I., the organisation for recovering Allied prisoners of war and internees. Men, women and children scattered over vast distances and found to remote jungle, swamp and forest camps were recovered with amazing speed from a dozen tropical countries and islands and sent on their journeys home. The job was so successfully accomplished that R.A.P.W.I., was said to stand for: "Return all prisoners of war instantly."

Work in the Far East

"I have just come back from Batavia after a journey that has taken me through 16 different countries, in all of which the great work of the Red Cross has been carried out. The Indian Red Cross service has penetrated to the heart of Burma, Siam, Malaya, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Manila and Hong Kong. It was a particular happiness for me to find Indian prisoners of war in the first camp and the first hospital I entered the day after the Japanese surrender in Tokyo. Everywhere I went I was touched to receive such a lovely welcome from the Indian prisoners who, however ill or emaciated they were, would stagger from their straw huts with little bunches of flowers they had managed to pick for me. Their incredible smartness and discipline even in the worst possible conditions was outstanding and surely the greatest tribute to their courage and endurance. Having spent some weeks in India and the Far East the earlier part of this year, I was able, in my limited way, to give them news of their homes which they had not seen for so long.

"The work of repatriation is almost completed, the war is over, but the rehabilitation of disabled Indian soldiers is only just beginning. Comfort and service is being provided for these men and they are being taught trades which will fit them for a new life when they leave the army, but we must remember, above all, the men

who have suffered most, those who have sacrificed their capability for work, the permanent and long-term disabled cases.

"It is the desire of the Indian Red Cross to establish a home where these war prisoners may have all the personal care, attention and comfort they deserve. There are still also Indian troops in many parts of the world to be cared for. There is relief to be given to many Indian civilians scattered over vast areas, who must be helped back to their health and their country. That is why we are appealing to you to add to your already more than generous donations to the Indian Red Cross, so that the further demands of military and civil relief may be met. These members of the Indian Red Cross who have worked so gallantly throughout the war, want to feel they can finish the job. With your help they can, and they also will be left with sufficient funds to enable them to make at least a beginning of their vast peacetime programme."

POST-WAR UNIFORMS FOR INDIAN ARMY

New post-war uniforms for the Indian Army have been inspected by the C-in-C. in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, and Army commanders at an exhibition in the War Room, G.H.Q., New Delhi, arranged by the Post-War Dress Committee (Fighting Services, India).

The chief interest centred in the combined ceremonial and walking out dress which the Committee has provisionally decided to recommend. Made up from olive green drill material, which is expected eventually to supersede khaki drill entirely, this new uniform comprises a square cut patrol jacket with self colour collar, pointed cuffs and detachable shoulder straps; the trousers will have neither turn-ups nor stripes. Headdress will be either a beret or *pugri*, use being made of regimental colours.

Simplicity, combined with smartness, is the keynote of this dress, but colour will not be entirely absent. Piping in regimental colour on the shoulder straps, regimental badges worn on the collar, silver or brass buttons, and the use of belts in black or brown leather or of white webbing will make for distinctive dress. Cloth belts are recommended for walking out wear.

The designing of the new dress has been based on data gained from a questionnaire submitted to a cross-section of all ranks, classes and arms of the Indian Army, in which a two-thirds majority were in favour of a separate walking out dress rather than the traditional regimental mufti.

SIR HOMI MEHTA'S MESSAGE TO INDIAN RED CROSS

SIR Homi Mehta, who returned recently, from a tour of inspection in the Middle East, sent the following message to the Indian Red Cross and St John on the occasion of the recent Red Cross Week:

"I write this to record my appreciation of the extremely good work done by our Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation.

"I was also eminently struck with the work done in London under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Amery in sending food parcels and clothing to Indian prisoners of war in camps in Europe. I was mightily pleased that, under Mrs. Amery's guidance, thousands of girls were working for the benefit of our Indian soldiers; all the work was mostly voluntary.

"During my tour, I visited the whole of Italy, Greece, Egypt and the important centres in the Middle East. In all these areas, I visited camps, soldiers' clubs, Indian Y.M.C.A.s health and rest camps, base hospitals and field hospitals, convalescent homes and saw the excellent work being done; you have to be proud of your organisation. I also found Red Cross workers who were full of sympathy, love and understanding towards the sick and wounded.

Educational Work

"I also observed the good educational work done in the hospitals by the Red Cross by furnishing all sorts of material for the various handicrafts and lady instructors to teach them. These educational therapy departments (Diversional Therapy) at every hospital, were a means of making our lads happy and it kept them occupied both in mind and body and enabled them to forget their wounds and illnesses to a large extent.

"This instructional therapy has also given them an opportunity to learn an art which would be useful and profitable to them when they are demobilised."

Every officer and warrant officer of the Indian Services when released or honourably discharged will receive a letter of thanks from the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck. This applies to releases both in India and other countries, except the United Kingdom, since May 8, 1945. Those released in the United Kingdom after this date are to receive a similar letter from the Secretary of State for India.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1946.

Biography

SIR AKBAR HYDARI

SIR AKBAR HYDARI'S assumption of charge on November 1, 1945, of the Information and Broadcasting portfolio in the Viceroy's Executive Council is another step in a career of valuable public service. He follows in the footsteps of his distinguished father, the late Sir Akbar Hydari, who was the first Information Member of the Government of India, and held office from 1941 until his death in 1942, coming to New Delhi from the Prime Ministership of Hyderabad State.

The family belongs to Gujerat, and is descended from the Arabs who followed in the wake of Abul Qassim, the conqueror of Sind, and settled down on the west coast of India. Sir Akbar's grandfather, who is buried in Cambay, was a merchant trading with China; his grandfather on the mother's side was a merchant banker and also a distinguished Arabic scholar. They are members of the Suleimani Bohra community whose religious heads are in Arabia.

Sir Akbar was educated at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, and at Balliol College, Oxford. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1919, and was appointed to the Madras Presidency.

Served Indian Cause in Ceylon

Sent to Ceylon in 1927 as Agent of the Government of India, he put up a strenuous fight for the Indian franchise before the Donoughmore Commission. The Indian cause won because Sir Akbar was not afraid to threaten the withdrawal of the Indian labour force if the franchise was denied.

His next appointment was that of Secretary to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, formed in 1929, with Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya as Vice-Chairman. The Council's first achievement was to obtain the imposition of a protective duty on sugar in the teeth of opposition. This proved to be a landmark in the economic history of India, for, within a few years, the country became self-sufficient in sugar, a fact which has saved many headaches during the war.

In 1931 Sir Akbar went to the Second Round Table Conference as adviser to his father and the Princes' delegation. He also attended the Third Round Table Conference and Joint Parliamentary Committee as an adviser. He regards the time spent on these constitutional discussions, during which he made many contacts, as an important educative period in his career.



Sir Akbar Hydari.

At the end of this political work, he came back as Joint Secretary to the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Central Government. Here, in conjunction with Sir Evan Jenkins, then Chief Commissioner, he helped in the introduction of a new sewage disposal system and an anti-malarial organisation for Delhi. Nearly Rs. one crore was wrung out of Government in 1936-37 for these enterprises, and so successful was the work done that, just before the war, there was neither an evil smell nor a malarial mosquito in Delhi. The rapid congestion of the Capital due to the war has brought the malaria evil back again.

As Secretary of the Labour Department, to which he went in 1938, he continued to interest himself in the improvement of the Capital. He drew up a plan for a boulevard on the bank of the Jumna and a park extending from the Jumna Bridge to Okhla, to provide a lung for the growing city. The outbreak of war stopped the project, but the land has been reserved and awaits development.

Another achievement, on which he can look back with pride and satisfaction, is the Technical Training Scheme initiated in 1940 after the

fall of France, for the training of thousands of Indian boys at Government expense in a variety of skilled occupations. These young men are the spearhead of India's industrial advance. When he was in Britain recently, he paid a visit to a batch of Bevin boys at Cardiff and was glad to see the success of this part of the scheme demonstrated by their happiness in their work and the satisfaction of their instructors.

Eastern Group Supply Council

When the Eastern Group Supply Council was formed in 1941 to tackle the problems of military supplies he was appointed India's representative on the Council and, later, its Chairman.

His work is said to have dispelled the idea that India attended the proceedings as the poor orphan child, while the Dominions came there in the role of the wicked uncles. He encouraged the expansion of old industries and the starting of new ones to meet unexpected war demands. India's geographical position placed her at the centre of the Eastern Group, and Sir Akbar saw to it that a great part of the production of the thousands of articles demanded by the war was allocated to India.

After the fall of Malaya and Burma, the Council was disbanded and Sir Akbar was asked by Lord Linlithgow, the then Viceroy of India, to organise an Industries and Civil Supplies Department in 1943 to halt the grave deterioration of civil economy which had set in by then, and to improve it. For the first time a central authority began to watch over the needs of the ordinary man and woman in India. Sir Akbar persuaded the cotton millowners to co-operate in setting up and enforcing governmental control over the textile industry. Their agreement was the model for controls in the drug, paper, footwear and other industries. He also led a successful mission to Britain to obtain reductions in the size of military orders placed in India and thus release additional productive capacity and materials for civilian needs.

Sir Akbar thinks that there is a bright future for Indian industry provided research is encouraged and developed, uniform standards of quality enforced and maintained, and good technicians employed. He believes that many wartime enterprises will survive and that those deserving assistance in the national interest will get it. He thinks that the Indian Ocean might well become the Mediterranean of the future, and the countries bordering it come closer by ties of industry, commerce and culture as did countries round the Mediterranean in ancient times.

NEW SET-UP OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

WHEN the last war came to an end in 1919 the Government of India Secretariat consisted of nine departments with about thirty Secretariat officers of different grades.

The number of departments remained constant and the number of Secretariat officers only slightly increased up to 1939, when war broke out and the Government of India was called upon to deal with a variety of novel and difficult problems. It became necessary to split up some of the old departments as also to create new departments, with the result that the Secretariat expanded enormously.

In place of the nine departments which existed previous to the war, 19 departments are, at the present moment, functioning, and there has been even greater increase in the number of Secretariat officers.

Post-War Problems

The cessation of hostilities and the post-war outlook have not only created new problems, but have also brought out the necessity for a more manageable set-up and a review of the Secretariat machine, and its procedure.

Work directly connected with war conditions will no doubt decrease as time goes on; but many schemes of post-war development are afoot entailing the expenditure and administration of very large sums of money; and a considerable number of the extra officers now employed in the Secretariat will no doubt be required for these purposes. Nearly all these extra officers have been procured from various provinces in India, and provincial services and cadres in consequence have been put to great strain.

Sir Richard Tottenham has been placed on special duty to investigate these problems. He is not concerned, it may be stated, with the future of all-India Service like the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service. His main job is to consider how the requirements of the Centre and the Provinces in respect of Secretariat personnel may be met, balanced and adjusted, in a manner satisfactory to both and, in addition, to make proposals for an efficient and economical set-up at the Centre in the light of future requirements.



The Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, conversing over the telephone with Lord Listowel, Postmaster-General, London.

London-India Telephone Service Re-opened

LIFTING the telephone receiver at his residence at 5, Queen Victoria Road, New Delhi, on the afternoon of December 3 at 3 p.m., the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India, was put through to London, so re-opening the direct Overseas Radio-Telephone Service between the United Kingdom and India, which was suspended during the war.

Speaking from his study, Sir Mahomed Usman exchanged cordial greetings with Lord Listowel, Postmaster-General, London, whose voice came through distinctly. The sentiment expressed on either side was that this link would bring about more and more cordial relations between the two countries.

In the course of the conversation, the two heads of the tele-communication systems in the United Kingdom and India emphasised the fact

that it was again possible for two people in countries of the Empire, 5,000 miles apart, to talk to each other, thus bringing back very definitely the blessings of peace and renewed hopes of useful and profitable co-operation, not only within the British Commonwealth, but also between all nations.

Further Development

Referring to the usefulness of the Overseas Radio-Telephone Service, Sir Mahomed Usman said: "We must be grateful to the engineers, both in England and India, who have worked so hard to make the restoration of this Service possible, which, I trust will continue uninterrupted for years to come."

It is expected that very shortly the Overseas Radio-Telephone Service will be extended from India to Ceylon and then to Burma and beyond. The trunk telephone system in India has been greatly expanded during the war and a number of British Post Office Engineers were lent by the Army to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department to assist in the development schemes.

RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

Nawab M. A. Gurmani's Address

“OUR aim is to treat demobilisation as a creative remobilisation for peace”, declared Nawab M. A. Gurmani, Director-General, Resettlement, addressing on December 12, the fourth batch of trainees at the Managerial Staff Training Centre, Delhi.

Nawab Gurmani revealed that a comprehensive scheme for vocational training was being prepared and provision was being made for the training of 20,000 persons in agricultural and allied occupations and 50,000 persons in other occupations.

He added that it was now proposed to expand the scope of training so as to include the training of 240 Resettlement Advice Officers and Rehabilitation Officers under the schemes for Resettlement Advice Service and the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Disabled Services personnel. Two officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service have been appointed as Deputy Directors of Training and Inspection and are expected shortly from England. A Deputy Chief Rehabilitation Officer from the U.K. will shortly undertake the training of Rehabilitation Officers in the technique of advising disabled Services personnel at the Post-Hospital Rehabilitation Centres.

Dealing with the problem of the resettlement of an unprecedentedly large number of ex-Servicemen and war workers he said: “We are fully alive to the complexity and magnitude of the task that confronts us and realise that on its accomplishment will depend the future development and progress of India”.

Employment Exchanges

Nawab Gurmani expressed satisfaction that the scheme for the Resettlement and Employment Organisation has met with the general approval of Provincial Governments and of the employers' and workers' organisations. Reviewing its work since April 1945, the Nawab mentioned the publication “A Guide to Occupational Classification and Registration for Applicants”, which gives detailed information regarding various categories of skilled workers who would be available for employment after demobilisation.

A net-work of 71 Employment Exchanges throughout the country has been set up to deal with the registration and placement of ex-Servicemen. The Central Employment Exchange, which acts as an inter-Provincial clearing house, is distributing to all Central Government Departments, Provincial Governments, employers' associations and important employers fortnightly lists of Services personnel and clerical staff retrenched from Central Government Departments. In addition to the forecast of release from the Army up to the end of May 1945, a second forecast covering the next phase of demobilisation is being prepared.

Thirty thousand seats have been provided for the training of ex-Servicemen in a wide range of engineering and building trades. This training, Nawab Gurmani observed, would take full account of the fact that if there was a gap between the setting up of new factories and the arrival of machinery the trained men would be able to start work on their own small scale or cottage industries.

Rs. 9 Crores for Benefit of Servicemen

More than Rs. 9 crores—accumulated in the Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund—are to be used for the benefit of Indian Servicemen, says an official statement from General Headquarters.

The Fund has been built up by servicemen themselves, contributing at the monthly rate of Rs. 2 for combatants and Re. 1 for non-combatants.

Eighty per cent. of the total amount is to be distributed to the Provinces and States and 20 per cent. retained in the central fund. The allotment to Provinces will be administered by a Committee with the Governor, in his personal capacity, as chairman and four members of whom one will be nominated by the Commander-in-Chief in India.

Certain broad directions have been given regarding the manner in which the money may be spent. In general it is to be employed for the collective benefit of servicemen although it may in certain circumstances be used for the individual.

The central fund will be devoted to items not covered by the Provinces. The C-in-C. will be the chairman of a committee which will administer this fund.

PLANS FOR REHABILITATION OF DISABLED SERVICEMEN

AS already announced, the Government of India have sanctioned a scheme for the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled Indian Servicemen. Further details are given in orders recently issued by the three Services.

Any Indian serviceman who is substantially handicapped in obtaining work on account of an injury, disease or deformity resulting from service since September, 1939, will be entitled to various forms of treatment and training before final discharge from the Services.

Those who are now in military hospitals and who would previously have been discharged from the Services will, instead, on completion of their hospital treatment, be given the same facilities for vocational training as any other ex-serviceman.

Rehabilitation Centres

For this purpose, seven post-hospital rehabilitation centres are being set up. They will cater, at any one time, for 5,500 disabled ex-servicemen. The first three centres are opening shortly at Bangalore, Moradabad and Bareilly.

Converted from military convalescent depots, the rehabilitation centres aim at putting the disabled on equal terms with able-bodied ex-Servicemen. Medical advice will be continued and civilian trade instructors will carry out elementary instruction in trades which will enable the men to earn their living after discharge.

Among the trades taught are carpentry, tinsmith and metal work, leatherwork, tailoring, cane and basket-weaving, cloth-weaving. All men will be interviewed by Labour Department Advice Service Officers who will judge their abilities and make recommendations regarding future training and employment.

Servicemen already discharged as disabled will be given every encouragement to avail themselves of medical treatment, post-hospital rehabilitation or ordinary vocational training. Those who accept any of these will continue to be paid their disability pension together with an allowance which will bring the total up to the pay they were receiving before discharge. Rehabilitation and training will not affect the individual's pension on final discharge.

Blind ex-servicemen will continue to be treated and trained at St. Dunstan's, Dehra Dun.

FINANCIAL CONCESSIONS FOR INDIAN TROOPS

Financial concessions for pre-war regular soldiers of the Indian Army, who are released before they have earned ordinary pensions, have now been decided.

Of regular soldiers not all will be absorbed into the post-war Army, and the new provisions apply to those compulsorily discharged on or after May 8, 1945, other than as invalids, or on disciplinary grounds or for inefficiency, provided they have not qualified for ordinary or disability pensions.

Regulars who were V.C.O.s or N.C.O.s before September 3, 1939 and sepoy soldiers who are on a pre-war type of engagement, will get full “mustering out” concessions under Pension Regulations for the Army in India. Emergency Commissioned Officers who were V.C.O.s before September 3, 1939, will be given these concessions as subedars.

Concessions

Pre-war regular soldiers on the active list on September 3, 1939, who were granted Emergency Commissions or were promoted to V.C.O. or N.C.O. on or after that date will (unless provided for in the preceding paragraph) get the following concessions: (a) Those with less than ten years qualifying service, gratuity of one month's pay for each completed year of service, pay and allowances being as for release leave as defined in Army Instruction (India) 799/45; and (b) Those with ten years or more qualifying service, three-fourths of the rates of pensions laid down in Rule 318 of Pension Regulations. For this purpose Emergency Commissioned Officers will be assessed on the rank of subedar.

The pensions of V.C.O.s and N.C.O.s will be assessed on their war substantive ranks.

Pre-war pensioners who were re-employed after September 3, 1939, will not get these concessions.

Special endorsements are no longer required on the passports of British subjects proceeding from India to the United Kingdom or to Empire countries, except Australia, Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa, said a Press Communique issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India.

SURVEY WORK IN THE PUNJAB AND N.-W.F. PROVINCE

A HIGH precision survey of the congested, semi-congested and open areas of Lahore, started in 1938, was carried on by ground survey methods unassisted by air photographs. This field work was well on its way to completion by the spring of 1940 and, as the need for it was urgent, it was completed in the following year, says the Survey of India's Civil Activities Report covering the war period, 1939-45.

Despite the urgent needs of the war, civil survey work was continued; with many reconstruction projects demanding immediate attention, this work is now increasing.

In 1942 a surveyor was sent with Sir Aurel Stein's expedition to the Western Indus Kohistan. He conducted an exploratory survey of about 1,150 sq. miles in an area which had not been previously surveyed and had remained almost unexplored. Between 1942 and 1944 about 750 sq. miles of new surveys were completed by air methods while meeting military demands.

At the request of the Afghan Government and in collaboration with the Geological Survey of India a survey was carried out of certain coal areas north of Kabul. This included a small-scale ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch) survey of a general nature and large-scale work in areas found suitable for extraction of coal.

Special surveys requested by the N.-W.F.P. Government were undertaken for settlement purposes in certain hilly areas of the Kurram Agency and Hazara district; and in Gurgaon district for irrigation and division of land into blocks, as desired by the Punjab Government. The Kurram work involved 200 sq. miles, the Hazara work 1,000 sq. miles and the Gurgaon work 700 sq. miles. In the last named area the field work was over in April 1945 but the office work continued until September.

Scientific Work

The military need for scientific work on the outbreak of hostilities with Japan increased greatly and though this kind of work was suspended early in the war, the War Survey Research Institute had to be created. This Institute has carried out most valuable work for the Armed Forces, much of which will be of great use in furthering reconstruction and development aims in peacetime. War necessity has been responsible for high strides in the design of instruments and the application of methods that expedite and cheapen the precision survey technique.

The Institute under Dr. J. de Graaff Hunter, C.I.E., M.A., Sc. D., F.R.S., has carried out considerable research work in addition to providing a great amount of data of various sorts required for military purposes, including tidal data at many ports. Research has also been directed towards improvement of base measurement apparatus and a new technique has been developed which will expedite precision surveys with consequent economy.

SECUNDERABAD TOWN RESTORED TO NIZAM'S GOVERNMENT

THE administration of the Secunderabad Town by the Resident at Hyderabad and the Cantonment Board terminated on December, 1945.

By the treaties of 1798 and 1800 arrangements were made between the Hon. the East Indian Company and His Highness the Nizam for a large force of the Company's troops to be permanently stationed in the territories of the latter for their general defence and protection. In 1806 after the various military campaigns, that marked the beginning of the 19th century in India, had been successfully completed, this subsidiary force made its permanent home near the northern edge of the Husain Sagar lake.

The new Cantonment, which was named Secunderabad after the then Nizam, attracted in course of time so large a population that it became too congested for military convenience, and gradually the regimental lines and other military installations have been moved northwards and eastwards into the more open and higher ground there available.

Process Completed

This process has now been practically completed and the military area is no longer intermixed with Secunderabad town, which from insignificant beginnings as a bazar for the followers of the troops, has developed into a large commercial centre, with a population of over 150,000.

As there is therefore no longer any military necessity for retaining control over Secunderabad and the administration of so large a town by a Cantonment Board is anomalous, His Excellency the Crown Representative has acceded to the request of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government that the jurisdiction now exercised by the British Government in the Cantonment should be restored to them, so far as the Secunderabad town area is concerned.

FORMATION OF RIVER COMMISSIONS

Central Board of Irrigation Meeting

THE need to create river development authorities for settling disputes between Provinces and States was emphasised in a resolution of the Central Board of Irrigation at its annual meeting held recently in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, Chief Irrigation Engineer, U.P.

Information available from various Provinces and States regarding the existing and proposed irrigation projects was pooled during the discussions. It was felt that the formation of river commissions was the best way to ensure protection of the interests of all Provinces and States.

By another resolution, the Government of India were asked to set up a committee to advise on data to be collected for assessing indirect benefits from irrigation. Until such time as the monetary value of the indirect benefits can be assessed, the Board recommended that the criterion for judging whether an irrigation project is productive or not should be: that the estimated net revenue shall not be less than the anticipated interest on the sum at charge when the project is fully developed.

Other Decisions

Among other decisions were the establishment of close contact with the International Commission for High Dams and the reorganisation and transfer from Simla to Delhi of the office of the Board. The Board also examined the work done by the Research Committee in its annual meeting in July last and accepted most of its recommendations.

Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India and Chairman of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, has been elected President of the Board for the ensuing year.

During their stay in Delhi the members of the Board visited the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.

By a notification in the *Gazette of India*, the Central Government have withdrawn all restrictions on the sale and acquisition of machine tools under the Machine Tool Control Order, 1941, and henceforward no licence will be required from the Machine Tool Controller for the sale or acquisition of machine tools.

INDIA'S PORT CAPACITY OVER PRE-WAR FIGURE

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on December 7, said:

The Government of India in February last appointed an Inter-departmental Committee to report on the adequacy of the major ports of India for dealing with the anticipated trade during the years immediately after the war. The report of the Inter-departmental Committee was placed before the Policy Committee on Transport which met at Delhi in October last and was referred to in the Press Note issued on that occasion.

The findings of the Committee included the basic fact that the port improvements effected during the war had gone a long way towards making them generally fit to meet the future needs of trade and commerce, and that the capacity of the ports was increased by as much as 25 per cent. The general opinion of the Committee was, first, that a moderate increase in port traffic was to be expected in the first few years after the war, secondly, that the ports of India are on the whole well prepared to meet likely trade developments for about five years after the war, and, thirdly, that the expectation of the country's development does not, by itself, justify immediately any port schemes of the first magnitude, such as the establishment of new large ports or greatly extended docks at ports already in being.

Deep Sea Ports

It is recognised that, at most ports, the equipment has been heavily overworked during the war and some of it is now out of date. Port authorities have, therefore, been advised to prepare schemes for covering future trade needs, partially by expansion but mainly by replacing their old plant and machinery with more modern equipment.

The possibility of more deep-sea ports being required on the long seaboard of India, and, in particular, one of easy access to large ships on the East Coast, has not been overlooked. Government now propose immediately to appoint a technical committee to explore this possibility in particular and also to examine and advise on harbour schemes which have been put forward and merit special investigation.

Persons and concerns in India can now carry on private trade with persons and concerns in Norway and Czechoslovakia subject to the existing export, import and financial regulations in force in this country.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL MEMBERS IN RANGOON

MEMBERS of the Indian National Defence Council rounded off their stay in Rangoon by going on a jeep tour and addressing meetings and seeing units stationed as far away as Tharrawaddy.

The first meeting was held in the garrison theatre, Mingaladon, and was addressed by Pandit Rajnath Kunzru in Hindustani. The second one, at Tharrawaddy, was handled by Major Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann. At both places the members were introduced to the representative gathering by Maj. I. J. S. Bhutalia, Welfare Officer with South Burma District, writes an Army Observer.

Members of the Council also visited the 25th Indian Mountain Regiment where they discussed problems with officers and men of the 5th Bombay Mountain Battery, the oldest Indian mountain battery, and the 23rd Quetta Mountain Battery. The next formation visited was the Lushai Brigade, commanded by Brig. P. C. Marindin. The day's engagements concluded with a call on the 67th Field Ambulance, commanded by Lt.-Col. F.C. Tata, I.A.M.C.



Maj.-Gen. W. A. Crowther greets Pandit R. Kunzru (above) and Professor Ahmad Shah (below) at the Moulmein Airport.



REPATRIATION OF EVACUEES TO BURMA

N ECESSARY arrangements having been completed, a detailed procedure regarding the registration and issue of Identity Certificates to Indian evacuees desirous of returning to Burma has now been worked out.

Evacuees should present themselves to the Tehsildar or Sub-Divisional Magistrate or Circle Officer or any other officer appointed by Provincial Governments for this purpose in the area in which they are resident, and apply, in the prescribed form, for an Identity Certificate. The application forms are available with the officers mentioned above and can be had free.

Evacuees, who are not in receipt of financial assistance, would be well-advised to bring with them evidence of their status as an evacuee, such as a letter from a responsible office-bearer of a duly constituted evacuee or refugee organisation; or a letter from any person who might have held important official or non-official position in Burma; or a letter from any respectable Burma evacuee well-known in the area; or a certificate from the Central Refugee Officer or Assistant Refugee Officer of the zone; or a certificate from the village headman; or any other document which will prove his evacuee status. One or more of these documents will be sufficient for the purpose.

Embarkation Notice

The Magistrate, after satisfying himself that the applicant is an evacuee, will issue an Identity Certificate. Evacuees should get their Identity Certificates and wait for an 'embarkation notice' from the Protector of Emigrants concerned. These embarkation notices are not likely to issue before March or April 1946.

An evacuee for the purpose of this scheme is any person who was obliged to leave Burma as a result of the war and subsequent Japanese occupation of that country; and any person who was resident in Burma and had left that country prior to the declaration of hostilities and would have returned to Burma if it had not been for the war and the consequent Japanese occupation of that country.

All male adults above the age of 18 are to apply on a separate form and obtain separate Identity Certificates. Male dependents of evacuees below 18 and female dependents of whatever age are not required to apply and obtain separate Identity Certificates. All females, who are not attached to any adult males as dependents, should also apply and obtain separate

Identity Certificates. Any dependents who are to go with such non-dependent females, should be included in the application and the Identity Certificates of such females concerned.

If the evacuees are in a position to obtain small passport-size photographs, such photographs should be produced in duplicate for the purpose of affixing them in the Identity Certificate as well as the duplicate copy of the application form. It would be in the interest of evacuees to affix such photographs, but if the evacuee is not in a position to bear the expense, photographs will not be insisted upon.

This scheme is applicable only to Indian evacuees. The Government of Burma will issue certificates to Burmans, Anglo-Burmans, Anglo-Indians, Indians in the service of the Government of Burma and the rest. Registration which commenced on December 10, 1945 will be completed on January 31, 1946.

The Railway Board have sanctioned engineering and traffic surveys being carried out by the agency of the N.-W. Railway Administration for a line of railway on the broad gauge from Virangam to Badin via Nagar Parker, a distance of about 268 miles.

The survey will be known as the Bombay-Sind connection Railway Survey.

BENGAL'S POST-WAR PLANS

(Continued from page 39)

from a point a good long way behind scratch. As to the finance available, or likely to be available, she stands alone amongst the Provinces, and in somewhat unenviable category by herself.

"As to trained manpower, and the special knowledge necessary to implement some of the highly technical projects connected with post-war planning, we are probably better off than some other Provinces; if only because we have got a well established industrial tradition and a permanent reservoir of what our American friends would call the "know-how" in Calcutta, which, amongst other things, is the headquarters of several Indian key industries including heavy engineering.

"But as the essence of planning is the correct arrangement of priorities, in post-war development (as in every thing else) money talks. And with that simple but inescapable reflection, I bring this very short review of the Bengal Plan to a close."

GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND DETENUS IN MALAYA

THE Government of India have received a full report from Mr. S. K. Chettur, I.C.S., their Representative and Liaison Officer in Malaya, on the condition of Indians there. They have also had the advantage of personal discussion with him.

In a fortnight's tour, Mr. Chettur made a rapid survey of the condition of Indians in Malaya. He contacted all classes of the Indian community and all shades of local Indian public opinion. He interviewed a large number of the Indians now in detention and studied the conditions in which they were lodged. He visited rubber estates and relief centres set up by the British Military Administration (Malaya) and private charitable organisations.

Mr. Chettur also established close personal contacts with officers of the Headquarters staff of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command, and of the British Military Administration (Malaya) who welcomed his arrival. Mr. Chettur obtained their co-operation in dealing with the problems affecting the Indian community.

Indians Arrested in Malaya

The total number of Indians arrested by the Military Administration in Malaya was 114, of whom 9 have been released unconditionally and 32 released provisionally. Six of the remaining 73 are under house arrest. Out of these 73, three are alleged to have been war criminals, 4 Japanese informers, and 15 collaborators guilty of committing crimes or acts of cruelty. The charges against the remaining 51 are of collaboration with the Japanese, of being important members of the Indian Independence League or of joining the Indian National Army. Thirty-one out of the 73 have already been placed before special magistrates for preliminary enquiry.

These Indians have been detained in several jails all over the country and Mr. Chettur found their general health and condition to be satisfactory. In most jails they are being provided with food from their own home and, where this is not being done, satisfactory provision for food has been made. Relatives are ordinarily being allowed to interview them.

The arrests have been made at the instance of the Field Security Unit and those arrested are to be produced before special courts of preliminary enquiry. On the basis of the findings of these courts persons will be committed to the supreme court for regular trial. Mr. Chettur has had special consultations with the prominent

Indians arrested regarding arrangements for their defence. Active effort is being made to ensure that the preliminary enquiry and the trial are expedited.

In the peculiar circumstances of the case, the Government of India feel that they themselves should undertake the defence of their nationals and provide counsel at the expense of the Government of India, particularly for those who are unable to arrange for their own defence. They have, therefore, decided to send out to Malaya, as soon as possible, with the consent of the South East Asia Command, a suitable panel of competent lawyers from India. Mr. Ramani, a well-known barrister of Malaya, has returned and has already been engaged by the Government of India. The measures which the Government of India propose to take for their defence are in keeping with the wishes expressed to Mr. Chettur by practically all the prominent Indians now under detention.

By the co-operation and courtesy of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command, it has been possible for arrangements to be made for the Government of India to depute to Malaya the Hon'ble Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Member of the Council of State and of the Standing Committee of the Department of Commonwealth Relations, and Mr. P. Kodanda Rao. They have first-hand experience of Indians overseas and they will be able to advise the Government of India's Representative and the Indian community in Malaya as regards the various measures that may have to be taken to relieve their present condition.

Medical and other Relief

Mr. Chettur also studied carefully the condition of the Indian population, particularly of the large number of Indian labourers who are now in distress. The British Military Administration and local charitable organisations have already set up relief centres for these people. Funds have been placed at Mr. Chettur's disposal and he has already taken effective action for the improvement of the diet of those who are suffering from malnutrition and for the supply of clothing. A woman welfare officer has been appointed to pay special attention to the needs of women and children on the estates.

Arrangements for medical relief have also been made, and the Government of India are shortly sending out four medical parties with a large store of medical supplies. The British Military Authorities have made arrangements for the employment of able-bodied labourers on rubber estates. Reasonable wages are being paid to the men and women employed on this labour.

Many of the Indians are anxious to return to India for rest and recuperation. Immediate return of very large numbers will not be feasible owing to the shortage of shipping, but the British Military Administration have agreed to take action to facilitate their early return; and non-official committees are also being set up at Singapore and Kuala Lumpur to advise regarding suitable priorities for their return.

Financial Assistance

There is a certain amount of unemployment amongst Indians of the middle classes, particularly those who have suffered from the non-recognition of the Japanese currency. They have, however, tided over the initial period of distress and Mr. Chettur has made arrangements for granting suitable financial assistance to those who are still unable to help themselves.

The Government of India will maintain the closest contact with Mr. Chettur and continue to give Indians in Malaya all the help they can.

WAR MEMORIAL DELEGATION'S AMERICAN SOUVENIR

MEMBERS of the Indian National War Memorial delegation, who returned recently to India after visiting Service institutions in the U.S.A., Canada and the United Kingdom, have brought back an interesting souvenir.

It is a handsomely produced copy of the 1945 *Howitzer*, annual of the United States Military Academy at West Point—inscribed by Brig.-Gen. George Hannen, Commandant of Cadets, U.S.M.A., with the words:

"To the Indian Defence Academy. With the compliments and best wishes of the United States Corps of Cadets".

Bound in beautifully embossed leather, the annual is richly illustrated and gives a thorough introduction to life at West Point.

The delegation, consisting of seven well-known authorities on military and general education, left India in September this year, to bring back suggestions for the organisation of India's National War Memorial, which is to take the form of a "West Point", where officers for India's Armed Services will train together.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO INDIA

THE following statement was made by Lord President in the House of Commons and the Secretary of State in the House of Lords, on the proposed M.P.s visit to India:

"The Government have considered further the character of the proposed Parliamentary Delegation to India to which I referred on December 4. They had originally felt that it would be appropriate for this Delegation to go under the auspices of the Empire Parliamentary Association which does most valuable work in bringing into contact Parliamentary representatives of different parts of the Commonwealth.

"Having regard to the views, expressed in the House, of the use of this particular method in this case and in view of the fact that the Indian branches of the Association are in partial suspense during the dissolution of the legislatures, the Government have now decided to make different arrangements. The Delegation will contain representatives from another place, nominated by the Lord Chancellor, and you, Sir, have kindly agreed, if the House so desires, to nominate the members from this House.

"The question of the status and functions of this Delegation was raised on my earlier statement. I wish to make it clear that the Members will go out as representatives of Parliament to make personal contacts to ascertain individual views and to convey to leading Indians the broad general attitude of the chief political parties in this country. The Delegation will not be in any sense charged with making an official enquiry nor will they be asked to make any formal report."

COTTON WASTE STOCKS: NO DECLARATION NECESSARY

By a notification dated December 8, 1945, the Central Government have cancelled their notification published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated January 31, 1945, by which all dealers in cotton waste, excepting cotton mills, were required to declare at the end of each month their stocks and their commitments for the sale and purchase of cotton waste etc., to the Textile Commissioner Bombay.

This is being issued for the information of all cotton waste merchants, who need not send their declarations with effect from the stock return due for submission for the month of October, 1945.



W.A.C.(I)s are expert armature winders. Their deft hands work at a speed equal and often superior to that of men.

C.-IN-C.'S TRIBUTE TO W.A.C.(I)

THANKING members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) for the help they gave to the Armed Forces during the war, the C.-in-C. of India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, said in Jullundur on December 7:

"It is most important that the women of India should play an increasingly active part in the country's public life. I am all in favour of it myself, for I believe that until they do, progress will be slower. I am going to do my best to ensure that the W.A.C.(I) will remain as a permanent part of India's Defence Service. The Corps of tomorrow will be a completely Indian organisation, and by offering careers to officers and N.C.O.s it will make a valuable contribution to the process of bringing women more fully into the nation's life".

After presenting colours to the boys' company at the Dogra Regimental Centre, writes an Army Observer, the C.-in-C. decorated five men of the 1st and 4th Battalions for gallantry in Burma.

Among the Indian Army's most seasoned campaigners of the war, men of the Dogras had the honour of being the first Indian soldiers to strike at the Japs when the 3rd Battalion opened fire at Kotai Bahru four years ago. The regiment's 1st and 4th M. G. Battalions are now at Sourabaya and Saigon.

Animal Transport Centre

Touring the Animal Transport Centre, Gen. Auchinleck saw how mules and drivers, in an intensive five-week course, were trained for the indispensable role they played in Wingate's airborne expedition and in subsequent operations of the 14th Army. Running a realistic gauntlet of flame and explosives, the animals were led through a carefully graded course of battle effects which included "dive-bomber" attacks as well as the routine drill of entering boats and transport aircraft.

The C.-in-C. also visited the Indian Military Hospital, where he presented the M.C. to an Indian Army doctor for bravery in the landings at Abadan, Persia, in 1941.

C.-IN-C. URGES NEED FOR UNITY

Message to Students

AFTER distributing prizes at the King George's Royal Indian Military College, Jhelum, on the morning of November 28, the C.-in-C. in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, said in a speech to the students: "We are going to start three new colleges as good as this in the south of India and, later, three more elsewhere."

Emphasising the need for complete unity, Gen. Auchinleck declared: "I do not want these new colleges to take boys merely from the part of the country in which they are situated. There is only one army in India and whether we be Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians, we are all serving one country. You must all learn to meet and mix with one another. Self must come last; the team first".

The C.-in-C. also referred to India's future military academy and added: "I hope many of you are here today will attend the Academy."

With a present total of 400 students, whose ages vary from ten to 19 years, the College provides free secondary education and basic military training for the sons of Indian soldiers in the Punjab, writes an Army Observer. Since the beginning of last year, 30 students, representing nearly 60 per cent of all graduates, have secured direct commissions in the Indian Army. Only two other institutions of its kind exist in India—at Ajmer and Jullundur.

Visit to 1st Punjab Regimental Centre

In a tour of the 1st Punjab Regimental Centre where he himself rose from subaltern to Lieut.-Colonel between 1903 and 1930, General Auchinleck decorated seven officers of the regiment for gallantry. He then inspected the Centre's 12-acre farm and saw men at work on various pre-release training projects, which include cottage industries as well as practical husbandry.

The C.-in-C. was greatly impressed by the zest shown by the Boys Company in carrying out their normal training programme. A natural complement of the military colleges, these companies, established at similar centres up and down the country, aim primarily at producing leaders for the army of tomorrow.

A brief visit to the 26th Gurkha Garrison Battalion was also paid by Gen. Auchinleck, who was accompanied throughout the tour by Lt.-Gen. Sir John des R. Swayne Chief of the General Staff (India).

Guest of honour at a colourful *mela* held at Kharian on November 29, General Auchinleck praised the war effort of the people of Gujrat district.

"I am grateful to everyone who has helped in the great work of recruitment," he said, addressing more than 5,000 spectators. "I have naturally a special regard for the Punjab sepoys and officers, who contributed so much towards the Allied victory, since I have known them for 40 years."

Arriving from Jhelum, the C.-in-C. was escorted by a cavalcade of gaily-clad horsemen down a beflagged road to the *mela* grounds, where an afternoon of spectacular entertainment followed, writes an Army Observer. After taking the salute at the grand march past of boys companies, students of the Jhelum Military College and men from local units, Gen. Auchinleck saw exhibitions of skill.

Highlighted in a programme, which included P.T. and drill displays, wrestling bouts, tent-pegging and Mashud dancing, was a mock attack upon a Jap position by a detachment from the 1st Punjab Regimental Centre, supported by Sherman tanks.

The *mela* ended at dusk with the sounding of Retreat by massed bands.

C.-IN-C. WELCOMES MEN OF PUNJAB REGIMENT

Special greetings from the C.-in-C. in India, Gen. Auchinleck, welcomed men of the 31st Punjab Regiment on their return from Italy, when they stepped ashore at Karachi along with other units of the veteran Tenth Indian Division.

In his personal message to the battalion, which had seen more continuous active service abroad than any other unit of the Indian Army, Gen. Auchinleck, who is a Colonel of the 1st Punjab Regiment, said:

"I send you all a very hearty welcome from the army in India and myself on your return to India after six years and three months abroad.

"The battalion has been on continuous active service out of India, longer than any other unit of the Indian Army, and has made an undying name for itself in the Western Desert, Sudan, Eritrea, Abyssinia, Syria and Italy.

"Its record is second to none in the armies of the Allies. I wish I could have met you at Karachi but I hope to thank you personally before long."

Indian Nursing Services Contribution To Victory

NURSING officers and nursing cadets of India, like those of their sister service the Q.A.I.M.N.S., rendered splendid services in Assam, Burma, the Middle East, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Italy and the United Kingdom, in hospital ships and ambulance trains during the war just ended. They performed their duties cheerfully and well.

When the war broke out in September 1939, the Indian Military Nursing Service, formed for the nursing of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and men of the Indian Army, had only 55 nursing officers on its establishment. This number was far too inadequate to meet wartime requirements. It became necessary to recruit state registered nurses on a war emergency basis. Many joined from the civil hospitals of the country, but even that number was not enough.

Evidently, if the sick and wounded of the Indian Army were to be properly attended to, effective measures were called for and, in September 1942, the Auxiliary Nursing Service of India came into being. Selection and training of British, Indian and Anglo-Indian girls who volunteered for service in Indian military hospitals both in India and overseas was undertaken by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service.

The candidates for the A.N.S. (I.) came from all classes and creeds, as also from all parts of India—Hindus, Muslims, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and British girls living with their parents in India. They received an initial training of nine months in selected civil hospitals and, if found suitable, were sent to all Indian and Combined Hospitals in and outside India where men of the Indian Army required nursing. Known as Nursing Cadets, these girls fulfilled their obligations, in an amazing manner far beyond all expectations.

Despite all efforts, the required personnel for the Indian Military Nursing Service was not forthcoming and had to be supplemented in 1942 by officers of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. (a British service) who were posted in all theatres of war to nurse the Indian casualties.

As time went on, the need for more nurses caused anxiety and, in 1944, V.A.D. nursing members from the U.K. were recruited by the Secretary of State. The first batch of V.A.D. Nursing Members, all of whom were volunteers, arrived in India in August 1944 to assist in the nursing of Indian troops. Since then reinforcements have arrived at regular intervals, until at the present time there are nearly 700 V.A.D. Nursing Members in India and S.E.A.C.

Although their number fell short of what was required, it is comforting to know that Indian girls who volunteered to serve as nurses acquitted themselves with credit and their record formed a bright page in the story of India's contribution to victory.



Indian Nurses performed their duties cheerfully and efficiently in all theatres of the war which has just ended.

VICTORY COMMEMORATION STAMPS

NEW Victory Commemoration Stamps are being issued by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department early in the new year. These commemorative stamps will be in four denominations, namely, 9 pies, 1 1/2 annas, 3 1/2 annas and 12 annas; stamps in denominations of 1 1/2 annas and 3 1/2 annas will be available in post offices on January 2, 1946. It will not be possible to complete the printing and distribution of stamps in the remaining two denominations by that date and hence they will be put on sale a little later.

The Victory Commemoration Stamps will be sold in post offices up to December 31, 1946; they will not replace ordinary postage stamps which will also continue to be current.



Designs for these stamps were invited from artists and a selection was made by a committee. The design finally approved has on the right a rectangular panel, occupying about one-third of the stamp, in which appears, on a solid background, the line portrait of His Majesty the King Emperor, facing left and wearing the Imperial Crown and Collars of the Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire. Below the portrait is a panel containing at each end the value in white figures on a solid background, with the word "Annas" or "Pies" on a white background in the centre.

Symbolic Design

The remainder of the stamp is devoted to a design symbolic of India's victory in the world war. A circular laurel wreath, symbolising peace, encloses the globe on which the Map of India appears centrally in white, the sea in solid colour and adjacent countries shaded. Behind the globe is the "V" for Victory support-

ing, within the laurel wreath, a plain band bearing the words "Victory 1945" while passing downwards through the band and in front of the globe is depicted the sword of victory.

The words "India Postage" appear across the top of the symbolic design in white letters on a line background and the whole stamp is finished with a narrow running ribbon border.

To help philatelists to obtain their requirements, these stamps are being made available through the Indian Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O. Bombay, and the High Commissioner for India, London.

MAPS PAVED THE WAY TO VICTORY

The saga of the 14th Army's fighting advance through Burma is one which will always be remembered because of the unbelievable difficulties of terrain. Before the war, little was known of the nature of the undeveloped areas.

There arose an urgent demand for maps and the Indian Survey Companies went to work. Using existing maps and the pre-war findings of the Indian Air Survey, they proceeded to survey, revise, enlarge and record the mass of detail demanded. Special flights of Mosquito aircraft produced nearly 100,000 air photographs for analysis, draughtsmen prepared the final drafts, and reproduction units, often working in the field, printed the multi-coloured maps, writes an Army Observer.

Reproduction units printed 51,000,000 impressions, enough to cover an area equal to France and Germany. Mobile rotary presses turned out 5,000 per hour. During the peak of the campaign, one unit produced 1,600,000 maps in two months.

The work continues. Occupation forces in Siam, French Indo-China and other areas are now using the 650,000 maps printed in anticipation. The credit is shared by men speaking 15 different languages. They belong to units including the 2nd and 6th Indian Survey Companies, I.E., the 155th East African and South Rhodesian Company, and the 61st, 63rd, and 67th. Reproduction Units, I.E.

The Government of India have prohibited the export of butter in gift parcels from civilians and no such gift parcels containing butter will be accepted by the post offices for transmission to destination, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.



Darbar Sahib (Sikh Temple) at Taran Taran (Punjab). This temple is held in great esteem and is visited by many devotees every month.

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INDIAN
INFORMATION

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INDIA'S FREEDOM HAS A PRIORITY LABEL



Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom, recently gave a reception at the India House to Indian students who arrived in England by the 'Georgie' for advanced studies at British Universities. Picture shows the High Commissioner, (x) with the students.

ADDRESSING the Central Legislative Assembly on January 28, H. E. the Viceroy said: I have not come here to make any novel or striking political announcement, simply to meet the newly chosen representatives of India, and to speak to you a few words of welcome and encouragement.

Lord Wavell's Assurance to Central Assembly

The intentions of His Majesty's Government have, I think, been made sufficiently clear. They have a determination to establish a new Executive Council formed from the political leaders; and to bring about a Constitution Making Body or Convention as soon as possible.

I cannot enter into any details at the moment of the methods by which these bodies will be formed and how the difficulties of which we are all fully conscious, will be surmounted. Nor do I think it wise to try to set a date or dates for steps to India's freedom. I can only assure you that they have a priority label both in Delhi and Whitehall. I ask you for your co-operation and goodwill in our great task.

In this session you have already debated on adjournment motions some of the pressing questions of the day. Proposals for legislation will be put before you by Government spokesmen. These include some important measures which are the result of most careful deliberation; and which I think will, if passed by the Legislature, advance the credit and welfare of India.

I do not speak with any intention of influencing your votes. It may be that you will think it right, some of you, to vote against the Government on almost every issue and to inflict the maximum number of defeats. If you believe that this is your political duty I have nothing to say; I may think that it will be a short-sighted policy to prevent or delay legislation that is likely to be of real benefit to India; but that is for you to decide. I do claim, however, that you



H. E. Lord Wavell

should not, in the course of the debate in this House during this session say anything which may reduce the chances of my forming a political Executive Council, affect adversely the prospect of a settlement on the main constitutional issue or increase the bitterness already abroad in the country. Enough, and more than enough, animosity has been caused during the elections to the Central Assembly; and the Provincial elections are likely to have the same effect. It would be a great help to me, and I think to the leaders of your parties, if moderation could be studied in all speeches here during this session.

I hope and believe that the period of destructive work in the Assembly is near an end. If I am successful in forming a new Executive Council with the support of the principal parties, you will have a very great deal of most important constructive work to put in at your next session. Legislation by ordinance is not at all to my taste; and I very much hope that you will then relieve me of the necessity to use my powers, even though it may involve long sittings to get through all the proposals put before you.

I think the Parliamentary Delegation have received a very general welcome to India and that they have impressed those who have met them with their earnestness and sincerity, and of the general desire in Great Britain to achieve a lasting and peaceful settlement. I am sure that they have made it quite clear that their purpose is not to delay the programme of His Majesty's Government, but to inform themselves and thus their parties, of present conditions and opinions in India.

At the moment all our minds are inevitably concentrated on the great political issues shortly to be decided. Some of you may alternate between ardent hopes and chilling fears. I for

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

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

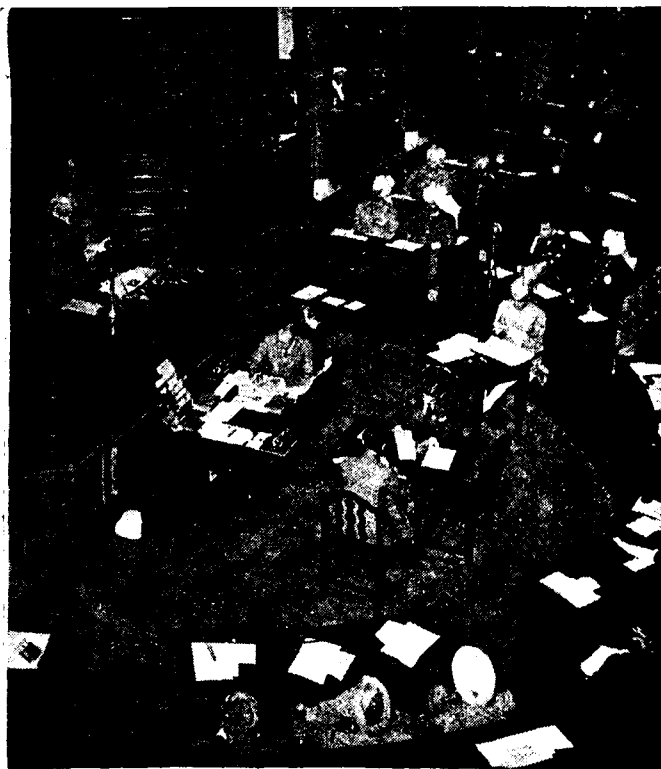
CONTRIBUTIONS :—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return: since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Viceroy's Address to the Chamber of Princes	160
Sir Mahomed Uman on Indian Postal Services	165
British Parliamentary Delegation in the Punjab and N.W.F.P. (in pictures)	166 & 167
Food Position in India: Mr. B. R. Sen's Statement in Central Assembly	169
India and Bretton Woods Agreements: Finance Member's Statement in Central Assembly	185
Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Archaeology	196
Lt.-Gen. Northcott Inspects Indian Troops for Occupation of Japan	200
Indians in South Africa: High Commissioner's Report	204

Cover picture: South Indian temple musicians.



Lord Wavell addressing the Chamber of Princes.

VICEROY'S TRIBUTE TO STATES' WAR EFFORT

Address to Chamber of Princes

"I take particular pleasure in welcoming Your Highnesses to this twentieth session of the Chamber of Princes, since this is the first occasion on which I have the honour to preside over your deliberations," said H. E. Lord Wavell addressing the Chamber of Princes in New Delhi on January 17.

"Since Your Highnesses last met, there have been changes in the offices of Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor of the Chamber. It is now nearly two years since His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal was elected Chancellor and during that period he has never rested from his activities on behalf of the States. Your Highnesses have recognised this by indicating your desire that His Highness should continue in office for a second term and I am confident that events will prove the wisdom of our action. I must also pay tribute to the great services rendered to this Chamber and to the country by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, whose period of office as Pro-Chancellor will shortly terminate and who has felt unable to agree to continue in office for a further period. For more than eight years—throughout the whole length of the war—His Highness has held continuously the office of Chancellor or Pro-Chancellor. I am sure that we are all indeed grateful to him for his long term of work on behalf of the States and of India.

Changes in Chamber

"Death has occasioned several changes in Your Highnesses' Chamber since it last met; and we have to mourn the loss of their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior), the Maharaja of Gondal, the Maharawal of Banswara, the Nawab of Balasinor, the Maharao Raja of Bundi, the Raja of Talcher and the Raja of Sarangarh. In addition to these members of the Chamber, a member of its representative electorate—the Rana of Kumharsain—has also died.

"The successions of several members of the Chamber have been recognised since the last session—those of Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior), the Maharaja of Gondal, the Maharawal of Banswara, the Nawab of Balasinor and the Maharao Raja of Bundi, while the Raja of Kanker, the Raja of Gangpur and the Raja of Chamba have been invested with ruling powers during the period. Your Highnesses will, I know, join with me in welcoming these Rulers to the Chamber.

"There has been no more eventful period in history than the two years which have passed since last this Chamber met. At that time the war was still being waged both in the east and west with unparalleled fury. In the east, although the Allied Armies and Navies were beginning to make headway against the Japanese, Japanese forces were in possession of Burma and even of part of Indian territory; in Italy a determined opposition was being put up by the German Armies and very heavy fighting was in progress; the landings of Allied troops in France had yet to take place and the whole country was still in the occupation of the enemy.

States' Loyalty

"Yet within two years the enemies' armies were routed, their navies surrendered or sunk, their air fleets destroyed, and their countries occupied by Allied forces. The most powerful factors in these splendid achievements have been the steadfastness of the Allied nations and the prowess of their fighting forces. In that steadfastness and prowess the Indian States have a proud share.

"Throughout those difficult years when we were exposed, unprepared, to the first furious

onslaught of the enemy, and during the dark days of 1942, when it seemed that India herself might be invaded and the faith of some began to fail and grow dim, the States without exception kept their loyalty to the causes for which we fought—

'unmoved, unshaken,

unseduced, unterrified',

a circumstance of which Your Highnesses and your peoples have every reason to be proud. The record of the Indian States Forces and the many States subjects who joined the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force was equally worthy of admiration.

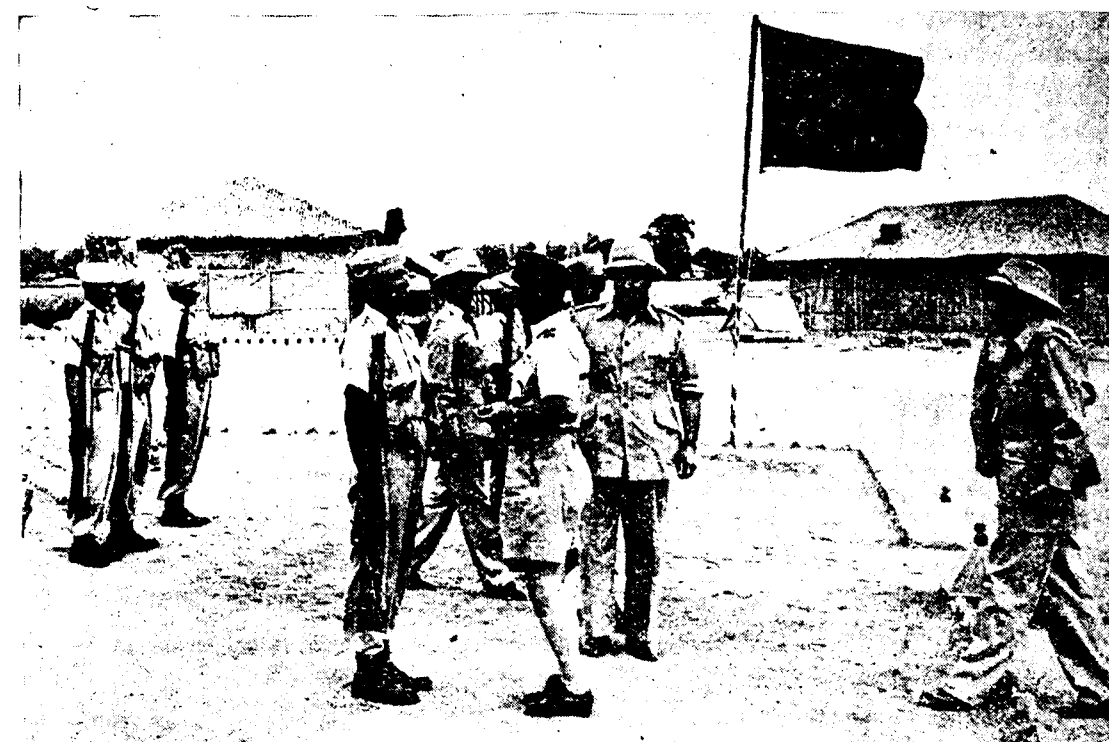
"I wish that I could speak in detail of the part played by individual units of the States Forces in the various theatres of war; but the time at my disposal makes this impossible, and I can only say that in the fighting in Africa, in Italy, in the Mediterranean and on the eastern frontier of India they distinguished themselves by their valour and endurance. In the Indian Army five V.Cs. were won by subjects of Indian States. Your Highnesses yourselves set a worthy

my part am firmly optimistic, believing in an old and homely proverb: "Where there's a will there's a way."

But while the political issues are discussed, the administration of India has to go on, the people have to be fed, clothed and housed in the best way that our resources permit, law and order have to be maintained, plans for development must be prepared, vital decisions affecting India's whole economic future have to be taken.

My much maligned colleagues have served India well and have had her true interests at heart; I believe that any new Government is likely to adopt many of their ideas. They are all, without exception, ready and willing to hand over their responsibilities at the earliest moment to their successors, to whom they will wish good fortune and godspeed in their difficult but vital task.

Gentlemen, it only remains for me to give you my good wishes for your work in this momentous Assembly. On you rests a great responsibility for the freedom and greatness of India. I would say this to you in conclusion and say it with all the conviction at my command: that in all great constitutional changes success has been achieved only by a spirit of mutual understanding and concession between the parties concerned.



H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal inspecting the Quarter-guard of a battalion of the Bhopal Infantry.

example to your peoples. Three of your number—His Highness of Bundi, His Highness of Dewas (Senior) and His Highness of Cooh Behar—took part in active operations against the enemy and I congratulate His Highness of Bundi on being awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

Visits to Troops

"Other Rulers paid visits to the troops at the front, who received much encouragement from their presence amongst them. One State, Manipur, was actually invaded and heavy fighting took place within its boundaries. During that trying ordeal the people of the State, under His Highness the Maharaja, who remained in his capital even when it was seriously threatened by the enemy, behaved with exemplary steadfastness. The States were also associated with the planning and organisation of the war: since the Chamber last met His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir was one of India's two representatives in the War Cabinet at an important period; and during an earlier period of the war His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib occupied a similar position. Needless to say, both filled these posts with distinction, and with advantage to India.

"The part played by the States during the war not only does them great credit but should also be an inspiration to meet the many and great difficulties with which we shall have to contend in the early years of peace. Most important of the problems with which India is faced is her future constitution, on the satisfactory solution of which will depend the happiness and prosperity of her people for many future years. With this problem the States are no less concerned than is British India.

Relationship with Crown

"Your Highnesses, this leads me to a subject to which I know well you all attach the greatest importance—that of your relationship with the Crown and the rights guaranteed by your treaties and engagements. I can assure you that there is no intention on our part to initiate any change in this relationship or these rights without your consent. I am confident that Your Highnesses will, through your accredited representatives, take your full share in the preliminary discussions, which were announced in my broadcast of September 19, as well as in the intended constitution-making body; and that your consent to any changes which emerge as a result of these negotiations will not unreasonably be withheld. I am also confident that in your approach to these problems you will have no intention or desire to stand in the way of the growth of India to its full stature or to hinder the political, economic

or social progress and advancement of your subjects. It will rather be natural and in accordance with your traditions that you should become leaders in peace, as you have formerly been in war.

"The record of some States in the art of civil government is already most distinguished. In no part of India is administration more efficient, are industries better organised and the welfare of the people better secured than in some of the States. That such a claim cannot be made on behalf of all States, Your Highnesses will doubtless not contest: that it cannot be made on behalf of the small States is largely due to the fact that their resources are insufficient to meet the cost of a modern administration.

Inadequate Finance

"Although inadequate finance is a misfortune for which, in itself, the Darbars concerned are not responsible, it is, I suggest, incumbent upon them so to modify the constitutional position of their States as to ensure the welfare of their subjects for the future. To achieve this three conditions are necessary. Every State should possess political stability, adequate financial resources and effective association of the people with the administration. If a State cannot fulfil these conditions, I strongly urge that it should arrange to do so either by joining a larger unit or by combining with other small States to form a political entity of a sufficient size.

"I am convinced that only by this means will the same States be able to keep abreast of progress in other parts of India, and I therefore trust that they will not withhold their consent to such modifications of their relations with the Crown as present circumstances and future requirements demand, with any expectation that, by so doing, they may be able to perpetuate conditions which are out of date.

"Although these suggestions primarily concern the small States, they are, I believe, of importance to all Your Highnesses, who must naturally be concerned to assist the smaller States to solve their particular problems with success.

"Though constitutional problems are the most important with which India is at present confronted, there are others which demand the most careful consideration. Some of these—such as the control of prices and of the distribution of consumer goods—have been created by war conditions and will pass away with those conditions: others—such as the resettlement of demobilised soldiers, sailors and airmen and the planning of the country's food supply—though

occasioned by the war will continue to exercise a considerable influence in the future: others again, such as the reconstruction of industry and the development of electric power and of the means of transport, are of permanent importance. I should like to say a few words about the financial background against which these problems must be viewed.

"The war involved a vast expenditure of rupee currency in India and a great reduction in supply of goods available for civil consumption. To check the inflationary effect of these conditions it was necessary to take various measures in which, as Your Highnesses know, the States were asked to co-operate. Some of these measures such as high taxation and an intensified savings campaign, were designed to secure a reduction in purchasing power: the purpose of others was to increase the quantity of goods for sale. Control over capital issues and forward contracting was introduced as a check on speculation; and, finally, the distribution of essential commodities was made as equitable as possible by price and similar controls.

"With the end of the war the situation has somewhat changed, for, though there is still the possible danger of inflation, a period of temporary deflation may be caused by the rapid release of service personnel and war workers. To guard against these conflicting dangers action is being taken in British India, on the one hand, to embark on an urgent programme of public works, particularly those which give employment to large numbers and add to the national wealth; and, on the other, to maintain a relatively high level of taxation and to encourage public saving. I commend to Your Highnesses the adoption of similar measures in the States.

Economic Problems

"Your Highnesses, I do not think it necessary that I should deal at any length with all the economic problems which face India at the moment. They are well-known to Your Highnesses, and I have spoken on them elsewhere. The main point which I wish to make is this: that it is my earnest aim and will be my constant endeavour that the interests of the States should receive the same attention and sympathy from the Government of India in the process of development as the Provinces of British India. I am also sure that the States will afford that same measure of cordial co-operation in controls and in planning as they have given in the past.

"Your Highnesses are aware that I have discussed with your representatives on more than one occasion the best means of improving consultation between the Government of India

and the States on matters of common economic interest, and of seeing that the interests of the States are not overlooked. I hope that we have been able to do something towards establishing closer relations; but I am by no means content with what has been done, and have under consideration further machinery to improve economic touch between British India and the States. I welcome the steps Your Highnesses have taken to strengthen the Secretariat of the Chamber; and the appointment of Sir Sultan Ahmed as Adviser is, I am sure, a wise one. I shall always be ready to consult with the Chancellor and his Advisers on this question of economic progress.

"I invite your attention to two particular examples of the need for close co-operation—one short-term, one long-term. The short-term instance is that of foodgrains; for some time to come world allocations will continue to be made by the Combined Food Board in Washington, and India will have to justify her demand for a share in world surpluses by showing that she is making the best possible distribution of her own resources. In this the produce of British India and the States must be treated as one.

Revenue Resources

"The long-term instance I will give you is the management of India's water supplies, in which direction lies India's best way to progress. In many of the schemes now under consideration, for flood control, for irrigation, for navigation, for hydro-electric power, Provinces of British India and States are closely concerned and it is essential that they should work in close co-operation, so that unified development can take place.

"I have no doubt that Your Highnesses are aware of the importance of building up your revenue resources with a view to financing the large expenditure which will inevitably be necessary not only for further economic development but also for the provision of expanding services in the social sphere such as education, medical relief and public health. The latter forms of development must necessarily depend on revenue resources and not on borrowings. In this connection, I need not emphasise the importance of gradually approximating your taxation policies and systems with those of British India. I am glad to learn that this matter is already engaging Your Highnesses' attention.

"Your Highnesses, I have briefly reviewed some of the constitutional, political and economic problems with which we are confronted at this time when the war is but recently over and peace



Lord Wavell presents the Viceroy's Gold Shield to H.H. the Maharaja of Porbandar. (Below) H.H. the Maharaja of Porbandar and one of his A.D.C.s with the Viceroy's Shield and the Finance Department's Silver Shield.

barely established. Those problems form part of the complex and difficult situation in which Your Highnesses will shortly be called upon to make decisions, upon the wisdom of which will depend the prosperity of yourselves and your people for many years to come.

"Indian States have had an honourable past: many of them have histories extending over centuries. If Your Highnesses make such adjustments as are necessary to meet the changing circumstances of the present day, there is every reason to believe that they will play a leading part in the future of India. For myself I have no doubt that this will be so, for I am confident that Your Highnesses will bring to the solution of the problems which confront you that same courage and determination which distinguished your conduct during the war."

PORBANDAR WINS VICEROY'S SHIELD FOR SMALL SAVINGS

At the Viceroy's House on January 18, H.E. Lord Wavell presented to H.H. the Maharaja of Porbandar the Viceroy's Gold Shield and the Finance Department's Silver Shield for Small Savings in 1944-45. Her Excellency Lady Wavell and a number of Princes, who had been invited to a luncheon party, were present.

Under the Small Savings Scheme (for the Gold Shield) the target for States average monthly saving per head of population was 3½ annas throughout the year. Porbandar recorded an average of 6.89 annas per head. In terms of money the target for the State was Rs. 3,86,000 while actual collections totalled Rs. 7,58,230.

The monthly silver shield for the Province or State achieving the highest savings per head of population in the month was won by Porbandar in January, 1945, with the figure of 59.52 annas per head.



SIR M. USMAN ON NEED TO IMPROVE POSTAL SERVICES

"I WOULD like to bring to your particular note the pressing necessity for improving the quality of the service rendered by the Department," said the Hon'ble Sir Mohamed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, opening the Conference of the Postmasters-General in Delhi on January 17, 1946.

"This has suffered," he continued, "for a variety of reasons well known to you and generally appreciated by the public. But the public will not tolerate a continuance of such quality in peace conditions and we must make every effort in this matter. Here your personal supervision, control and example will be most necessary."

Sir Mohamed Usman said: "It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here to-day for this conference of Postmasters-General, the second one to be held during my tenure of office as Member-in-Charge of the Posts and Air Department. I had the pleasure of welcoming you here last January, but at that time we met under the shadow of a Great War. By the grace of God, we have gained Victory over our enemies and there is peace in the land. In addressing you last year, I referred to the many difficult problems you had to face on account of the war and complimented you on the courage and skill with which you had tackled these problems, as they arose from time to time.

Problems of Peace

Now that the war is over, you have to face the problems of peace, problems no less difficult and no less pressing in many ways. We have won the war. We have now to win the peace. Many of the difficult conditions created by the war still persist, but we have to face, in addition, problems connected with the rehabilitation of our assets, the improvement in the quality of our services and the expansion and development of those services to meet the post-war demands. You have, therefore gentlemen before you an arduous time. None of us can afford to let up or slacken and I have no doubt you will bring to the problems of peace the same energy, the same courage and the same skill with which you tackled the problems of war.

I have been looking over the work of your conference last year. I note that you considered in all 40 subjects—a large programme—and you made recommendations on 34, the remaining six subjects being dropped. The recommendations made by you have been carefully examined by the Director-General and by Government. I find that 12 of your recommenda-

tions have been accepted in full and three partially. Only eight of your recommendations were found unacceptable. The remaining 11 items are still under consideration and some of these are being resubmitted to you at this conference for further consideration.

You have, therefore, no reason to feel dissatisfied with the result of your efforts in the conference of last year, and Government on their part have found your recommendations of great value and assistance. Apart from the formal business of the conference, the personal contacts which you established must have been of great use and assistance to you in the administration of your charges. You will no doubt be particularly pleased to note that the seven additional posts of Deputy Postmasters-General, which had been added to the cadre as a temporary measure have now been sanctioned on a permanent basis. Additional posts on a temporary basis have had to be created on the telegraph engineering side as well and I am hoping shortly to be able to make permanent a number of posts in the grade of Divisional Engineers and Directors, in view of the fact that the work of the Branch has expanded considerably and is likely to expand still further.

I note that the agenda for the present conference consists of 18 subjects; not so heavy as last year's but still a large agenda. The most important of the subjects before you is the consideration of the post-war plan for the Posts and Telegraphs Department which was recently submitted to the Policy Committee and was generally approved by them. The Plan has now to be worked out in detail and executed as quickly as funds are made available to you. Your observations and suggestions would be very helpful. But, apart from expansion, I would like to bring to your particular note the pressing necessity for improving the quality of the service rendered by the Department. This has suffered for a variety of reasons well known to you and generally appreciated by the public.

But the public will not tolerate a continuance of such quality in peace conditions and we must make every effort in this matter. Here your personal supervision, control and example will be most necessary. Mr. Krishna Prasad who has been officiating as your Director-General and who is now on special duty in the Directorate will be your Chairman for this conference as he was last year. I have no doubt you would find his knowledge and experience of great assistance to you in your deliberations.



WITH THE M. P. IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE



Mr. Sorensen with Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

Accompanied by Pressmen, Prof. Robert Richards (V) and Mr. Reginald Sorensen (X) visited Rangarh, a village near Lahore. Above, Mr. Sorensen is putting questions to a villager. (Right) Prof. Richards and Mr. Sorensen with journalists on their way to Rangarh village. (Below) Prof. Richards talking to villagers.



The British Parliamentary Delegation, led by Prof. Robert Richards, arrived in Lahore from Delhi on January 12 in the course of their tour of the Punjab Province and went through a crowded programme. The M.P.s met leaders of the Congress, Muslim League, Unionist and other parties and some of them visited a few villages around Lahore to gain first-hand knowledge of rural conditions in the Province. After their tour of the Punjab some of the M.P.s also visited Peshawar (N.-W.F.P.) where they met prominent leaders including Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as "Frontier Gandhi", and his brother Dr. Khan Sahib, Congress Premier of the Province.

Dr. Khan Sahib (extreme left) Premier of the N.-W.F.P. with Prof. Richards (second from right) Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Honkin Morris.



(Left) Some of the M.P.s photographed outside the Punjab Legislative Assembly building after they had met a deputation of Muslim League leaders. Picture shows (L. to R.) Lord Chorley, Major Wyatt, Mrs. Muriel Nichol, Mr. Bottomley and Begum Shah Nawaz, a prominent member of the Muslim League.



Plan for Development of Indian Dyestuff Industry

Rs. 25-Crore Scheme

A PLAN for the establishment of an Indian dyestuff industry, which would enable the manufacture of all the dyes in substantial demand in the country together with all the necessary intermediates within a period of 15 to 20 years at a total cost of about Rs. 25 crores, is envisaged in the Report of the Dyestuffs Exploratory Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Committee was formed in 1941 under the Chairmanship of Sir Ardeshir Dalal and was reconstituted in January 1944. On the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal as a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, Dr. John Matthai was appointed chairman in his place. Other members of the Committee were Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Sir J. C. Ghosh, Dr. K. Venkataraman and Dr. B. B. Dey. Dr. Bashir Ahmed acted as Secretary to the Committee.

Three Stages

The plan, as recommended, comprises three stages. Firstly, the manufacture of 51 basic synthetic dyes within a period of about 5 years after a brief period of preparation and also the manufacture of some of the intermediates during this 5-year period. Secondly, the production of all the intermediates required for these 51 basic dyes within 10 years; and, finally, the production of all the dyes in substantial demand in the country together with all the necessary intermediates within a period of 15 to 20 years.

The dyestuff industry acts as an important link in the chain of other essential chemical industries, such as the inorganic heavy chemical industry, the coal-tar industry, the fine chemical and pharmaceutical industry, explosives, synthetic plastics, photographic chemicals, flavours and essences and solvent industries.

Referring to the importance of the dyestuff industry to the economy of the country, the Report says that, "unless a country is self-sufficient in this vital matter, its economic development is stunted in peace and liable to be seriously impaired in war. The industry is important not only because of its direct relation to textiles, the largest industry of India, but also because of its influence on the development and progress of the heavy chemical industry, the coal-tar industry and the drug industry on which the health and well-being of the masses of the people depend". On a general survey of the raw material position, the Report comes to the conclusion that it is reasonably satisfactory.

The Committee, *inter alia*, recommends (1) that the dyestuff industry should, if possible, manufacture sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, caustic soda and chlorine, which are the five important heavy chemicals required by the industry in large quantities; (2) that a nitrogen fixation industry should be established as early as possible under Government auspices, if necessary. While the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen is necessary for the supply of nitrogenous fertilizers, the scale of production of synthetic ammonia should take into account the requirements of the dyestuff industry; and (3) that the manufacture of intermediates and dyes should be carried out in one centralised factory manufacturing the whole series of dyes through all the stages, starting from coal-tar raw materials.

It is recommended that the Indian dyestuff industry should come to an agreement for co-operation with a large and well-established organisation in Europe or America, so that their technical assistance and expert advice would be available at every stage. Such co-operation should not be in any way at the expense of Indian interests and any company that may be formed should have a majority of Indian capital and Indian directors. As part of the agreement, arrangements should be made for the training of Indian technical personnel from the highest to the lowest so that the industry may be entirely manned by Indian personnel within a reasonable period.

State Aid

In providing for the organisation of an Indian dyestuff industry, says the Report, every care should be taken that national interests are not sacrificed in favour of any external or group interests.

State aid is recommended in the form of an assurance of protection against external competition; financial participation or subsidies for the manufacture of intermediates required for the other chemical industries and which the dyestuff industry may not be able to produce economically; and grants to be made to the National Chemical Laboratory and University Departments for training and research in the chemistry and technology of intermediates and dyes.

Persons and concerns in India may now carry on private trade with persons and concerns in Yugoslavia subject to the existing import, export and financial regulations in force.

MEASURES TO MEET ANTICIPATED FOOD SHORTAGE IN INDIA

Mr. B. R. Sen's Statement in Central Assembly

A more complete mobilisation of the internal resources of the country by the introduction and extension of some form of monopoly procurement; the possible introduction of a levy on the bigger producers which will enable Government to control a substantial quantity of the grains at the beginning of the harvest; an extension of rationing to the fullest extent possible, particularly in the deficit Provinces; a revision of ration scales if unavoidable; and strict maintenance of the policy of price control are some of the measures contemplated by Government to meet an anticipated food shortage in the country. This was revealed by Mr. B. R. Sen, Secretary, Food Department, in his speech initiating the food debate in the Central Assembly on January 30.

"In the present global shortage in food-grains", Mr. Sen said, "with even the greatest sympathy and appreciation of India's difficulties, which we have always received from H.M.G., we are not likely to get from abroad even the minimum quantities that the country needs. We will then have to depend largely on our own discipline and resources to tide over the crisis".

Mr. B. R. Sen said: In a debate of this kind it is the practice for the spokesman of Government to place before the House the general framework of the policy which Government have adopted, the progress that has been made in implementing that policy, a review of the general crop position in the country, and lastly the problems with which the country is likely to be faced in the coming year and the proposals that Government may have in dealing with them. In doing so, the object has been to place before the House a picture of the situation as a whole so that the House, in debating upon it, may help Government with critical suggestions.

Vigilance Required

I propose to follow that practice on this occasion. If in making a survey of the working of Government policy during the last three years I claim success for that policy in some directions, I hope the House will not misunderstand me as being self-satisfied or complacent. The situation with which we are faced this year, as I shall describe later in my speech, is going to be one which will require the utmost vigilance on the part of Government and the co-operation of all sections of the public and leaders of public opinion. In such situation, it is all the more necessary that the House should know exactly

what our policy is and with what results the policy has so far worked.

The House is aware in what circumstances the Food Department was created in December, 1942 and the sequence of the events which led up to the Bengal Famine in 1943. To examine the past policy and the conditions which then existed in India in relation to the supply, distribution and price of foodgrains and to make recommendations both of policy and for administration, a Committee was set up in July 1943. This Committee, known as the Foodgrains Policy Committee, produced a report, within a few months, which has since served as a Blue Print for food administration in India. This Blue Print was later endorsed in all essential respects by the Woodhead Commission who were appointed in 1944 to investigate the causes of food shortage in India and make recommendations on the possibility of improving the system of administration in respect of supply and distribution of food.

Basic Plan

The four main heads of the policy adopted by the Food Department in the light of that report were the Basic Plan, Procurement, Prices and Rationing. The essence of the Basic Plan was that the general deficiency of foodgrains in India should be shared on an all-India basis and that the surplus Provinces should declare their surplus on a formula which would distribute these shortages over surplus and deficit Provinces alike. The administration of the Basic Plan, with continuous improvement, according to experience, has been the foundation of food administration in the country since that time.

One of the fundamental weaknesses from which our administration of the Basic Plan still suffers is the general unreliability of agricultural statistics in most parts of India. Certain steps have been taken, particularly in the permanently settled areas where our statistical information is the least satisfactory, to improve the methods and machinery for collecting statistics.

In Bengal, for instance, a random sample survey has been going on for the last two years. Side by side with this random sample survey, which was applied to ascertain both acreage and yield, a plot to plot enumeration was undertaken last year at considerable expense. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has also undertaken random sample surveys of outturn in various parts of India. Though the position regarding statistics still remains extremely unsatisfactory, by the working of Basic Plan for the last two years, that Food Department has now acquired a much clearer idea of the needs



of the deficit areas and, if one remembers the state of unpreparedness in 1943, one must recognise that this is a definite advance in the food administration of the country.

The success of any Basic Plan must, however, depend upon an adequate system of procurement. The problem of procurement is one which is much bigger than mere extraction of grains for export under the Basic Plan. Though a few Provinces have surpluses of all the major foodgrains, in other cases a Province may be surplus in one foodgrain and deficit in all others, or deficit in one and surplus in all others. Again, though a Province may be self-sufficient on balance, some of its districts may be surplus and others again deficit so that the inter-district procurement may be of the utmost importance to that Province.

The essence of the problem is thus not moving of supplies from a surplus Province to a deficit Province but of acquiring from the cultivator the maximum amount to be obtained from every part of India. During the last two years, the most outstanding feature in the field of procurement has been a steady and progressive development of Government monopoly both in British India and in the Indian States. Particularly in the deficit Provinces and States like Bombay, Travancore, Cochin, Mysore, and since last year in Madras, the development has been the most striking.

The monopoly schemes vary from a complete monopoly as in Malabar, where the entire surplus from each holding after deduction of seed and consumption requirements of the cultivator

The Grow More Food Campaign has given potato cultivation a great impetus and, with the development of dehydration, there is a great future for this crop. Picture shows a potato field in the Nilgiris (South India) being harvested.

and his family is taken over by Government, to a semi-monopoly as in Orissa, where no attempt is made to assess surpluses on that basis and private trade is permitted up to small quantities in each transaction. In some Provinces and

A cabbage field. In the Nilgiris, where the



States, the attempt to procure the producer's surplus has taken the shape of a levy. It must be clear that, if shortage of foodgrains in this country is to be distributed on an All-India basis, the system of procurement which should give the most complete results would be the system which takes over the entire surplus of the producer from as near the threshing floor as possible, so that the entire surplus could be distributed to deficit areas. The Government of India have, therefore, encouraged this development; and as I shall presently explain, this system of procurement has now acquired added significance in the conditions which we shall have to face this year in this country.

The House would no doubt like a clear statement from Government on the question to what extent the results of the "Grow More Food Campaign" have kept pace with the increasing needs of the country, and whether the claims made by the Government of India in the Agriculture Department under the "Grow More Food Campaign" can be justified by actual results. The question is important and I should like to take the House over some essential figures. During 1943-44 and 1944-45, the rice acreage, as published on the authority of Government, has shown an increase of seven million acres over the five year average, and rice production, an increase of 5.8 million and 2.8 million tons respectively.

The rice surpluses declared to the Food Department under the Basic Plan, however, have shown an increase of only three lakh tons over the pre-war internal surpluses known to have been available for inter-Provincial distribution.

potato is the main crop, cabbage is grown "rest" period.



The main claim under the "Grow More Food Campaign" has been the switchover from cash crops like cotton to food crops like millets. While the reported increase in the all-India millets acreage has been of the order of seven million in 1942-43, 5.8 million in 1943-44 and 1944-45 and of the reported increase in production over the five-year average about 1.4 million tons, 1.2 million tons and 100,000 tons in the three years respectively, the surpluses made available to the Food Department for distribution under the Basic Plan have gone up only from 1½ lakh tons to about three lakh tons. In the case of wheat, though several Provinces and States have reported an increase in area production, the surplus declared to the Food Department have decreased from year to year.

A Gamble in Rains

On these figures, one's first reaction would be that the claims made under the "Grow More Food Campaign" are unsustainable. The discrepancy, however, is capable of a logical explanation. The factors which explain the discrepancy, are these:

(1) Agricultural production in India is a gamble in rains. Only 25 per cent. of the area is irrigated and even a substantial increase in acreage can be offset by failure of rains at the time needed. In 1942 we had a bumper wheat crop, in 1943 a bumper rice crop. But the crops in 1944-45 were in many areas below normal. The reported increase in acreage in 1944-45 was 5.8 millions, while the reported yield showed an increase of only 100,000 tons. This was very largely due to adverse climatic conditions in the famine tracts in Bombay, the Ceded Districts in Madras and Hyderabad.

(2) Out of the total crop production, about 30 per cent. is retained by the producers themselves for consumption, seeds, wages in kind, etc. This ratio of retention and sale is elastic depending upon the prices of foodgrains and the means of producers. In pre-war times, owing to low prices of foodgrains, the producer had had to place a larger proportion of his produce on the market to get the cash he needed for meeting his obligatory charges, such as rents and taxes and for buying essential consumer goods, such as cloth, oil, etc. During the war, prices of agricultural produce have gone up three to four times and the producer can now meet his obligatory charges by selling a smaller proportion of his crop. The steady tendency during the last three years has, therefore, been for the producer to consume more himself, thus reducing the surplus which would otherwise have been available for marketing. While this is no doubt a development in the right direction, the fact has to be recognised that this has prevented the increase in food production from being reflected in the surpluses made available to Food

Department to meet the requirements of deficit areas.

(3) The population in India is increasing at the rate of five millions a year. The net increase in consumption demand due to this factor alone is about 500,000 tons a year. The danger of an increase in population at this rapid rate without a corresponding increase in food production must be obvious, and measures to deal with a problem of this magnitude must be on a long-term basis.

Price control, as I have said, has been one of the basic principles of our food administration policy. I need hardly explain why. If the prices are high, there will be a section of people in India who will go short of food. There may be what can be called "a sectional famine", as happened in 1943, owing to high prices even where there is no actual shortage of supplies. With the end of war, the position in this respect must further deteriorate. Curtailment of war expenditure in the country will mean less income to a large labouring population who had been employed in war works and also lead to unemployment among the middle classes though efforts are being made to make the switch-over from war to peace conditions as smooth as possible.

In the matter of price control, the firm policy of the Government of India has been the institution of statutory price control for all major foodgrains. We have, accordingly, been directing our efforts to bring Provincial and Regional prices of foodgrains into parity with each other with a view to eliminate the wider local variations and eventually to establish an integrated parity in price control on an all-India basis; prices being fixed for the respective crop season ensuring a fair return to the cultivator.

Statutory Price Control

In 1944, statutory price control was instituted for wheat, gram, barley, bajra, jowar and maize. The statutory maximum price of wheat is now Rs. 9-8 per maund in the primary assembling markets in the Punjab and Rs. 10-4 in the U.P. In other wheat producing Provinces differentials based on these figures have been allowed. The prices of bajra and jowar have recently been reduced to Rs. 7-4 and Rs. 6-12 per maund respectively. In order to protect the producers against an uneconomic fall in prices, Government have given an undertaking to purchase all wheat offered at Rs. 7-8 and bajra at Rs. 5-12 and jowar at Rs. 5-4 per maund.

As regards rice, an all-India statutory price was not fixed, partly because of the absence of a homogeneous market and partly because of the large variations from Province to Province. The Provincial Governments themselves imposed

statutory maximum prices for rice, and during the last two years have steadily brought them down. In Bengal, the fixed Government buying prices in the surplus districts now are Rs. 9-8 to Rs. 11-4; in Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Sind, it is Rs. 11-10, Rs. 9 to Rs. 10, and Rs. 7-2 to Rs. 7-12, respectively. Rice prices in Madras have been generally kept below Rs. 10 per maund, while the statutory maximum which was fixed at Rs. 13-8 per maund in U.P. and in the Punjab, has now been brought down to Rs. 13-6 in the U.P. and Rs. 12-4 in the Punjab.

Viewed against the background of price levels reached in certain parts of India in 1943, the progress made in the control of prices, in accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India, in spite of the shortage in the country, must be regarded as satisfactory. A Price Advisory Committee, consisting of experts, is constantly bringing the level of prices in different foodgrains under review. A Committee has also been set up to suggest the machinery and organisation necessary to stabilise agricultural prices under conditions of control or without control.

Progress of Rationing

Not the least important factor in our co-ordinated food plan has been the introduction of food rationing in all large cities and towns in India and also in rural areas where conditions of scarcity necessitated a controlled distribution of available supplies. The progress in this respect has been considerable. The total population now under ration, whether full or partial, has come to over 53 millions, distributed over 556 towns, of which 90 are with a population of one lakh or over, and also throughout rural areas in certain districts such as Malabar.

The largest number of towns rationed is 125 in Bombay, 94 in Madras, and 42 in the U.P. The Province with the largest population under rationing is Madras 10.3 millions, then comes Bombay 7.5 millions and Travancore 6.3 millions. Calcutta is the largest city under rationing—with a population exceeding 4,000,000, whilst Bengal Province has a food control organisation covering 12 millions. In the Bombay Presidency, however, the entire population of non-producers or inadequate producers, are supplied by Government on a rationed scale through Government Depots.

In the Madras Presidency, there are several districts which are covered by what is called "Informal" rationing, which is practically the same as statutory rationing except that it is not supported by statutory rules and regulations. The reason why I give these details is to show that, unlike in 1943, we have now in India a rationed system of distribution of supplies over

a wide area both urban and rural and over a large part of the population. In fact the population now covered by rationing in India exceeds the total population of Great Britain. This established system of controlled distribution which is capable of fairly rapid extension, must be an invaluable instrument in controlling the food situation in India, should the distribution of available supplies, owing to adverse seasonal factors, demand more extensive Government control.

Central Reserve

In producing the Blue Print for food administration in India, the Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended the creation of a Central Reserve of not less than 500,000 tons of imports apart from a quantity equal to the average net imports of the preceding 5 years, namely, about one million tons for current consumption. The Foodgrains Policy Committee considered the reserve to be essential to prevent a breakdown in the machinery of procurement, rationing and price policy.

The whole matter was subjected to an examination by the Woodhead Commission in the light of the developments in the food administration of the country since the Foodgrains Policy Committee submitted their Report. The view expressed by the Woodhead Commission was that such a Central Reserve was necessary not so much to prevent a breakdown of the machinery of the procurement and price policy as to meet an emergency such as may arise owing to failure of crops or failure of procurement at the end of a crop season. They cited the instance of the situation which had developed at the end of the wheat season in the U.P. last year and which was met by the prompt use of the small reserve which the Centre had been able to accumulate at Karachi. They gave the warning that, since the beginning of the war, there had been no serious failure of the monsoons but the danger of a poor monsoon, before normal conditions returned, existed.

If the monsoon failed, the knowledge that the Centre had a reserve must prove of great value in preventing a breakdown and maintaining public morale. The recommendation of the Foodgrains Committee for imports to build up a Central Reserve and for imports for current consumption to the extent indicated has all along been strongly pressed by the Government of India. While the war lasted, the difficulty of the shipping position due primarily to the necessity for carrying on a global war on two widely separated fronts, did not permit sufficiently large quantities to be shipped.

The imports actually received have been as follows: 1943 October to December, 197,700 tons; 1944 January to December, 653,500 tons; 1945 January to December, 840,300 tons; 1946 up to 21st January, 62,700 tons. With these imports, at no time have the Government of India been able to accumulate more than 50 to 100 thousand tons as reserve.

It will thus be seen that we have been living from hand to mouth over the whole of the last three years: on the one hand, owing to factors I have already explained, domestic procurement has declined in relation to the increasing requirements; on the other hand, imports have fallen short of our requirements even for current consumption. The whole system of India's food economy has therefore remained exposed to the danger of a failure of harvest in India all the time—a weakness which, before the fall of Burma, had been covered by unlimited imports from Burma, and what is more, by an expectation of unlimited imports which had kept prices under control and had acted as a steadying influence on the morale of the population.

Failure of Monsoon

The first signs of such danger came in August-September last when the south-west monsoon was delayed in Bengal and other parts of north-east India. We brought these danger signs to the notice of His Majesty's Government and asked them to arrange imports of at least one million tons of rice and half a million tons of wheat in 1946. In October there was fairly satisfactory rainfall in Bengal which improved crop prospects in that area to an appreciable extent. This improvement in Bengal was, however, more than offset by a failure of the south-west monsoon in the southern districts of Bombay and a devastating cyclone in the Godavari-Krishna Delta on October 17-18.

These developments were brought to the notice of H.M.G. as soon as detailed reports were available. Our demand for imports remained at the figure already given to H.M.G. In December, however, reports came of a failure of the north-east monsoon in Madras and Mysore. Reports of failure of crops were also received from the Deccan States and Western India States. I paid a visit to these areas in the third week of December to get a closer appreciation of the situation. It became clear that both the rice and millets crops would fail over extensive areas in Madras and Mysore unless there were adequate showers before the end of December and in January.

A fresh assessment of the situation was forwarded to His Majesty's Government and the

urgent importance of pressing before the Combined Food Board the necessity of adequate imports to stabilise the situation was again stressed. Since my visit to that area, there has been practically no rain, and crops which, during the time of my visit, looked green and flourishing, have dried over large tracts of the country. Side by side with this failure of the north-east monsoons in southern India, there has been a failure of winter rains up till now in the U.P. and north-western India. Unless we have rain in this area within the next few days, crops in unirrigated places will largely fail.

This year, therefore, we have had a devastating cyclone, failure of the north-east monsoon in southern India and now the threat of failure of winter rains in the U.P. and north-western India. It need hardly be pointed out that the cumulative effect of all these factors must be serious on the food situation in India.

On the assessment of the situation in December we had thought it necessary to send the permanent Food Secretary, Sir Robert Hutchings, to Washington to help the British Food Mission to place our case before the Combined Food Board. His discussions are yet incomplete, but from the indications he has given, it is not likely that in the present global shortage in foodgrains, with even the greatest sympathy and appreciation of our difficulties, we are likely to get even the minimum quantities we need. Since his deputation, owing to continued drought, the situation has further deteriorated as I have explained. We are now considering, in consultation with His Majesty's Government, in the light of the latest crop position, the further steps we must take to persuade the Combined Food Board to re-open and reconsider the whole case of allocation for 1946, irrespective of any allocations and priorities they may have already decided upon.

The question on which the House will no doubt wish to be informed is that if we are to depend largely on our own discipline and resources, what measures we propose to adopt to stabilise the food position in the country in the coming months. The following are some of the measures we contemplate.

Firstly, we must mobilise the internal resources of the country much more completely than we have done in the past. This, from our experience of the last two years, we think, can only be done by the introduction and extension of some form of monopoly procurement. The Provinces in which there is scope for improvement in the system of procurement are, in our view, Punjab, Sind, the U.P. and Bihar.

We have, therefore, called upon these Provinces immediately to go in for monopoly or semi-monopoly types of procurement that will,

without depriving the producers of their legitimate rations, enable them to procure much larger quantities of foodgrains than they have been able to do so far. There is agreement on the introduction of a levy on the bigger producers which would give Government control over a substantial quantity of the produce. For the improved procurement to be successful, it is necessary that it should commence at the beginning of the crop year, and I am confident that by the coming April or May when the *rain* crop will come to be harvested, an effective procurement system more suited to the present emergency will be in operation in all these Provinces. It is hardly necessary to point out that local variations due to differing local conditions must be allowed for in the details of procurement, but the results must be the same everywhere *viz.*, maximum procurement of foodgrains consistently with the interests of producers.

Extension of Rationing

Secondly, if there is to be a shortage, the shortage must be distributed among the population as evenly as possible. This can best be done by extension of rationing particularly in the deficit Provinces, to the fullest extent possible, and by revision of ration scales to the extent necessary. The areas which are affected most this year are areas where rationing has established itself not only in urban but also in rural areas. The Provincial Governments concerned can therefore be trusted to make an effective use of the rationing organisation in dealing with the situation. As to revision of ration scales, this, on principle, should be on an all-India basis. The matter is now under examination with the Provincial Governments who have already been warned to take all preliminary steps so that any reduction in the scales of ration which may be decided upon, may be given effect to without delay.

Thirdly, the Government of India are determined to maintain their policy of price control. To do that in a year of scarcity will be difficult and measures such as requisitioning of stocks from traders and producers where there is no Government monopoly as yet may be necessary.

I have now placed the whole case before the House. I have done so deliberately and with a purpose. In no country food administration, in conditions of shortage, can be a success without the full co-operation of the people. In India, with a population of nearly 400 millions, largely agricultural, who react quickly to any sign of failure of rains, this is particularly so. We feel that the leaders of the people must know, so that in the difficult months ahead they also can play their part, in the interests of our own people, in keeping the food administration of the country on an even keel.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD POLICY IN INDIA

THE Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in June, 1944, prepared a memorandum defining the needs and the means for the attainment of maximum efficiency in agricultural production, aiming at the fullest possible development of the productive potential of all the resources of the country, as a basis for an all-India agricultural policy. These proposals were generally endorsed by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The recommendations of this Committee were also generally accepted by Provincial Governments, and in June, 1945, were approved by the Standing Committee of the Legislature.

Since then, the Famine Inquiry Commission have included in their Final Report a series of connected recommendations which define the broad lines of an agriculture and food policy designed to prevent any future threat of famine and to improve the diet of the people. These recommendations state objectives and principles, suggest lines of further investigation and advise specific action over a wide field which, in the words of the Commission, is for practical purposes, co-extensive with the whole future development of the country.

Development of Agriculture

Proposals have been included in the post-war development plans, both of the Central and of the Provincial Governments, and measures have already been undertaken, which reflect agreement on the main essentials of a common policy for agriculture and food.

The development of agriculture and the supply and distribution of food are among the most important statutory responsibilities of Provincial Governments. The events of recent years have emphasised the inter-dependence of the various Provinces and States in the matter of food supply, and have shown that freedom from want can, in future, only be achieved by the closest co-operation of all, in the all-India policy of agricultural development, food production and distribution, and, in these circumstances, it is for the Central Government to co-ordinate that policy.

The Government of India therefore consider, after careful examination of the various suggestions and recommendations made, that it is now opportune to announce, in general terms, and subject to acceptance by Governments of Provinces, an all-India policy for agriculture and food, as well as the objectives to be achieved, the measures to be adopted and the respective roles of the Centre and the Provinces

for their attainment. The policy will be implemented by the Provincial and Central Governments in their respective spheres in consultation with each other, and to the extent that is appropriate and necessary in each case. The degree of success will depend upon the degree of co-operation between the Central and other Governments and among the people themselves, in working out a common policy for the common good of all.

This general policy, and the objectives and measures included in it, will also be submitted to the Governments of the States for their co-operation.

All-India Policy

The all-India policy is to promote the welfare of the people and to secure a progressive improvement of their standard of living. This includes the responsibility for providing enough food for all, sufficient in quantity and of requisite quality. For the achievement of this objective high priority will be given to measures to increase the food resources of the country to the fullest extent, and in particular, to measures designed to increase the output per acre and to diminish dependence on the vagaries of nature. Their aim will be not only to remove the threat of famine, but also to increase the prosperity of the cultivator, raise levels of consumption and create a healthy and vigorous population. The Central and Provincial Governments will bring all available resources to bear to achieve this end in the shortest possible time.

The cardinal objectives of this policy are as follows:—

(1) To increase the production of food, both of foodgrains and protective foods, required to meet the basic needs of the present and future population of India and thus reduce dependence on imports.

As an indication of the magnitude of the task, it has been estimated that existing production falls short of present requirements for a balanced diet by the following margins: Cereals by 10 per cent (6 million tons); Pulses by 20 per cent (1½ million tons); Fats and Oils by 25 per cent (5 million tons); Fruit by 50 per cent (3 million tons); Vegetables by 100 per cent (9 million tons); Milk by 900 per cent (70 million tons); Meat, Fish and Eggs by 300 per cent (4½ million tons).

The increases in the production of cereals and pulses must be proportionately greater, until the required standards of production of other foods have been attained.

(2) To increase the efficiency of the methods of agricultural production, marketing and distribution.

(3) To stimulate the production of the raw materials of industry, both for domestic manufacture and for export.

(4) To secure for agricultural produce an assured market at a price remunerative to the producer and fair to the consumer.

(5) To secure fair wages for agricultural labour.

(6) To improve the standard of living of the rural population, and for this purpose to solve the problems of rural economy which stand in the way of agricultural improvement.

(7) To secure continuous and profitable employment in agriculture by the introduction of intensive scientific agricultural methods, the development of agricultural and cottage industries, and the bringing of new areas under cultivation.

(8) To enlarge the market for agricultural produce and augment the national wealth with a view to improving the national diet, and for this purpose to promote industrial development.

(9) To ensure a fair distribution of the food produced.

(10) To promote nutritional research and nutritional education as a prominent part of the public health programme.

The sum of these objectives is an expanding production and consumption, and adequate purchasing power in the hands of the people. It is now the task of the Central and Provincial Governments, in co-operation with the people, to translate them into practical achievement.

Students of agriculture learn how to sow. One of them (in the background) is sowing with the help of a Seed Drill which deposits the seed in the furrow at regular distances, while the other follows him with a second team of oxen drawing a plank along in order to cover the seed with soil.



Agricultural Training: A student of an agricultural college in the Deccan clears a furrow to irrigate a sugarcane field. His day's work includes six hours practical work on the land and four in laboratory or lecture room.

In the wide field of action necessary to attain these objectives, the first essential is the enlargement and intensification of the measures taken during the war for the increase of food production. The facilities, goods and services

necessary for increased production will be made available to primary producers. At the same time they will be educated to make use of better methods of cultivation, production and animal husbandry and to appreciate improved standards of living.

In the matter of distribution of food, waste and deterioration must be eliminated as far as possible by improved arrangements for storage, methods of pest control, and the application of scientific processes to the conservation of perishable foodstuffs. Arrangements for transport will be improved and modernised, and movement rationalised.

Health, prosperity and increased employment must be brought to the villages by such measures as the provision of education, in the widest sense of the word especially of women eradication of endemic diseases, the improvement of village communications, the promotion of co-operative marketing and credit, and the encouragement of village industries.

Programme of Action

The particular measures which will be required are described in succeeding paragraphs, and will be included in a programme of action prepared in consultation with provinces, and designed to achieve specified goals over a specified period of years. Many of the measures are already in hand: where preparatory work is necessary, it will be completed before the end of 1946.

The measures which will be included in the programme of action cover an immense field. In order to bring the task within manageable dimensions, it is necessary to select for immediate attention certain measures, which appear to hold out the best promise of a considerable increase of production over a short period, and to proceed with the utmost despatch to complete the necessary preliminary enquiries and surveys. These measures, which already find a place in the development plans of Provincial and Central Governments, and on which much work has already been done, are:—

- (1) The supply and conservation of water by the construction of wells, tanks, dams and canals.
- (2) The conservation of soil and the proper use of land.
- (3) An increase in the production and utilisation of all resources of manures and fertilisers, on a subsidised basis, if necessary.
- (4) The production and distribution of improved varieties of seed.



Two fine specimens of North Indian bulls.

(5) Measures for the protection of crops and stored grain against pests and diseases.

(6) Malaria control.

(7) The development of fisheries.

(8) An increase of milk production.

(9) The establishment of a network of demonstration and distribution centres.

(10) The training of an abundant supply of workers for the practical work involved and building up, on the basis of the village or a group of villages as the primary unit, an adequate and efficient administrative organisation to ensure practical results.

Other Measures

Other measures which will be included in the programme of action are as follows:—

(1) A sufficient supply of iron and steel will be made available to meet all demands for agricultural implements, and mechanical cultivation will be introduced in suitable areas.

(2) The results of research on improved methods of cultivation will be extended progressively throughout the country, and pilot schemes in new methods of agricultural organisation in villages by means of co-operative and collective farming and joint management will be carried out.

(3) The production of fruit, vegetables and tubers will be progressively increased, and their distribution improved.

(4) The production of oilseeds will be increased and the seeds crushed in India, so as to





A mango tree. (Below) Coconut groves on the Malabar coast.

Animal Husbandry College to meet the needs of the Centrally Administered areas and the smaller Provinces and States, which cannot afford to have separate colleges. It is hoped that

these institutions will also serve as a model for other similar colleges.

The Central Government have also increased the facilities for post-graduate training in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The number of post-graduate students admitted to the Agriculture Institute has already been increased from 16 to 50 per year and it is proposed to increase the number to 100 in a couple of years. Admissions to the Veterinary Institute have been doubled.

The facilities for training in special subjects like Dairying, Fisheries, Fruits and Vegetables etc., are also being expanded. Admission to the Forest Rangers College have been increased fourfold—from 36 students every alternate year to 75 students every year—and those to the Forest Officers College have been doubled.

The Centre is also arranging for post-graduate training in special subjects overseas. About 100 students have already been sent and it is hoped to send another 75 in 1946.

Research.—Higher training and research have to go together. The Centre will undertake to develop intensive research, in collaboration with the Provinces, on a sufficiently large scale in regard to agricultural matters.

For this purpose, the Central Government will expand the facilities for research at the Agricultural, Veterinary, Dairy and Forest Institutes and will also set up Institutes in respect of Rice, Potatoes, Vegetables, Fruits, Grasslands, Livestock breeding and Fisheries. Research on Cotton, Jute, Lac, Tobacco and Sugarcane and

Coconuts is being attended to by special commodity committees and it is hoped to set up a similar committee for oilseeds shortly.

The Central Government will not only set up high grade research institutes, but will also establish sub-stations at suitable centres, for experimentation on a sufficiently large field scale, either in conjunction with Provinces or otherwise as may be found convenient. Provincial Governments will supplement this by research work of an applied nature to suit local conditions and for the practical countrywide utilisation of the results of research.

In particular, the Central Government will take the initiative in carrying out pilot schemes of co-operative farming, joint management, testing the use and extension of mechanised farming etc.

Special organisations:—The Centre will also set up and maintain, in certain cases, special organisations requiring central co-ordination or management and for providing expert guidance and advice on technical matters to those who need it.

A Statistical and Economic Organisation will be set up for the collection, compilation and interpretation of data relating to the production and distribution of agricultural commodities.

A Central Agricultural Marketing Organisation already exists, but it will be strengthened and placed on a firmer footing. A special committee has been appointed to suggest the lines on which this should be done. In particular it will deal with the improvement in the facilities for the marketing of agricultural produce by the organisation of co-operative societies or depots for the collection, grading, cleaning, standardisation and sale of agricultural produce by the construction of godowns and cold stores and by the establishment of regulated markets.

Plant Protection

A Plant Protection Organisation is being established which will look after quarantine stations for plants and take up the study of birds in their relation to agriculture. A similar organisation will also be set up on the animal side, particularly for dealing with rinderpest.

A Soil Conservation Bureau will be set up which will, in collaboration with provinces, advise on anti-erosion work and guide and train the provincial staff in this line of activity.

The Centre will provide expert advice to Provinces in the preparation of their plans to co-ordinate the various activities and to undertake such other special functions as may be necessary from time to time. For instance there are advisers in respect of emergency and minor irrigation works, fish development, dairy develop-



Sardar Bahadur Sardar Lal Singh, Fruit Development Adviser to the Government of India, who left recently for Australia to obtain first-hand knowledge of the latest research in horticulture and fruit preservation and to find out if machinery to suit Indian conditions can be secured.

ment, fruit development, fertiliser production and utilisation and so on.

The advisability of expanding the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research into an all-India Council of Agriculture will be examined, in order to provide a permanent machinery for the promotion of agreement between the Central and Provincial Governments and help in solving problems which are likely to arise from time to time.

The question of establishing an all-India Council of Co-operation will also be looked into, particularly for dealing with problems of rural credit and marketing and the steps to be taken to provide both long-term and short-term credit to agriculture. The suggestions of the committees appointed for co-operative planning and for rural indebtedness will be examined in this connection and action thereon taken without delay.





The Haffkine Institute which is conducting research in the production of penicillin, vaccines, anti-venom sera etc., was one of the institutions visited by H. E. the Viceroy during his recent tour of Bombay. (Above) Lt.-Col. S. S. Sokhey, Director of the Institute, explains to His Excellency the preparation of penicillin. (Right) In one of the laboratories, the Director demonstrates the extraction of venom from a snake. Picture shows an attendant deftly holding the snake by its neck and tail while the Director holds a small wine glass covered with a thin rubber sheet.

(Below) The Viceroy also visited the agricultural institute at Manjri which trains about 150 agricultural assistants. Picture shows His Excellency in a wheat field examining an ear of wheat.



"I am interested in cattle though I have no special knowledge of them", said the Viceroy opening the Agricultural and Cattle Show in Sanand, in Gujarat, famous for its breed of cattle known as Kankrej. (Above) Two champion bulls are being shown to the Viceroy. (Below) Cattle breeders greet His Excellency.



Apsinghe, a Marhatta village in Satara District, has the proud record of having sent 175 men to the army in World War II, which represents 90 per cent. of men of military age in the village. Picture shows the Viceroy standing before the village war memorial erected after the last war.

PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT FERTILISER FACTORY

Pitkeathly Mission's Work

IT was announced in a Press notification dated January 20, 1945, that a Mission under the leadership of Sir James Pitkeathly had gone to the U.K. to negotiate the purchase of plant for the Government Ammonium Sulphate Factory to be erected at Sindri in Bihar. This Mission was especially charged with the responsibility of investigating the processes and plant employed in the manufacture of ammonium sulphate, both in the U.K. and in the U.S.A., with the object of securing for India the most up-to-date plant possible for the production of this type of fertiliser from indigenous materials. After lengthy investigations with U.K. and American experts, the Mission had submitted its recommendations, and on the basis of these recommendations the Government of India have now sanctioned the negotiation of agreements for the supply of plant and machinery for the factory, and for the erection of the factory.

Two contracts are contemplated: one with a leading firm of American consultants for the design of the whole factory, supervision of the erection of the factory, and seeing it into production at its rated output; the other with

a firm representing a consortium of British chemical plant manufacturers, who will arrange the supply of the necessary plant and its erection, under the supervision of American experts.

To supply the plant for this factory in the time required, it will be necessary to call upon the resources of a large number of firms including boiler-makers, manufacturers of turbo-alternators, suppliers of electrical equipment, supplier of mechanical handling and weighing equipment, in addition to utilising the resources of the chemical engineering industry for the supply of the main chemical plant. The supply of the major part of the plant will be by competitive tender.

Anglo-American Collaboration

It is anticipated that large orders for fabricated steel work, pipe work, tanks, vessels, etc., will be placed by the main contractors referred to above with Indian firms. In this way, it has been possible to secure the fullest Anglo-American collaboration in providing a plant, of the most up-to-date design, and incorporating the best experience of both countries, whilst at the same time employing to the fullest possible extent the resources of Indian industrialists and Indian labour in the supply of such plant and equipment as can be made in India.

Government are confident that, as a result of the work carried out by the Pitkeathly Mission, the Sindri factory, when completed, will be one of the most modern ammonium sulphate fertiliser factories in the world, incorporating the latest improvements known to science, both in England and in America, and capable of supplying fertilisers at the lowest possible cost to the cultivator consistent with the utilisation of indigenous raw materials.

The 18th series of the publication "Statutory and other Notices issued by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India regarding matters relating to the trade and commerce of British India in connection with the war" covering the period December 1, 1943 to February 29, 1944, have just been issued by the Economic Resources Board.

The publication, which is intended to facilitate reference, reproduces statutory and other notices concerning imports and exports, finance, trading with the enemy and the control of enemy property, control of newsprint, iron and steel, petrol, machinery, tools, tea, rubber, etc., control of prices, house rents, wages, freights, hoarding and profiteering etc., production, supplies, labour, insurance, transport etc.

ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP OF BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS



Sir Archibald Rowlands.

Sir Archibald Rowlands Explains Advantages to India

"By adhering as an original member, India was certain of a seat on the Executive Directorate as an elected member and would thus be in a position to guide, from the very beginning, all policies which will determine the working of the Fund and the Bank in future. I do not pretend to have the gift of prophecy, but as matters have turned out, owing to the fact that the Union of Soviet Republics have not joined as an original member, India becomes one of the "Big Five" of the Fund and the Bank and, as such, becomes an appointed Director and not an elected Director and also has the privilege of holding a part of the resources of the Fund and the Bank in this country".

So stated the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member to the Government of India, initiating a debate on India and the Bretton Woods Agreements by moving the following Resolution in the Central Assembly on January 28:

"That this House welcomes the proposals for setting up an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as set out in the Final Act of the

Bretton Woods Conference and also welcomes the action taken by the Government of India in adhering to the Agreements as an original member."

Sir Archibald Rowlands said: Sir, in moving this Resolution, I seek the indulgence of the House, and I know I shall not seek it in vain. For me, this is rather a high ordeal, for this is the first occasion in the whole of my life that I have been called upon to make anything that may be dignified by the name of 'speech'. Having spent most of my career in the public service in the United Kingdom, where bureaucrats are very occasionally seen, but never heard, it is a little hard to be thrust into this forum of debate, where, as I know from observations when I was out in India in 1937-39, the standards of oratory and skill in controversy are very high, standards which as we have seen in the last few days are fully maintained. I remember listening with pleasure to the many debates in those days and admired the skill of such people as Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, whose absence from this House I personally regret, and Mr. Satyamurti whose mastery of language, coupled with his passionate devotion to any cause he espoused made him the most formidable debater. But, Sir, I can claim to have none of those qualities and I apologise to the House in advance for my inadequacy as a debater. I will do my best.

Object of Resolution

In moving this Resolution, as an alternative to the several adjournment motions that were put down, my object was to widen the scope of the debate so as to focus the attention of the House on what I regard as the most important feature in it, that is to say, whether this House is prepared to annul and revoke the action taken by the Government in committing India to be a member of the Bretton Woods Agreements. I want to be perfectly clear. The issue before the House, from the Government point of view, is whether or not India has now to withdraw from the Bretton Woods arrangements. I have already, on more than one occasion, in answer to questions and otherwise, made it clear that that is exactly what the Government is going to do. It will abide by the decision of the House. But my Motion, if you look at it, also covers the points that are sought to be raised by My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar in his amendment, namely whether it was in the interest of India to adhere to the Fund and the Bank as an original member.



Sir James Pitkeathly.

Let me take the second point first, although, as I have said, I myself regard it as of much less importance than the first point. It is true that my predecessor in answer to questions on the floor of this House, gave a pledge that, once the United Kingdom and the United States had declared their attitude to the Bretton Woods Agreements, he would bring in the matter before this House, before the question of adherence of India to the arrangement arose. Now, Sir the circumstances under which that pledge was given are very different from the circumstances under which Government found itself when it had to make up its mind whether to commit India to the Fund and the Bank, and that was that a decision had to be taken before December 31 of last year.

Changed Circumstances

Every Original Member of the Fund had to declare its attitude and deposit certain documents before December 31 and there was no opportunity to consult this House before that decision was taken. As you will observe, that pledge was, once the attitude of the United States and the United Kingdom had been revealed, at that stage the Government would bring the matter before the House. Circumstances, as I said, had changed completely in that this House was dissolved on October 1. It would not have been possible or profitable or practicable to discuss the question of India's attitude to these Institutions before the attitude of the United Kingdom had been revealed.

To break a pledge, of course, is a serious matter, but there are circumstances under which a breach of pledge is justified. If, for example, my Honourable friend Mr. Sinha undertook, on January 1 of this year to pay me Rs. 10,000 in legal tender notes of Rs. 1,000 on February 1, then, if the circumstances had arisen which would have prevented him from carrying out that pledge, I would not regard it as dishonourable on his part. The Government did its best to carry out the spirit, if not the letter of the pledge in that it consulted those interests, or the representatives of those interests, whom it thought were the most affected, immediately affected by the decision. I also gave an undertaking in the letters which I addressed to these bodies that, if the decision of the House—I promised to bring this matter before the House as soon as possible—was in the negative, then the Government would not hesitate to withdraw from the fund and the Bank.

There is no technical difficulty whatsoever in so withdrawing. All that needs to be done is to write a letter to Washington giving notice of withdrawal and it takes effect from the date of receipt of the letter. If it is accepted by the

House that it is in India's interest to adhere to the Agreement, then the point at issue is whether there was any particular advantage in joining the Fund and the Bank before December 31 and thus become an original member of these two institutions.

I submit that there are distinct advantages. In the first place we knew the conditions on which we joined it; they are fully and clearly set out in the Agreements themselves. A member who applies for membership after December 31 1945 can only join on such conditions as the Fund and the Bank may prescribe, and they may well be less favourable than those on which we have accepted membership. Secondly, by adhering as an original member, India was certain of a seat on the Executive Directorate as an elected member and would thus be in a position to guide, from the very beginning, all policies which will determine the working of the Fund and the Bank in future.

I do not pretend to have the gift of prophecy, but as matters have turned out, owing to the fact that the Union of Soviet Republics have not joined as an original member, India becomes one of the "Big Five" of the Fund and the Bank, and, as such, becomes an appointed Director and not an elected Director and also has the privilege of holding a part of the resources of the Fund and the Bank in this country. As I say, I do not claim any credit for that myself.

Thirdly, by adhering as an original member India has undoubtedly enhanced her ever-growing international status and prestige. Finally, by her action, India has avoided the risk of raising resentment in the United States where the Administration warmly support the Agreements; and India will have a great deal to do with the United States in the future.

Press Reactions

The action of Government in committing India as an original member of these two institutions was warmly welcomed by the economic press of this country. I submit, therefore, that, on the assumption that the House agrees that it is to India's advantage to become a member of these two institutions, the action of Government was entirely warranted. Indeed, I have no doubt that, if Government had not adhered, another motion of adjournment would have been put down censuring Government for not doing so. It would have been alleged that this irresponsible Government does not hesitate to break pledges when it pleases it to do so but is prepared to take its stand on the sanctity of a pledge when it is not in its interest to break it. I therefore proceeded on the principle that whatever you

do is likely to be wrong and so you might as well do it quickly.

I now turn to the Agreement itself. I do not propose to go into any detail on what are rather complicated articles since the papers which I have circulated, particularly this short one, set out concisely, and I hope clearly, what the Agreements are all about. If Members have not read these documents carefully I hope that before they come finally to vote, they will do so. Secondly, judging by the number of adjournment motions put down, a large number of Members wish to speak. Thirdly, if one of the amendments that have been put down is accepted, namely, to refer the question to a committee of the House before the House makes up its mind about it, there will be a further opportunity both in the committee and later on the floor of the House to go into the matter in greater detail.

For obvious reasons I cannot accept that portion of the amendment that seems to bring censure on Government because, as I have sought to show, the action that Government took was entirely justified; but as to the other parts of the amendments and as to one single amendment, namely, the suggestion that the question should be referred to a committee before final decision is taken, I myself think that it is advantageous in a matter of this sort, where the details are highly technical in certain cases, to have the matter thrashed out by selected members of the House before the matter is finally disposed of on the floor of the House.

Amendment Accepted

I am, therefore, prepared to accept, on behalf of Government, Mr. Haroon's amendment which seeks to set up a committee of nine members elected by the House. I would make two suggestions to him. One is that, unless it is inherent in the amendment—I do not know enough about procedure to know that—there should be a member of the European group which contains several members who are able to make valuable contributions to the consideration of this question. Secondly, I would much prefer the period given to the committee, namely, up to March 1, to be considerably shortened. I think it would be possible for the committee to get through its work in a much shorter time and it would certainly be to the convenience of Government. Dr. Madan who took the oath today has to get back to join the Tariff Board as soon as possible. He was, as you know, the Secretary to the Indian Delegation to Bretton Woods.

Now, Sir, what does this rather formidable document containing the Articles of Agreement add up to? In a sentence the two institutions seek to achieve in the monetary field an increase in international trade and, through that, the prosperity of all the countries of the world.

Economically all nations live in a single world, and no country can prosper if it lives in a state of economic isolation.

The Fund seeks to achieve its objective first by introducing order and stability, but not rigidity, into international exchange; secondly, by facilitating multilateral payments in respect of current transactions; thirdly, by providing a supplementary source of foreign exchange to tide over a temporary lack of balance in a country's international payments, thus enabling the country concerned to resist the temptation of indulging in competitive exchange depreciation—a feature which was very prominent in the inter-war period and wrought havoc with international trade.

Bank's Role

The part the Bank will play is to facilitate the movement of capital to countries either devastated by war or countries with undeveloped resources, in order to raise their standard of life. India, if she is to achieve her full potentialities within a reasonable time, will in my judgment, require large loans from abroad, and here is the means of obtaining them without the risk of domination of Indian industry by foreign capital.

I do not pretend that these Agreements are perfect in all their details; nobody would expect an agreement which was hammered out by 44 nations to satisfy everybody. And indeed the Agreements have not been without their critics. I think three principal objections can be raised against the Agreements. First, it may be argued that the Agreement was premature because it can only work effectively if it is buttressed by adequate international arrangements in the sphere of trade policy. This criticism is, I think, entirely valid, to the extent that it is true that this Agreement does require such international trade arrangements and is in no way a substitute for them.

But international agreements cannot all be negotiated at the same time and we have got to make a start somewhere. There is a general consensus of opinion that the Agreement must be followed by a trade agreement; and, as you know, the United States of America has recently tabled proposals for the expansion of world trade and employment, and an international conference will be held in the early summer this year to consider and debate them. And India has received and accepted an invitation to take part in those discussions.

Secondly, it may be argued, and indeed has been argued, that the Agreements will not work in the sense that the funds provided in it are inadequate. This is an important argument; but it must first of all be borne in mind that the

funds provided for in the Agreements are not intended to be the sole or even the main source of foreign exchange for debtor countries. It is an entire misreading of the Agreements and of the purpose of the International Fund to make any such assumption. In the main, countries must rely for normal supplies of foreign exchange upon exports and rendering services and of course, on investment markets, as they have done in the past. It does not follow from this, however, that a supplementary source, such as is provided by the International Fund, is not only helpful but desirable; in practice the only currency likely to be scarce is the United States dollar.

And when the unworkability of the Fund proposals are talked of, what is really meant is that the Fund has only a limited amount of dollars at its disposal. The Agreement does, however, provide means by which the supply can be increased. The Agreement provides for rationing of the currency that becomes "scarce"—in this case the dollar. I admit, it is not a very satisfactory way of dealing with the issue, but only time can really show whether the size of the Fund is adequate or not. Much must turn upon the agreements reached between the nations in the near future on questions of tariffs particularly United States tariff and trade policy, and upon the level of American spending upon such things as travel in foreign countries. But it is not an argument against the Fund that under certain circumstances in the future, the present supplies of credit may prove insufficient.

Monetary Sovereignty

Lastly,—and this is one of the most important objections used against the Fund—there are those who contend that the benefits from the Fund do not compensate for the loss of monetary sovereignty which it involves. I am afraid that many who argue in this way are guilty of the logical fallacy of thinking that what may be good for a single country, if all other countries behave in a different way, will be equally good for the same country if all other countries act in the same way.

The benefit which a single country may derive from retaining unlimited monetary sovereignty may be considerable, provided all other countries accept limitation, because other countries may then be able to retaliate in full. But the benefits may quite easily vanish altogether if all countries act on the principle of unlimited monetary sovereignty: all the evils which this Agreement was designed to remedy might easily reappear in full measure and no one would benefit.

This Agreement affords India the opportunity, at a moment of grave import to the

whole world, of taking full part in a new organisation of great significance and thus of assisting to shape the future course of world monetary history. It is not merely that by not joining the Fund and the Bank India runs the risk that decisions may be taken which are not to her interest or that by non-adherence she would be debarred from the benefits of these new organisations. These are important considerations, but to my mind they are not the decisive ones. The decisive reason is that India is now by far the strongest and economically best organised country in Asia and should feel that economic leadership of the East is her proved prerogative.

WORKING OF CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES SCHEME

The total amount applied for under the Control of Capital Issues scheme from its inception in May 1943 to the end of September 1945 amounted to Rs. 385 crores in respect of 4,660 companies, according to a comprehensive statement issued by the Examiner of Capital Issues giving statistical particulars regarding the operation of the scheme during the period.

This statement supersedes all previous statements. The classification of companies has been put on a more scientific basis, which has been evolved as a result of experience gained during the last 2½ years of working of the Control Scheme.

The total amount for which consent was given during the period aggregated Rs. 260 crores in respect of 3,781 companies. Refusals amounted to Rs. 89 crores relating to 876 companies.

Refusals

The rest of the amount—viz. Rs. 36 crores—represented partial refusals in cases where consent was given, but not for the total sum applied for. Of the aggregate amount consented to, over Rs. 159 crores related to industrial issues, of which Rs. 82 crores were "long-range" schemes, and nearly Rs. 101 crores to non-industrial issues, of which Rs. 12 crores were "long-range" schemes.

Of the refusals, over Rs. 23 crores were concerned with industrial and nearly Rs. 66 crores with non-industrial issues.

FOREST RESEARCH IN INDIA

Work of Dehra Dun Institute

"THIS year again the work of the Institute has been entirely governed by war demands," states the Annual Report of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, for 1943-44, published recently. Practically the whole of the Utilisation and Chemistry and Minor Products branches were entirely engaged on problems connected directly with, or arising from the effects of the war.

One of the items of war help to both Indian and American army units was the provision of data from the information available on the ledger files or the Silviculture branch of the Institute and from its collection of 15,000 photographs on a variety of subjects such as weeds on aerodrome runways, jungle warfare, forest aerial photography and actual types of country and areas where fighting has to be done.



Specimens of diseased timber and tree fungus organisms being examined at the Forest Research Institute.

An inquiry into the plywood industry was one of the special undertakings of the Utilisation branch of the Institute. During investigations it was found that tea-boxes were imported before the war but now imported boxes are not available. After satisfactory tests, assurances were given to Indian tea interests that really good tea-boxes could now be made in India. The branch also drafted specifications for commercial plywood in collaboration with the Officer of the Master-General of Ordnance Branch, so that if accepted, there will be a single specification for His Majesty's Forces and the civilian requirements.

Two special officers of the Institute have been carrying on a detailed tour of all Indian plywood factories and it is hoped that a scheme will be evolved to improve the general standard of quality throughout the industry. Considerable time was also spent by this branch in training Ordnance and M.E.S. personnel, kiln and plywood operators, students of the School of Military Engineering and, of course, the usual civil trainees.

Commercial Timber

The Wood Technology Section of the Institute continued its work on preparation of keys for important commercial timber. Identification of large numbers of samples of timber sent in by the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, totalling 2,000, was attended to during the year under report. This Section has identified 11,000 samples since the war began, which is 5½ times what it would normally have examined in the same period before the war. The Section at present identifies in one year the same number of samples which it would ordinarily have done in five years before the war. The Timber Testing Section has made numbers of routine tests, especially the Royal Air Force, for air-screws and test fans of Indian species. An interesting test was on a specimen known as "red ebony" which turned out to be the hardest specimen of natural wood so far tested and appears to be an excellent substitute for *Lignum Vitae*.

Popularisation of artificial seasoning has been the chief work of the Wood Seasoning Section. As a result of the work of the Section the eight installations in India in 1930 had expanded to 14 at the outbreak of the war and have now expanded to 33 and are still increasing rapidly. The Section continued its work on shuttle, bobbins, picker arms, battery separators and the like, and it has been found that the light coloured sapwood of ebony (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) is the best Indian timber so far tested for cotton mill shuttles.

An interesting discovery made by the Wood Preservation Section was the high percentage of

phenolic constituents in coconut shell tar, which might help the supply of synthetic resin in India. Work on casein, vegetable casein and synthetic resins combined with the development of plywood in its specialised form as compregnated wood, were some of the other features of this Section.

The Paper Pulp Section has produced 92 tons of paper. From the point of view of the war the most interesting problem was to find a paper for printing maps which could stand wet garment, wet ground and from which blood, water and mud could be easily wiped without damaging the print. Paper hardised with resin wax emulsion was supplied, which, it is reported has solved the problem.

Substitutes for Imported Drugs

With a view to finding substitutes for some of the imported drugs, an attempt was made to standardise the drug from *Holarrhena anti-dysenterica*, extensively used in place of emetine for the treatment of amoebic dysentery. It was also found that the oil of *Mentha piperita*, both wild and cultivated in Dehra Dun, could be used as a substitute for American or partially demethylised Japanese peppermint oil. Useful work has also been done with *Pinus excelsa* and *Pinus longifolia* necessary for the manufacture of synthetic camphor. The rubber diluent prepared from Castor oil has been reported to have improved the wearing qualities of rubber.

An almost universal provider has been discovered in the Tamarind Seed. From its kernel material has been produced for sizing cotton yarn, creaming rubber latex, etc. Seed tests contain 10 to 12 per cent. of a red dye and 23 to 25 per cent. of tannin which might be of some use for tanning heavy leather.

INDIAN RULERS HONOURED

His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor has been graciously pleased to appoint H.H. the Nawab of Bhopal, H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala, H.H. the Maharaja Raja of Bundi, and H.H. the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior), as His Majesty's Honorary Aides-de-Camp.

The following have been appointed His Majesty's Extra Honorary Aides-de-Camp:

H.H. the Maharaja of Ratlam, H.H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur, H.H. the Nawab of Palanpur and H.H. the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.

His Majesty has further been pleased to approve the promotion of H.H. the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior) and the appointment of H.H. the Maharaja Raja of Bundi to the Honorary rank of Major in the Army.

MEDICAL RELIEF IN THE ANDAMANS

“NEARLY everyone was suffering from beri-beri, malnutrition and scabies, while hospitals such as were existing, were full of patients suffering from one disease or another, specially malaria and dysentery. Conditions in such hospitals were indescribably filthy, squalid and dreadful, many of the patients reduced to skeletons, often naked or clothed in bits of sacking.”

This is how Major G.E.S. Steward, Senior Medical Officer of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, describes conditions in those Islands when he landed in the mercy ship, S.S. *Bandra* on September 26, last year, twelve days before the Allied occupation forces landed.

In the medical report submitted by Major Steward to the Home Department, Government of India, is contained a vivid narrative of Japanese neglect of a people's health, of a people who had been nearly starved to death by lack of food, nutrition and vitamins and affected by disease of every description. Sanitary conditions defied description.

Between September 26 and October 8, before the occupation forces landed and took over the administration, Major Steward with his small team of three officers from India and with whatever local staff he could manage, set to work.

Major Steward's Efforts

Rations consisting of rice, *dal*, tea, sugar and *ramaspati* were issued to all, as also modern drugs like mepacrine, emetine hydrochloride, sulphaguanidine, sulphaphyridine, ascorbic acid, penicillin and aureine hydrochloride; assorted dressings were immediately supplied to the small hospital staff as cases began to be attended to. Marmite was distributed freely and doctors told to enlist more staff, and all infected localities sprayed by D.D.T.

Rations and medical supplies brought by the mercy ship thus saved many lives and Major Steward's efforts made it possible for the Islands' inhabitants to live a little longer until they were finally liberated.

Some idea of the manner in which preventive drugs were denied to the civilian population by the Japanese could be had from the fact that over 1,500 lbs. of locally made today were used as "medicine" for dysentery by their hospital staff during the month of August 1945, according to an official report made to the Japanese Naval Surgeon by the Indian medical officer who was in charge during the occupation.

HOME MEMBER ON DETENUS IN BRITISH INDIA

SPeAKING in the Central Legislative Assembly on January 23, on the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Congress) on the subject of detenus, the Hon'ble Sir John Thorne, Home Member, said:

Sir, I expect my Hon'ble friends want me to present a target to them rather than present the Government case, but still I do not wish to hang back when they want to hear what I have to say.

I must decline the invitation of my Hon'ble friend, the Mover, to take any responsibility for persons detained under orders of the Provincial Governments. The Ordinance confers powers of detention both on the Central Government and on the Provincial Governments and in practice those powers have been separately used and enforced. I do not want to be misunderstood about that. There has, of course, been consultation between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments as to the policy under this Ordinance. That consultation is necessary; it is of the first importance to the Central Government to have advice of the Provincial Governments on all matters relating to public order; and there are cases when it is equally of use to Provincial Governments to be told by the Central Government what they propose to do in respect of the areas immediately under their control. That consultation took place at various stages and it took place immediately the war ended.

End of the War

I quite agree with Mr. Saksena that the end of the war produced a new situation. It certainly produced a new situation that was recognised immediately at the Centre and the Provinces were consulted as to the effect that the new situation should have on the policy hitherto followed under Ordinance III. Now, Sir, the policy agreed on between the Centre and the Provinces was to release persons detained under Ordinance III as quickly as was reasonably and safely possible.

That was a policy agreed soon after the end of the war, and I can claim that that is the policy that has been followed in the succeeding months. I hope I have made it clear that I do not take the responsibility for the administration of the Governors' Provinces; but I have figures from those Provinces which I will quote in support of my case that we have proceeded as quickly as was reasonably and safely to be expected with the release of detenus.

Now, Sir, in the Governors' Provinces in August, 1945, when the war ended the number of

persons detained under Ordinance III was 6,816. That number has now fallen—my latest figures are, I think, for January 15—to, 3,109.

SEVERAL HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame.

SIR JOHN THORNE: My Hon'ble friends cry "shame".

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Gunter-cum-Nellore; Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is worse than shame; it is a disgrace.

Hurs

SIR JOHN THORNE: May I explain a little what that figure represents? 3,109 is the total figure. Of those by far the greater number—over two-third—are Hurs detained by the Government of Sind. Well, Sir, the Hurs are not my business, and I have not made a special study of their doings. But it is common knowledge that for years, and especially of recent years, this faction in Sind has pursued a course of lawless and extreme violence—murder, decoity, maltreatment of all kinds, finally the derailment of passenger trains, those are all to the credit of the Hurs.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Why don't you try them?

SIR JOHN THORNE: Not only have they committed those crimes but they have created situations, I understand, in which it was impossible to get a conviction against any Hur. Witnesses were intimidated and witnesses were murdered. That has been going on for the last so many years.

SARDAR MANGAL SINGH (East Punjab; Sikh) What is the number of Hurs detained?

SIR JOHN THORNE: The number of Hurs detained at the present moment is 2,506. But what I wish to point out is that not only are they not my business, but they are not the business of this House. I myself shall not be a party to any decision or vote of this House which amounts to a vote of censure on the Sind Government for their treatment of the Hurs or a demand that they shall immediately release the Hurs whom they are now detaining. (Interruption) So much for the Provincial Governments.

For the Central Government, the corresponding figures are very modest. In August 1945 there were 22 persons detained under the orders of the Central Government. At the present day there are three. In the Chief Commissioner's Provinces which of course are generally, with the exception of Baluchistan, under the control of the Governor-General, the number in

August 1945 was 17, and the number is now one. Let me repeat those figures, gentlemen, because they are figures for which I am responsible.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur-cum-Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Does this number include Jai Prakash Narain?

SIR JOHN THORNE: Certainly, it does. The number was 22 in August 1945 under orders issued by the Central Government. The number is three now. The number in Chief Commissioner's Provinces in August 1945 was 17, and the number is now one. (*Interruption*).

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Who are these three?

SIR JOHN THORNE: May I ask that I may not be interrupted as I have very short time at my disposal. If my Honourable friends would wait, they will know everything.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Hon'ble member may have five minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir): Will the Hon'ble Members just listen?

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Mr. Chairman, it is a very important matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir): But I cannot extend the Hon'ble Member's time.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: We do not want extension of the time. We want the information.

SIR JOHN THORNE: The total for British India in June 1943 was 14,500. As I have said, in August 1945 that total dropped. The total for the whole of British India, including the portions for which I am responsible, was 6,855, and on January 15 of this year the total was 3,113.

MAULANA ZAFAR ALI KHAN (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Are they ordinary criminals or patriots?

Four Persons

SIR JOHN THORNE: I was not proposing to conceal from this House what as a matter of fact every member of this House knows already, namely, the names of the four persons detained under orders either of the Central Government or of Chief Commissioners. Their names are:—Jai Prakash Narain, Ram Manohar Lohia, Sardar Sardul Singh Kaveeshar, and Krishna Nair. In the last few days I have myself seen each of those four persons. I conversed freely with them. I should like here and now to say that I am indebted to them for a very full and frank discussion and the courtesy with which they received someone whom they may not have been expected to regard with very great affection, and generally for the light I received from them on the questions which I have to consider in regard to detenus.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: They did not look dangerous.

SIR JOHN THORNE: In our discussions I should prefer not to go into what was said in any great detail. I would prefer to wait. They spoke frankly to me; I spoke frankly to them. I should perhaps be taking an advantage of them if I said what they said to me when they cannot say what I said to them. But I questioned them in particular on their attitude to violence as a political method and as to their views on the present political situation. I received from them very interesting answers to the questions I put on those subjects, and I have no doubt that they gave me their confidence. They made no secret of their views, and I have no reason to suppose that they set out to mislead me.

MR. M. ASAF ALI: Are they to be detained for their views? Is that the principle of the Government?

SIR JOHN THORNE: As regards the present position of these four persons, it is that the orders under which they are at present detained have still some months to go. I think June and July are the months in which those orders would, unless previously cancelled, expire. I do not propose to stand on those dates. It was only a few days since I saw these gentlemen and the matter which I am now considering is whether there is any good reason in respect of any of them for anticipating the dates which would terminate the orders under which they are at present detained.

One thing I will say on that, and that is that I should not feel myself justified in forming a decision without consulting certain Provincial Governments. I do not think I need give reasons for that. Briefly, the reasons are that at any rate three of these persons are residents of areas which are not under the direct administration of the Government of India, and it is right and proper that the Government of those areas should give their views on the question of release of these persons.

MR. SRI PRAKASA (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Did you consult these Governments when you detained them?

SIR JOHN THORNE: But I wish to make this quite clear that the responsibility is that of the Government of India. The Government of India will not take shelter under the Provincial Governments any more than we expect Provincial Governments to take shelter under the Government of India. The responsibility is here. I am aware of the weight of it and I would ask this House to give the Government and myself in particular credit for giving very earnest consideration to the questions which have now to be considered.

ATOMIC RESEARCH: COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT PROGRAMME

EXPLORATION of raw materials in India capable of producing atomic energy, ways and means of harnessing them and the progress made so far in the planning of the National Laboratories were among the important subjects discussed at the meeting of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research held in New Delhi on January 17 and 18, 1946, under the Presidentship of the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, then Member for Planning and Development, Government of India.

On the recommendation of the Board, the Governing Body set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. H. J. Bhabha F.R.S. to explore the availability of raw materials in India capable of generating atomic energy, suggest ways and means of harnessing them and keep in touch with similar organisations in other countries. The other members of the Committee are: Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar F.R.S., Dr. K. S. Krishna, F.R.S., Dr. M. N. Saha, F.R.S., Dr. D. N. Wadia, Dr. Nazir Ahmed and Dr. Jivraj Mehta. The Governing Body also set up a Committee, with Sir S.S. Bhatnagar as convener, to work out in this connection a programme of research on beryllium and its master alloy.

Radio-Active Contents of Minerals

Another Committee will undertake a systematic examination of the radio-active contents of minerals occurring in the different rock systems of India. The study is expected to be of help in understanding the chronological order of the great undated rock systems of the Deccan and the general geological layout of the Indian sub-continent. The knowledge thus gained will help mineralogists and prospectors in locating minerals and oils of economic value.

The Governing Body noted with satisfaction the progress of work in the planning and construction of the five National Laboratories and generally approved the final report submitted by the National Physical Laboratory Planning Committee. It was decided to take early steps for the training of personnel required for the Physical and Chemical Laboratories. The Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari was re-elected Vice-President of the Council.

The research schemes in operation in the various Universities and other laboratories in India, already sanctioned by the Board, were renewed. Nine new research schemes were sanctioned, including one on the physical and chemical survey of Indian coals.

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF PENICILLIN

AS the result of a systematic survey of the antibiotic-producing capacities of penicillia contained in the National Collection of Type Cultures, which has been carried out at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 12 strains of penicillia have been selected for further study as potential sources of penicillin. Details of the survey have been published in the December issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

During the past few years, many types of synthetic fibres have been developed which find numerous applications in industry. Judging from the amount of research carried out in various countries in this field and the results already achieved, it would appear that synthetic fibres are likely to affect the position of natural fibres, especially cotton. This problem, which is of special interest to India, is discussed in an article appearing in the *Journal*. It is pointed out that it is of the utmost importance to intensify research on all aspects of cotton. It is equally important to keep a close watch on developments in new synthetic fibres likely to compete with cotton, and to study trends in production, prices and consumption, as India is a large producer of natural fibres like cotton and jute on which the prosperity and welfare of a vast number of cultivators depend.

Titanium Whites

A pilot plant for the production of titanium dioxide from bauxite sludge has been set up in the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at Delhi. The plant, which has a production capacity of 20 lbs. per day, has provided valuable data on the commercial feasibilities of the process for the production of titanium whites. The final product, though it has satisfactory pigment properties, is capable of improvement, and further experiments are in progress to improve these properties.

Wartime developments in German aircraft, tanks, U-boats and V-weapons have been briefly surveyed in another article published in the *Journal*. This article is the second of a series on German war research and development. Some of the advanced types of these weapons were still in a stage of development when the work was interrupted by Allied bombing but research on jet-propulsion, aerodynamics, and long-range guided missiles had reached a very advanced stage of development.

TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

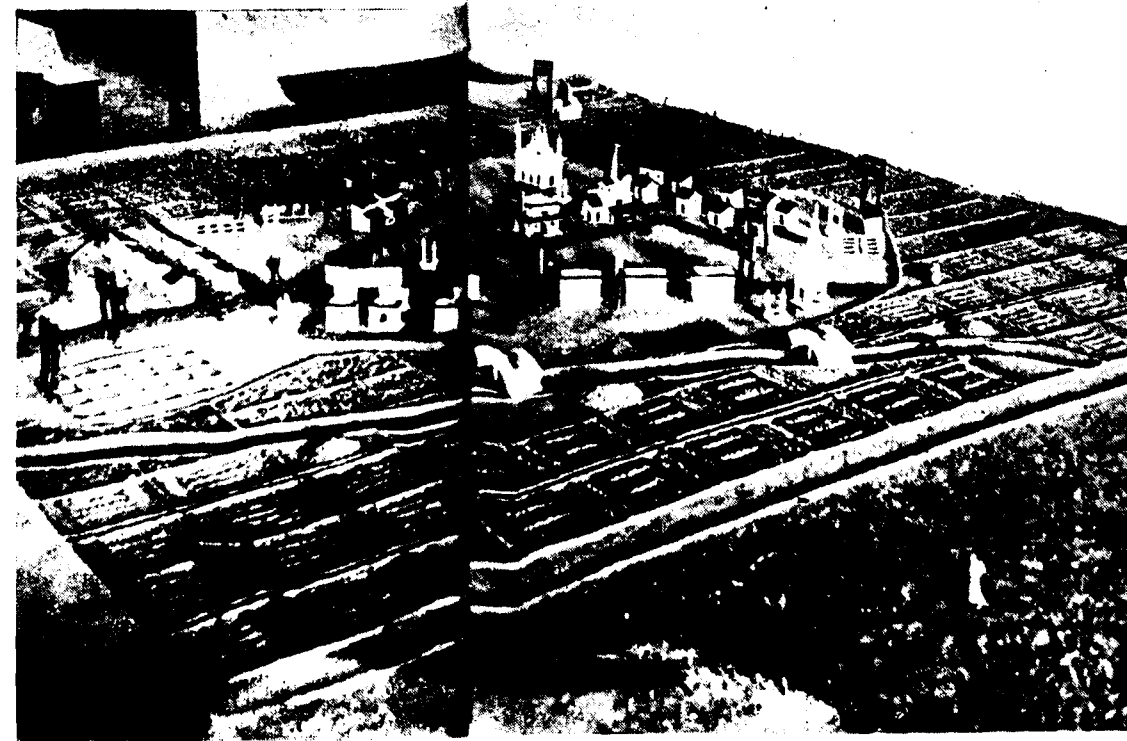
HALF of the 30,000 seats to be provided for the training of demobilised servicemen this year are now available in the Technical Training Centres which have been switched over to their new job. The number of such centres is at present 34, comprising five centres in Bengal and Assam, four in Bihar and Orissa, four in U.P., seven in the Punjab and N.W.F.P., one in Sind, two in Bombay, one in C.P., seven in Madras and three in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, but more are being emptied to receive demobilised trainees.

The services of some of the British Specialist Instructors who were brought from the U.K. for the wartime Technical Training Scheme are being continued for the training of ex-servicemen.

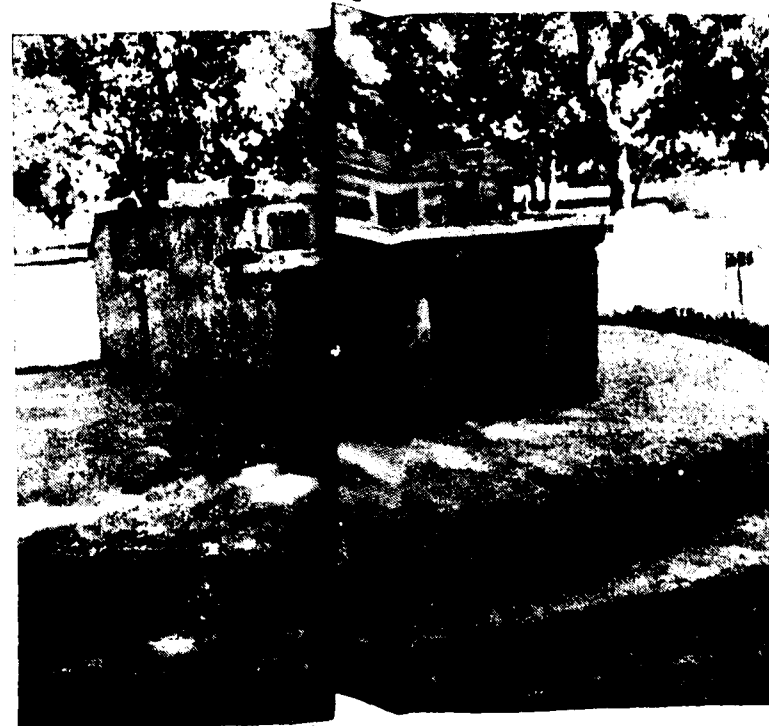
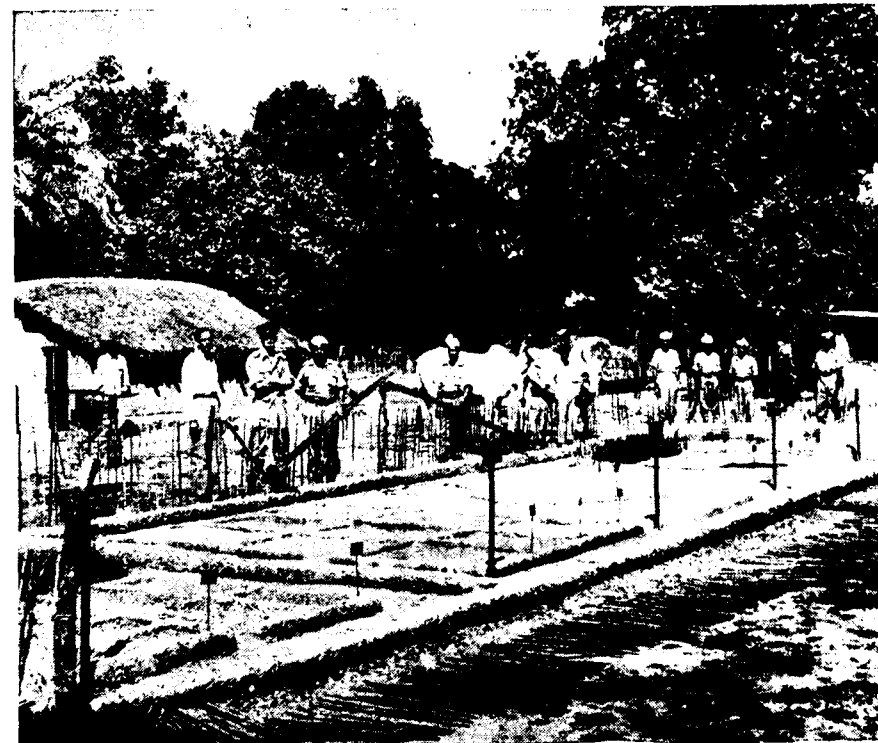
The other training centres numbering about 100 will become available for training the demobilised as and when the trainees required for

A model demonstrating the consolidation of holdings and the reclamation of alkali soils at the 2nd Punjab Regimental Centre, Meerut.

Model of a post-war village at the 2nd Punjab Regimental Centre, Meerut.



Upwards of 4,000 servicemen receive training prior to their release in over 50 Regimental Release Centres all over India. The aim of the scheme is to enable all men, who volunteer for training, to become better agriculturists, to learn a supplementary occupation or to improve their technical skill. (Below) Model of an I.O.R.'s post-war house at the centre.



the Defence Services have completed their course. Those not required by the Defence Services are also allowed to continue their training in these centres as civil trainees, if they so desire. Only such of the trainees who have not passed the basic training test or have not completed even two months' training have been discharged.

During the five years of the operation of the wartime Technical Training Scheme started by the Labour Department, Government of India, more than 100,000 have passed through these training centres. The total number of technicians trained and supplied to the Defence Services up to October 31, 1945 was 83,867. Of these, 3,319 were sent to Ordnance and Munitions Factories and 4,069 to undertakings engaged in the production of war supplies.

Special technical institutions were opened and existing factories and workshops were pressed into service for the Technical Training Scheme. Their number and capacity, however, varied from time to time in accordance with the requirements of the Defence Services. The average period of training in these centres was about six to 12 months.

These soldiers are learning brick-making at the M.T. Reinforcement Centre, Jullundur.



Dr. Tara Chand, of the Allahabad University, addressing the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology held recently at Calcutta.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN INDIA REVIEWED

THE Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, at its meeting at Calcutta on January 14, reviewed the archaeological work done in India during the last year and approved of a programme of archaeological field work in the immediate future.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice N.G.A. Edgeley in the morning and Dr. R. C. Mazumdar in the afternoon.

Among the delegates who attended the meeting were Mr. Ahmed Ali Kahzad and Mr. S. M. Razavi, official delegates of the Governments of Afghanistan and Iran respectively.

The Board adopted a resolution recommending that a member of the Archaeological Board should be nominated to the joint committee on cultural relations which may be constituted at the instance of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal for maintaining cultural contacts between the United Kingdom and India in regard to matters like history, art and archaeology, and that Dr. Mazumdar, former Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University, should represent the Archaeological Board on this committee if and when it is constituted.

Reviewing the work of the Archaeological Survey, Dr. Mortimer Wheeler, Director-General of Archaeology, gave an account of the preservation of pre-historic sites of South India and the

Advisory Board's Meeting at Calcutta

work of conservation covering jungle clearance. Consolidation and chemical treatment had also started in respect

of the Hindu temples at Bhubaneswar. It would be continued to the maximum capacity year by year. A carefully considered programme of conservation running approximately to Rs. 1 lakh had also been drawn up for preserving the Jami Masjid enclosing the saint's tomb at Akbar's Palace and city at Fatehpur Sikri.

Steps were also taken to conserve the famous Portuguese Fort of Bassein near Bombay, a surviving relic of early colonisation in India. Work had also started for preservation of the Gol Gumbad at Bijapur, the largest dome in India and the second largest in the world. This work was likely to cost not less than Rs. 2½ lakhs.

As regards excavation Dr. Wheeler referred to the transfer of the Departmental Training School at Taxila to Pondichery in South India. This step had enabled the Department to tap all possible sources for recruits and to devote some attention to excavation of the relics of South Indian culture which had been somewhat neglected in the past.

During the year under review, the Archaeological Department's epigraphical branch had been busy collecting between 300 and 500 new



This statue of Lord Buddha, in the monastery of Redzong, is over 20 feet high and is made of bronze plated with gold. The crown and the necklace are inlaid with uncut precious stones.

inscriptions and preparing these and others for the press. Nearly 800 objects had been treated in the laboratories of the archaeological chemists and outdoor work had been done at the Kala and Bhoja caves at Nalanda, at the Udayagiri caves near Bhubaneswar and in the Mysore State. Dr. Wheeler also referred to the activities of the Archaeological Department in the States, particularly mentioning the work done in Jaipur, Baroda, Bhopal and Cochin.

Turning to the programme and possibilities of archaeological field work in India, Dr. Wheeler said that there was scarcely a district in India which did not teem with sites of actual or potential archaeological importance and no other part of Asia was richer than India in raw material for scientific exploration. As against this wealth of material, there was in India at present only one institution—the Archaeological

Survey—particularly equipped to carry out large scale work. Archaeological exploration was a State monopoly which Dr. Wheeler deplored on all grounds. He emphasised that the Indian Universities should explore and interpret the cultural heritage of India with the same zest with which the American Universities had been exploring and interpreting the ancient civilisations of Asia.

Need for Training Staff

The programme of field work in India was discontinued at present by the overriding need for training staff and university students. Until this was done it was not possible to work out a theoretically perfect programme. Dr. Wheeler emphasised that field work should be expected to fill the gaps in our knowledge. Giving examples of these gaps, Dr. Wheeler mentioned the discovery made by his Department 20 years ago of the ancient Indus Valley civilization, but in spite of its importance, this civilization was still today merely a disconnected episode and little was known as to its beginning, its ultimate fate or its social organisation and other aspects. He stressed the importance of finishing this job without unnecessary delay. He also referred to the astonishing ignorance in regard to the medieval capital cities known as the "Seven Delhis" and indicated the steps which were being taken to remedy it.

Apart from excavation there were other types of field work which were no less important. For example, the origin of the two great styles of medieval Hindu architecture was still largely wrapped in mystery and it was necessary that this architecture should be carefully and critically re-examined from the point of view of architecture, art and epigraphy.

Board's Decisions

The Board generally approved of Dr. Wheeler's proposals relating to the training of Indian students in archaeology. These proposals recommended that, for short and limited periods, the services of one or two foreign archaeological experts should be secured so that they could come over to Indian students in the country, instead of sending out Indian students abroad where conditions were not yet sufficiently stabilised. He also emphasised the need for a scientific analysis of soils and gravels for an objective reconstruction of the ancient environment of man. This work involved a mixture of chemistry, physics and botany with archaeology and was itself a highly technical process which had not previously been attempted in this country.

Dr. Wheeler also explained the Government of India's proposal to set up a central Indian

(Continued on page 205)

Rs. 2 CRORES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILWAY LINES

Locomotive Manufacture in India

THE provision of Rs. 2 crores for the construction of new lines and the restoration of lines dismantled during the war, an open line works programme estimated to cost Rs. 48.84 crores during 1946-47, including the purchase of the Ahmedabad-Prantaj and Mandra-Bhon Railways, for the removal of infringements on the Bhore and Thull Ghats on the G.I.P. Railway are a few of the items that were considered by the newly elected Standing Finance Committee for Railways, which met on January 26 and 27 under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. C. Turner, Financial Commissioner of Railways.

The Committee approved the provision of Rs. 2 crores for the construction of new lines and for the restoration of lines dismantled during the war. The question of deciding which particular lines are to be constructed and which dismantled lines are to be restored was left to the Railway Board. The Cawnpore-Kharaida Section of the G.I.P. Railway which was dismantled during the war is to be restored. The open line works programme for 1946-47 of Rs. 48.84 crores was also sanctioned.

Government's Proposal Approved

The Committee approved of the Government's proposal to purchase the Ahmedabad-Prantaj and the Mandra-Bhon Railways, and the purchase of machinery required for remodelling of Khanchrapara Locomotive Workshops for building locomotives; and further sanctioned Rs. 2 crores spread over a period of three to four years for removing infringements on the Bhore and Thull Ghats on the G. I. P. Railway. The Railway Board's proposal to create some permanent posts of Deputy Heads of Departments was also approved by the Committee. The consideration of one item of capital expenditure involving Rs. 3.48 crores and one Revenue Demand was postponed to a later meeting.

The Committee were also informed of the up-to-date position of railway revenues and working expenses. The total approximate gross earnings of budget lines from April 1, 1945, to January 10, 1946, amounted to Rs. 170.47 crores which is Rs. 8.60 crores more than the corresponding period of last year. The total approximate ordinary working expenses including suspense but excluding appropriation to the Dep-

reciation Reserve Fund, up to the end of November, 1945, were Rs. 79.56 crores, which is Rs. 16.08 crores more than for the corresponding period of last year.

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways, with Mr. A. C. Turner, Financial Commissioner for Railways as Chairman, consisted of the following members: Mr. M.A.F. Hirtzel, Sri Ananthasayanam Ayyanger, Babu Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Chaudhuri, Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma, Shri Satya Narayan Siriha, Mr. P.K. Salve, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Mohammad Nauman, Haji Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan, Lt.-Col. J.C. Chatterjee and Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharyya.

REINSTATEMENT OF DISCHARGED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

AN Ordinance was promulgated on January 19, to amend the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, in order to protect the rights of technical personnel who, on discharge from National Service, wish to be reinstated in their previous employment. The amendment is intended to make reinstatement effective by removing certain disabilities of the discharged technical personnel, a large number of whom are being released from war factories.

It is now provided that application for reinstatement should ordinarily be made within four months from the date of release or two months from the date of this Ordinance, whichever is later. The employer is required to employ the applicant for at least six months or pay him six months' remuneration in lieu. While fixing the pay of the reinstated person, the employer should give due consideration to the skill and experience acquired by him. Special Tribunals, the chairman of which will be of the rank of a District Judge, will be constituted to decide disputes relating to reinstatement and pay. The right of reinstatement will not, however, accrue to those who have been dismissed from the National Service for misconduct.

Though the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, is still in force, it is understood that many of its provisions will be relaxed in execution. There will be no further recruitment of technical personnel and no new factory will be notified. The control of publication of advertisements regarding technical personnel will also be relaxed.

SETTLEMENT OF RAILWAYMEN'S DISPUTE

Labour Member's Statement

SPEAKING in the Indian Legislative Assembly on January 22 on the adjournment motion regarding retrenchment of Railway personnel, the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, elucidated the responsibility of the Labour Department and the steps they have taken for the settlement of the Railwaymen's dispute. Dr. Ambedkar pointed out that the negotiations between the Railway Department and the Federation of Indian Railwaymen have not yet been concluded and that the question of appointing an adjudicator would arise only when the Labour Department was fully satisfied that the last attempt for a mutual settlement between the two parties had failed.

Both the Railway Department and the Indian Railwaymen's Federation, he informed the House, had agreed that a small committee of the Federation be set up in order to meet towards the end of January 1946 and carry on further negotiations. Disclosing that the Labour Department came to know of the dispute only on October 5, 1945, and that a request for the appointment of an adjudicator was received from the Federation five days later, Dr. Ambedkar said that the Labour Department immediately induced the Railway Department to meet the representatives of the Indian Railwaymen's Federation and to discuss points of dispute.

Appointment of Adjudicator

Dealing with the appointment of an adjudicator, he stressed that, unless and until the Labour Department was satisfied that there was no further room for settlement, it would be impossible, it would be unfair and quite contrary to established procedure, for them to intervene and say 'we shall appoint an adjudicator'. He continued: "For the purposes of arbitration we must have a dispute in existence. At the present moment there is no dispute; the matter is under consideration. Secondly, before any adjudication is made, we must be satisfied that the dispute relates to terms and conditions of employment: for instance, that the dispute relates to hours of work, to wages, and to points of that kind."

Dr. Ambedkar revealed that, though there were 15 resolutions passed by the Indian Federation of Railwaymen, only three points were placed before the Labour Department for consideration in the conference between the Labour Department and the President of the Indian

Railwaymen's Federation. Even these points were dropped when a formal meeting was brought about between the two parties to the dispute and the only point that was taken up was the question of retrenchment.

"I must confess my utter inability to understand how," he added, "a question as to how many people should be employed by a particular Department, can be treated as a justifiable dispute". He concluded: "I am waiting for the President of the Railwaymen's Federation to evolve out of the negotiations with the Railway Department some point which might be regarded as justifiable, so that the Labour Department may find it is worth while to intervene and to persuade that an adjudication be made".

10,000 TROOPS FOR DELHI'S VICTORY MARCH

Nearly 10,000 servicemen and women, representing more than 100 units of the combined Services, will take part in a great Victory March, which will be one of the main highlights of Delhi's Victory Week from March 4 to 9, 1946.

Starting from Memorial Arch, the procession, with State and regimental flags flying, will be led by brass and pipe bands and will include many types of motorised and armoured vehicles which helped roll back the Japs in the Burma battles.

Machines of the R.I.A.F. and R.A.F. will roar past the saluting base at Kingsway and above the procession as it makes its way along Queensway, up Raisina Road, through Connaught Place to the city and on to dispersal points. Spectators will therefore find no difficulty in seeing the whole parade.

Another outstanding feature of Victory week will be a regimental searchlight tattoo at Irwin Stadium on March 4, 6, 8 and 9.

PENICILLIN PRODUCTION IN INDIA

At a meeting of representatives of industrialist concerns interested in the manufacture of Penicillin convened on February 7 by the Director-General of Industries and Supplies, many aspects of Penicillin production were discussed and the difficulties in the way of establishing manufacture on a commercial scale were considered. It was decided that concrete proposals should be forwarded as soon as possible for Government's consideration by the firms interested in the Penicillin industry.

GEN. NORTHCOTT INSPECTS INDIAN TROOPS FOR OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

LIEUT.-GEN. JOHN NORTHCOTT, Commander of the Commonwealth Force of Occupation for Japan, recently paid a two-day visit to Nasik, near Bombay, to British and Indian troops, under Maj.-Gen. D. Tennant Cowan, who form part of the Commonwealth Force of Occupation of Japan. General Northcott, who flew from Australia, was accompanied by Maj.-Gen. W.J. Cawthorne, the Commander-in-Chief in India's representative with the joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia, writes an Army Observer.

General Northcott met senior officers at Force Headquarters, including members of the Women's Service who are going to Japan. In the evening, he attended a retreat beaten by the massed pipe bands of Indian and British troops.

"We have to take over the occupation of a large area in Southern Japan called the Hiroshima Prefecture," Gen. Northcott told an Army Observer. "It is an area stiff with armaments, coastal defences, ammunition works, naval workshops and so on. The whole area is to be demilitarised, and we have to do it."

(Continued on page 202)



Massed bands of the Punjabi, Gurkha and Cameron battalions play the "Retreat".



Lt.-Gen. Northcott with the Force Commander, Maj.-Gen. Cowan, Brig. McNaught and Brig. Thimayya, Gen. Cawthorne and Brig. Stephens.

The C.O.C. (Lt.-Gen.



Northcott) inspects Indian Signals Units.



Women trainees going with the "Brindia Force" train in practical cookery.



Referring to the allegation in some quarters that the Commonwealth Force was merely a token one, Gen. Northcott said: "This is a grave mis-statement of fact. We go as a carefully planned force and shall undertake the proportional share of the common work of occupation that has been allotted to us."

Of the 40,000 men in the Force, about 25 per cent. are U. K. troops. Factors still under discussion would determine the Force's final strength, but it would represent 20 per cent. of the entire Allied occupation strength.

"I have never been in command of Indian troops, but I fought alongside them in both Gallipoli and France during World War I," said Gen. John Northcott. "Their deeds in World War II have already convinced me that they are in every way worthy of their fathers. My impression of the Indian troops I inspected at Nasik was of seasoned warriors, obviously well-trained and magnificently turned out."

The composition of the Commonwealth Force, he said, was a symbol of the solidarity which had brought the Commonwealth to victory. Many Australians and New Zealanders had been comrades-in-arms with Indian troops throughout the Middle East campaigns.

INDIAN MILITARY MISSION TO BERLIN

An Indian Military Mission is to proceed to Berlin to safeguard the position of Indian nationals and interests in Germany and to watch the military situation as it affects Indian interests. Maj.-Gen. D. Stuart, C.B.E., C.I.E., O.B.E., has been appointed head of the Mission. Members of the Mission are Col. S.M. Srinagesh, Kumaon Regiment, and two other officers.

Commissioned into the Kumaon Regiment in 1915 Maj.-Gen. Stuart saw service during the last war in Egypt and Palestine and was mentioned in despatches. In 1937 he was on the North-West Frontier and two years later commanded the Fourth Battalion of his regiment. In 1940 he was appointed Brigadier, General Staff, Eastern Command, and in 1942 assumed command of the 19th Indian ("Dagger") Division. Maj.-Gen. Stuart was appointed area commander in Calcutta in November, 1943.

Col. Srinagesh was commissioned, in 1924, into the Kumaon Regiment (then the 19th Hyderabad Regiment) and rose to command its Sixth Battalion. He served for some time as an instructor at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun.

Brig. Thimayya Commands Indian Brigade for Japan

COMMANDING the Indian brigade group in the combined British and Indian force for Japan, is 39-year-old Brigadier Kodanra Subayya Thimayya, D.S.O.

His appointment is a fitting one. Brigadier Thimayya was the first Indian to lead a Brigade in action—against the Japanese. He distinguished himself at the battle of Kangaw in the Arakan where, for the first time in Indian Army history, all battalions of a brigade were commanded by Indian officers, of whom Brig. Thimayya was one.

Born at Coorg, he was educated first at Bishop Cotton School, Bangalore, and then at the Prince of Wales Royal Military College, Dehra Dun. He was one of the first 32 Indian boys to enter the R.I.M.C. when it was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1922.

From Dehra Dun he went to Sandhurst and was commissioned in 1926. After one year's attachment to the Highland Light Infantry Regiment, he was posted to the Kumaon Regiment (then the 19th Hyderabad Regiment) and served with it in Iraq and on the North-West Frontier. For four years he was adjutant of his battalion, and in 1936 he was given the same appointment with the 5 (Madras) University Training Corps.

At Surrender Ceremony

In 1939 Brig. Thimayya was back with his battalion and sailed for Malaya. He returned, however, before the Japanese invasion and after two years at his regimental centre at Agra he went to the Staff College, Quetta, to be posted later as General Staff Officer, Grade II, with the 25th Indian Division. In March, 1944, he accompanied the division to the Arakan.

After eight weeks in action he was promoted to command a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment and later acted as Brigade Commander in the same Division.

Brigadier Thimayya attended the signing of the Japanese surrender at Rangoon as representative of the Indian Army.

By an amendment to the Drugs Control Order, 1945, published in the Gazette of India of February 2, the maximum wholesale and retail prices of certain drugs have been reduced. Prices for certain new drugs and infant foods have been specified for the first time. These prices will take effect from March 2, 1946.

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE PORT CONSTRUCTION

THE Government of India have passed a resolution appointing a Technical Committee on ports. The full text of the Resolution is as follows:

In pursuance of a recommendation made at the meeting of the Policy Committee on Transport held on October 30, 1945, in New Delhi, and in agreement with the Governments of the maritime provinces, the Governor-General-in-Council is pleased to constitute a technical committee with the following terms of reference:

Terms of Reference

(a) whether a sheltered deep-sea port on the East coast of India for the accommodation of ships of large size and tonnage at all seasons of the year is required, whether construction is feasible and if so where; also what measures are necessary for establishing it;

(b) whether there is justification for the conversion of any minor ports on the coasts of India to major ports, if so, whether such conversion is practicable; also whether there are any other projects for construction of major ports which ought to be considered.

(c) what steps are necessary to develop minor ports in order to meet probable demands of coastal shipping traffic.

Composition of Committee

The composition of the Committee will be as follows:—

1. Sir Godfrey Armstrong, O.B.E., War Transport Department, Government of India. (Chairman).
2. W. L. Balcombe, Esq., Chairman, Calcutta Liners Conference.
3. M. A. Master, Esq., Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Bombay.
4. D. P. Khaitan, Esq., nominated by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
5. M. H. Gazdar, Esq., nominated by the Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
6. J. R. Galloway, Esq., nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce.
7. A. Webster, Esq., C.I.E., Chief Engineer, Calcutta Port Commissioners.

The Committee will have power to co-opt additional members for consultation and advice as it thinks fit. The Committee will be known as the Port (Technical) Committee and is requested to submit its recommendations to Government within a period of four months from this date.

R.I.N.'S SPLENDID SALVAGE WORK

THE Royal Indian Navy Salvage Organisation has done splendid work during the war and is still doing so. But it has been silent work too. The Organisation consists of barely 100 officers and men, H.M.I.S. *Bhadravati* being its only ship. Nevertheless, it conducted no less than eighty successful operations during the War. Reference to a few of them will show the public what an important part it played.

The American Liberty ship *Ogden* had been stranded near Vizagapatam for over one year when the *Bhadravati* came to her rescue and successfully refloated her. At the same place, the tug *Ranger*, run down and sunk, lay across the entrance to the harbour, closing it to all shipping. The salvage ship, with the help of a large floating crane, got it out of the way. But it still lay across the harbour bed and had to be refloated. The task was by no means easy. Repeated attempts ended in failure.

The divers often escaped death just by inches. But ultimately in the words of the official report "the tug was pumped out and handed over to her owners on June 14, 1945".

Bombay Explosion

The Bombay explosion greatly increased the work of the Organisation. In conjunction with the Royal Navy salvage men, the Royal Indian Navy group pumped out the Victoria Dock, inspected the hulks, supplied divers for under-water cutting and patched up some of the crippled ships enough to refloat them. No small work, all this!

Even with the end of the war, H.M.I.S. *Bhadravati* could not rest on its oars. It has still some jobs on hand, one of the most difficult of which is the raising of the large ocean-going tug *Chenche* sunk in Kidderpore Docks, Calcutta. She has been submerged for two years and is gradually disintegrating. But fortunately she is in shallow waters. And by building up her sides above water-level with wooden patches and pumping out the interior, it is expected she can easily be salvaged.

The Directorate-General of Munitions Production at Calcutta is expected to close down by March 31, 1946. The necessary arrangements are being made. A branch of the Directorate-General of Industries and Supplies is being established in Calcutta to take over certain delegated supplies functions in that area. Mr. A. R. Elliott Lockhart, Director-General of Munitions Production, has already relinquished charge.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

High Commissioner's Report

THE outstanding events of the year 1944 in South African Indian politics was the Pretoria Agreement, which was later dropped, and the Pegging Act, which remained unpealed, according to the report of the High Commissioner for India in South Africa for the years 1943 and 1944.

In March 1944, the Prime Minister, according to the report, received a South African Indian Congress Delegation, who urged upon him the need for early action to repeal the contentious "Pegging Act". Later, at a conference in Pretoria, it was agreed that the Pegging Act would be replaced by an ordinance under which machinery would be created to control occupation by the licensing of dwellings in certain areas.

The Agreement involved two important principles. The first was the right of Indian opinion to be consulted through accredited leaders before legislation was passed, and the second that there would be Indian representation on the machinery established to deal with a general situation affecting the rights and interests of the Indian community. Moreover, the Agreement freed the community from the economic disabilities in respect of investment in industrial and commercial properties, and it gave the community unfettered right to ownership as distinct from occupation of lands or premises covered by the terms of the Agreement.

Freedom of Investment Restored

"Thus", the report says, "it could be rightly held that the stigma attaching to the Pegging Act had been removed by conceding the principles of prior consultation and representation on machinery to be subsequently established; and that the economic future of the community had been safeguarded by restoring the right of freedom of investment".

The Occupational Control Ordinance, framed to implement the Pretoria Agreement, was however opposed, particularly in Durban. The Opposition protested against unrestricted Indian investment in property at a time when the amount of property, in general, and residential accommodation in particular, was limited owing to war conditions. The Prime Minister reported to the Natal Indian Congress that it was uncertain whether the support necessary for the passage of the ordinance was forthcoming.

The Select Committee appointed by the Natal Provincial Council prepared a draft Residential Property Regulation Ordinance, which both

differed from the original draft Ordinance and departed materially from the stipulations of the Pretoria Agreement. Simultaneously with the new Ordinance, two other Ordinances, the Housing and Expropriation Ordinances, were passed. Thus the position at the end of the year was that the Pretoria Agreement had been dropped and the Pegging Act remained unpealed.

The Prime Minister informed the Natal Indian Congress that, as long as the Pegging Act was in force, the Government's assent could not be given to the Residential Property Regulating Ordinance. Further, expropriation was not left to the arbitrary discretion of the provincial or local authorities, and that the expropriation of land, both for housing and slum clearance, had to receive the sanction of the Minister concerned. The Union Government, the Prime Minister added, would continue to discharge its statutory obligation to protect Indian interests.

Judicial Commission

The Judicial Commission, which was appointed to enquire into and report on matters affecting the Indian community in Natal, did not complete its task by the end of the year owing to the preoccupation of the Natal Indian Congress and eventually to the resignation of the two Indian members of the Commission.

Giving an analysis of the political background against which the Pegging Act was passed, the High Commissioner for India in his report for 1943 says that European South Africans regard Indians as dangerous competitors from the point of view of threatening European standards of living. More well-to-do Indians, he says, were imprudent in buying up European property in the heart of Durban with a general election in the offing. The Dominion Party in Natal had realised that its chance of survival at a general election depended on a racial issue and exploited to the full the popular cry of "Indian penetration".

The report refers to the High Commissioner's Bengal Famine Relief Fund, the subscriptions to which totalled nearly £30,000; the opening of the Club for Indian Seamen in 1943; the activities of the Indian Remount Purchasing Commission; the reservation of seats in medical and engineering colleges in India for South African Indian students by the Government of India; and increased relief to age-blind and indigent Indians.

Letters, letter packets, printed and commercial papers, and sample post articles can now be sent to the provinces of Fiume, Gorizia, Pola, Trieste and Zara in Italy up to the maximum limit as prescribed in the Indian Post and Telegraph Guide, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs on February 8.

"SAVINGS SERVE A GREAT NATIONAL PURPOSE"

"PRESENT savings will not only serve a great national purpose but will also provide for many a personal need in times of difficulty in the future", said the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, in a message in connection with the "National Savings Fortnight" of Delhi, which closed on January 22, 1946.

Sir Archibald Rowlands said: A year ago my predecessor inaugurated an All-India National Savings Fortnight which set as its target the saving by every person of 3½ annas a month. The results achieved during the year have been worthy of the great effort which has been made by people from all walks of life and the substantial sum of Rs. 25 crores has been saved.

National Savings Fortnight

Delhi Province is holding its National Savings Fortnight during this month and, as on the last occasions efforts will be intensified to bring home to all the real message of saving. India needs large sums of money for financing her post-war reconstruction plans which are essential for raising the standard of living and laying the foundations of that better world to which everyone looks forward.

At the same time, the effects of war have not yet fully passed and many articles are still in short supply and prices high. Present saving, will, therefore, not only serve a great national purpose but will also provide for many a personal need in times of difficulty in the future. There are types of investments to suit the needs of all. Besides regular loans, there are the various Post Office issues, including the 12-Year National Savings Certificates, which have been devised primarily for the small saver and carry a specially favourable rate of interest of 4 1/6 per cent. The smallest investor can contribute his share in the form of stamps, which can later be exchanged for cash certificates. Authorised agents will do all the preliminary work and the investor himself is not put to the trouble of going to the Post Office.

Last year Delhi won three Shields, including the All-India Shield, with a monthly average saving of nearly 14 annas a head. I know that this year, too, Delhi will put forward a great effort, and I send my best wishes for a successful fortnight and wish the best of luck to all those who are engaged in this work of national importance.

THE ROYAL VICTORIAN CHAIN

THE Royal Victorian Chain, conferred on H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar in the New Year Honours, was founded by King Edward VII in 1902. This high honour is quite separate from the Victorian Order, and is bestowed only on special occasions. It is a unique distinction, being the only Chain established in England, though there were Chains previously in some of the European Monarchies.

According to its Statutes it is "a pre-eminent mark of the Sovereign's esteem and affection" and is regarded as the highest honour below the Garter in the King's gift. It has been bestowed only in a very limited circle in England, and outside England it is reserved for bestowal primarily on Heads of States. Those upon whom the Royal Victorian Chain has so far been bestowed are:—

H.M. The King (1927); H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught (1902); H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught (1906); Lord Hardinge of Penhurst (1912); The Marquess of Crewe (1912); H.R.H. the Duke of Windsor (1921); Archbishop Lord Lang of Lambeth (1932); The Duke of Portland (1932); H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester (1932), The Earl of Athlone (1935) The Earl of Derby (1935); The Earl of Cromer (1935); H.R.H. the Duke of Kent (1936); and Lord Wigram (1937).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN INDIA

(Continued from page 197)

museum of art, archaeology and anthropology. This proposal is intended to provide an institution where the public and students can obtain a general conspectus of the development of Indian civilization during many thousands of years. It can organise and correlate the neglected museum surveys of India and can adequately represent pre-historic and historic India both to the Indians themselves and the world at large. The Board approved the principle of a central museum and recommended the immediate appointment of a select committee by the Central Government to work out details, and asked that in due course this committee's report should be placed before the Board.

The Board also agreed to an interim museum policy which should be followed until such time as a co-ordinating authority was set up in the form of a General National Museum.

IMPORT CONTROL TO AID INDUSTRIAL EFFORT

WITH a view to aiding the industrial effort of the country, a new Open General Licence has been published in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated January 22, 1946, which extends the decontrol of imports to a number of important industrial requirements and makes it applicable to goods not only from the U.K. but also from most other parts of the Empire. Inclusion of further items is under consideration, but is not at present intended to relax control over imports of goods which are subject to special procurement programmes (such as foodstuffs) or which are produced or manufactured in India in appreciable quantities.

Among the new items included in the Open General Licence are ball, roller and taper bearings, electrical instruments and accessories, chemicals in bulk (with some important exceptions), woollen yarn, printing and lithographic material, hosiery needles, optical, scientific and surgical instruments, moulding powders and metallic ores.

Scope of Revised Licence

The new Open General Licence replaces the existing Open General Licence No. VII, which was originally issued in March 1945 and expanded in October 1945 and which made it unnecessary for importers to obtain import licences for a wide range of consumer goods from the U.K. mainly falling in Part IV of the import Trade Control Schedule. The scope of the revised Open General Licence has been widened so as to include various classes of industrial requirements falling in Parts II and V of the Schedule, and it has been made applicable to imports not only from the United Kingdom, but also from any part of His Majesty's Dominions (excluding Canada and Newfoundland), any British Protectorate or Protected State and any territory in respect of which a mandate is being exercised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or in a dominion. It will, however, only cover imports of goods produced or manufactured in those territories.

For the benefit of ex-Servicemen, the Bevin Training Scheme has been extended and a further batch of trainees will shortly be sent to the U.K. In addition to the usual number of 50 trainees who will be selected this time from demobilised men, it will include 10 more to be trained in the special technique of instructing disabled persons. Thirteen batches of Bevin Boys have already been trained and most of them are at present in well-placed jobs.

INDIA'S EXPORT TRADE IN WOOL

A COMMITTEE of 24 persons, will shortly be appointed by the Central Government to study India's export trade in wool and to recommend what steps should be taken to stop the malpractices obtaining at present so that wool of only good quality may be exported in future.

This decision was taken by the All-India Wool Trades Conference which met in New Delhi on January 26.

Need for Control

The Committee will be fully representative of the various wool trade interests in the country. Of the 24 members, 15 will be nominees of the All-India Wool Federation and the rest will be nominated by the Government. It will start functioning some time in March next and is expected to submit its report by the end of July.

There was a consensus of opinion in the Conference that it was desirable to take some action to prevent adulteration in the exported wool. India has to depend on foreign countries for taking a major portion of her wool production and, in order to compete with other countries, some sort of supervision and control over the export trade were called for.

U. K. SHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

The Government of India have received intimation that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have decided to offer certain ships owned by them for sale by inviting bids above a fixed minimum price. For an initial period bids will be accepted only from owners who have lost a comparable ship by enemy action during the war or a comparable ship which became a total loss from any cause whilst operating under requisition or licence. This initial period will end on February 28, 1946. After that date, bids for the remaining ships will be accepted without regard to the ships lost by the bidder during the war, and the ships will be sold at the best price above the minimum.

In view of the limited time, owners in India wishing to take advantage of the offer are advised to correspond directly with the U. K. authorities and act through their brokers or agents in that country.

NEW CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF, INDIA COMMAND



Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith

Lt.-GEN. SIR ARTHUR SMITH, G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, has been appointed Chief of the General Staff, India Command. He succeeds Lt.-Gen. Sir John des R. Swayne, who has been selected for a new appointment in the United Kingdom.

Lt.-Gen. Smith was educated at Eton and Sandhurst and joined the Coldstream Guards in 1910. In World War I he was awarded the D.S.O., M.C., and the Croix de Guerre and mentioned in despatches five times.

In World War II, he was Chief of the General Staff in the Middle East from 1941 to 1942. He was knighted in 1942 and returned to England to take up the appointment of G.O.C., London District, where he remained till he took over command of the Persia-Iraq theatre in 1944. Gen. Sir Arthur Smith was appointed G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command in September, 1945.

MEMORIAL ACADEMY FOR INDIA

Gen. Bateman's Radio Talk

SUMMING up the results of the National War Memorial delegation's recent tour of service institutions in Britain, Canada and the United States, Maj.-Gen. D. R. Bateman, Director of Military Training, said in a broadcast from All-India Radio, New Delhi: "We have acquired a mass of detailed information which will be of inestimable value in setting up the Memorial Academy planned for India."

The delegation, which set out to examine cadet training institutions abroad with the object of incorporating their best features in the proposed academy, was highly impressed by the "missions" that form the foundation of training at West Point. "I feel that these missions might well be made applicable to all educational establishments in whatever country they are situated", said Gen. Bateman.

Of the West Point system itself, Gen. Bateman said: "During the first year of training, the individual is subjugated completely to the machine. In a nation like the United States where undoubtedly individuality is one of the strongest traits of the national character, no harm arises from adopting stern measures with youth at an impressionable age. In the case of India, however, we felt that it would be essential to safeguard individuality, and to guide it more gently into the desired channels."

Tour in Britain

Referring to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, where greater individual freedom seemed to exist, Gen. Bateman added: "We felt that this was more the form of discipline we should require at the Academy."

In Canada the delegates visited the Royal Military College and took part in discussions at the National Defence Headquarters.

Winding up its tour in Britain, the delegation was particularly impressed with the training system of the Royal Naval College, where a public school education is combined with the development of leadership and character. With the low entry-age of 13 and 14, and a wastage of less than five per cent. of intake over the entire training period, the Royal Naval College is unique among institutions of its kind.

Referring to India's own proposed Academy, Gen. Bateman said: "If the Academy is built on the high ideals planned and with its keynote not dissimilar to the noble motto of West Point—'Duty, Honour, Country'—it must inevitably take its place as an essential part of the national life of India."



A sculptured frieze from the Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebid (Mysore).

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INDIAN
INFORMATION



Sir Frederick Burrows who has succeeded Mr. R. G. Casey as Governor of Bengal, arrived in New Delhi by air from the U. K. on February 11. Picture shows Sir Frederick Burrows (centre) with Col. D. H. Currie, Military Secretary to the Viceroy, at the Willingdon Airport.

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Viceroy's Visit to Drought-affected areas in South India	211
Railway Budget: Sir Edward Benthall's Speech in Central Assembly	217
Railway Board's Report on Indian Railways	226
M. P. Delegation	235-238
Commerce Member on German Reparations to India	240
Recruitment to I.C.S. and Indian Police: Home Member's Statement in Central Assembly	243
British Commonwealth Force for Occupation of Japan	255
Health of the Army in India during 1945	257
Indians in South Africa: Mr. R. N. Banerjee's Statement in Central Assembly	264

COVER PICTURE: Itinerant minstrels of South India

"INDIA FACED WITH VERY SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF FOOD"



H. E. the Viceroy broadcasting from A. I. R., New Delhi, on the food situation in India.

Viceroy's Appeal for Co-operation to Meet Crisis

"FOOD must not be a matter for party politics; to make it so would frankly be folly at this time. A lead in that matter has been given to the country by Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah and that lead must be followed," said H.E. the Viceroy in a speech broadcast from A.I.R., New Delhi, on February 16.

His Excellency said: I am going to speak to you on what is literally a vital matter—the food situation. India is faced with a very serious shortage of food. On top of serious damage caused to some of our best rice-growing lands by a cyclone last October, there has been a complete failure of the north-east monsoon in Southern India, and a failure of the winter rains in the wheat lands of the north.

I would like at once to contradict flatly any rumours that our troubles are due to exports of food. Our only export has been a quantity of ground-nuts, which we could not ourselves mill

or readily consume, and were urgently required elsewhere.

We are some three million tons short of our requirements and the world shortage of food-grains in such that we cannot hope for imports of this magnitude. We have sent a delegation which will press our claims for imports in London and Washington. We think we are entitled to outside assistance and we shall leave no stone unturned to obtain it, but the world shortage is a reality, we are by no means the only country threatened with famine, and there is a limit to the amount of help that will be forthcoming. We have got to do our utmost to help ourselves.

As you know, I have been recently to see for myself some of the drought-stricken lands in the south. There are very wide areas where there are no crops at all and no possibility of crops for a long time to come. The people who live there will starve unless grain can be found

for them. It is the poorest and the weakest who will suffer most. We can save them and must save them. To do it, we others, in more fortunate circumstances, in more fortunate parts of India, must make some sacrifice of our comfort and must spare part of our food for them.

We cannot unfortunately in a crisis of this sort make the sacrifice proportionate to the means. The man ten times as rich as another cannot cut ten times as much off his daily ration. But he can help in other ways, as I will explain later.

There are two plans that have been proposed to me to deal with this crisis. One was that we should maintain our present basic ration of 1 lb. a head which is, heaven knows, already small enough, for as long as the supplies in sight will last, and trust to receiving sufficient additional imports from abroad to maintain that ration throughout the year. I am quite sure that in view of the general situation such a plan would involve grave risk of disaster. The other method proposed is to cut our consumption now and make sure that our deficit is spread over the whole year and over the whole country.

Second Alternative

There is no doubt which advice is sound and we have decided to adopt the second alternative. The basic cereal ration all over British India (and I am quite confident that the states will co-operate and follow suit) must be cut to 12 ounces, with 4 ounces more for the heavy manual labourer. I entirely appreciate that this is an inadequate ration, but it is all that our present resources will allow. If we get additional resources that will enable us to increase this ration we shall certainly do so. But it is all that we can safely afford at present.

I come to what we can all do and should do to carry us through this crisis. The main administrative requirements are: the widest possible extension of rationing; the procurement of all surplus grains all over India; and the proper distribution of this surplus to areas in need. The greatest dangers are: greedy and selfish people, who will try to get more than their fair share by hoarding, black-marketing or corruption; faint-hearted people, who may start rumours and cause panic or loss of confidence, thus giving the black-marketers their opportunity; and idle people who have enough for themselves and do not see why they should do anything to help others.

Now what can each of us do to play our part for India. I will tell you a few important

things, there are others you will think of for yourself.

I hope every landlord and cultivator will cut down his consumption of grain and send to the market or place in the hands of the Government every maund beyond his minimum requirements.

I hope that every one who can will grow as much additional food as possible, whenever possible; vegetables, potatoes, sweet potatoes will be valuable.

An Appeal

I appeal most strongly to the well-to-do to make a real sacrifice, to cut out extravagant entertaining, to limit their consumption of bread, flour, cake, biscuits or rice to the absolute minimum. Every little will help. The cereal ration is usually all that a man in the scarcity area, and the poor man in the towns, has to eat, while the rich have many alternatives and additions—meat, fish, vegetables, fruit and so on.

There will be some of you who will wish to take a more active part in meeting the danger—by organising canteens or medical units or by other voluntary work. I would ask you to get into touch with local Governments and see whether such aid is required and where.

Fine Job of Work

I hope that everyone will give fair play to the food administration, Central and Provincial. I do not claim that our food administration is in any way perfect, but I do claim that it has done a fine job of work in the last two years in organising our food supply, and is doing it now in meeting our present trouble. I am responsible as Governor-General for the central Food Department and fully accept that responsibility. I have seen the measures which the Madras, Bombay and Mysore Governments are taking to meet their very difficult problems and I think they are doing admirably. Food must not be a matter for party politics, to make it so would frankly be folly at this time. A lead in that matter has been given to the country by Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah, and that lead must be followed.

Let us meet this crisis together and share our sacrifices as equally as we can. If we do, I am confident that we can get through 1946 without disaster. May I in conclusion tell you, as one who has faced a good many grim-looking situations in the last six years or so, that they seldom turn out anything like as bad as they look, if you meet them squarely and fairly and do your best with determination and common-sense.

VICEROY'S VISIT TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS IN SOUTH INDIA

SEATED in the cockpit of his plane as it cruised slowly at a low height over Mettur Dam, H.E. the Viceroy saw grim evidence of the unprecedented drought which has overtaken South India with the failure of the north-east monsoon. Mr. A.F.W. Dixon, Adviser to the Governor of Madras, told Lord Wavell that, were it not for the Mettur Dam, at least 500,000 acres of crops would have been destroyed.

At the end of summer there was 10 feet of water in the reservoir. Augmented by early showers, this increased to 60 feet by the middle of November. Then the monsoon failed.

One million acres are under food crops and faced with the grim alternative of famine, the Madras Government cut off electricity. The power house was shut down for nearly three weeks and is now working at one-tenth of its normal capacity. Alternative sources of power were utilized but the position remains unsatisfactory, and mills and factories in several areas are working below capacity. With reduced electric power, the tiny State of Pudukottai, for instance, is faced with the problem of milling its paddy at a much quicker tempo than at present.

At the time of the Viceroy's visit the depth of the water in the Dam was only six feet, but the crops had been saved.

Visit to Arkonam

Early on February 7, the Viceroy, accompanied by the Governor of Madras, with whom he had discussions the previous night shortly after Sir Arthur Hope's arrival, left Bangalore on an 800-mile trip by plane and car alternatively visiting Arkonam and nearby villages and Tanjore from where he returned to Bangalore by air with a slight detour to see the Mettur Dam.

The party included Mr. G.E.B. Abell, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Mr.B.R. Sen, Food Secretary, Government of India, Dewan Bahadur C.P. Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner, Mr. A.F.W. Dixon, Mr. A. J. Platt, Private Secretary to the Madras Governor, and Captain Mackenzie, Deputy Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

The Collectors of North Arcot, Chingleput, Nellore, Chittoor Anantapur, Salem Trichinopoly, Ramnad and Tanjore, Mr. B.W. Day, Deputy Commissioner in charge of Rationing, Mr. S. Ranganathan, Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of famine and irrigation, the Rajah of Pudukottai, Sir Alexander Tottenham, Dewan of Pudukottai, and engineers met Lord Wavell and Sir Arthur Hope in conference at Arkonam and Tanjore. The

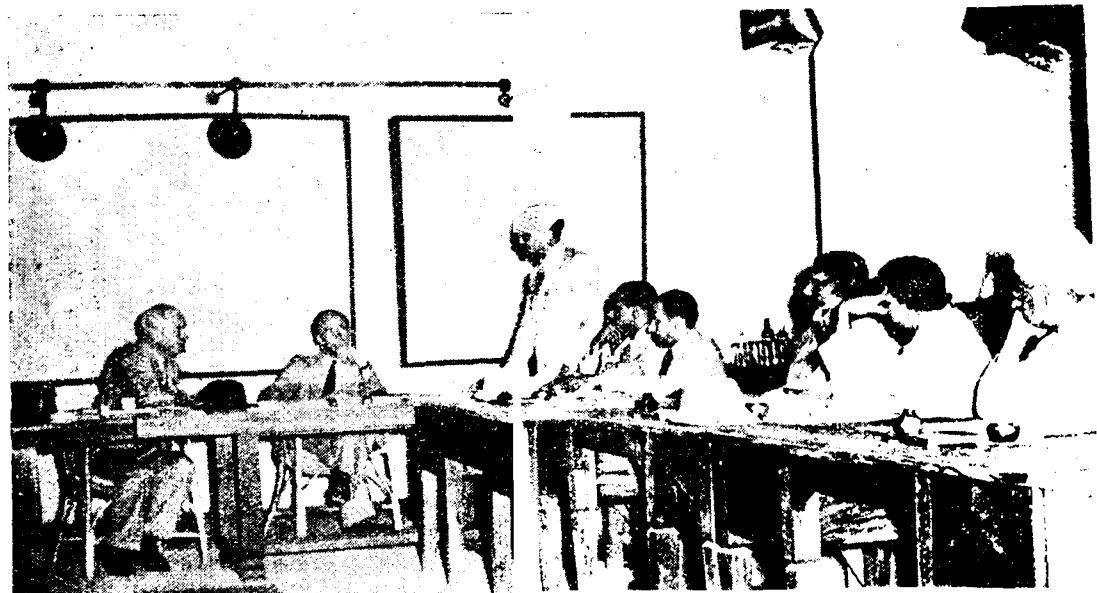


The Viceroy, during his tour of South India, examined samples of crops which had dried up over an area almost as large as the British Isles. Nearly fifty million persons are affected.

Viceroy put a series of questions on food administration, procurement and allied matters; he wanted to know what steps had been taken in respect of transport of foodgrains, progress of rationing, provision of drinking water, cattle fodder, milk supply to children and medical precautions. Transport proved one of the worst bottle-necks when disaster overtook Bengal in 1943.

The Viceroy, was assured that arrangements were well in hand to cope with any difficulties. But the local administrators took note of the Viceroy's caution: "It is better to depend on your own resources for transport. I am assured the Army will help you in an emergency."

Except for Madura, South Kanara, Malabar and the Nilgiris the drought has affected every other district in this province, while cyclones and tidal waves have ravaged the four northern districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur which form the main granary of the



province. With the drop in the water-table the provision of fresh drinking water is also a vital problem to-day especially in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur. Cotton seed is a valuable cattle feed and is in widespread demand.

The seriousness of the position was underlined when the Viceroy visited Kaveripakkam village in the North Arcot district where an enormous tank, fed from the river Palar, is now bone dry. This tank alone used to irrigate 6,000 acres on which 14 villages depend for their sustenance.

Tanks, wells and rivers, notably the Palar, which lies like a swathe sweeping across the Province to the Bay of Bengal, have dried up. The rice surplus districts have now greatly reduced surpluses and there is also a widespread failure of the millet crop.

People's Determination

All the way from Bangalore to Arkonam the Viceroy saw from the air a series of tanks stepping down to the brown and arid coast. Little patches of green showed where the villagers were making desperate efforts by sinking wells to save something. In river-beds the smallest trickle evoked feverish labour to cut channels in efforts to utilize the precious moisture.

Lord Wavell's swift decision to investigate matters on the spot evoked marked appreciation from a people who have not yet been defeated and who are determined, in the words of the Madras Governor, "to put every ounce of energy in the struggle to stave off famine." Outside the villages were hung banners welcoming Their

In a Royal Air Force "briefing room" at Arkonam aerodrome, the Viceroy held a conference with District Collectors. His Excellency interrogated them on the steps taken to meet the food crisis and promised the maximum aid from the Government of India in the matter of imports, transport, etc.



The Viceroy confers with District Collectors at the Collector's office at Tanjore. The Raja of Pudukottai (third from left) and Sir Alexander Tottenham, Dewan (next to the Raja), presented Pudukottai's case

Excellencies, and both the Viceroy and the Governor were cheered and garlanded by groups of villagers.

Lord Wavell and Sir Arthur Hope flew from the conference (at Arkonam) held in the unusual surroundings of an R.A.F. "Briefing Room" with a background of maps displaying air routes and at plain dealwood tables to another in the picturesque Collectorate at Tanjore.

"I am glad," said Lord Wavell, "to see the way in which Madras is tackling the problem. The situation is being faced with foresight and efficiency. We will do our best to help in the matter of imports, transport and in other ways."

VICEROY HOLDS FOOD CONFERENCE IN BANGALORE

Within an hour of his return from a strenuous tour of the drought-affected areas of Tumkur, Madhugiri and Sira in Mysore State covering about 175 miles by car, H.E. Lord Wavell presided over a Food Conference held in the Maharaja's Palace at Bangalore on February 8. The Conference was attended by H.E. the Governor of Madras, Sir S. V. Ramamurti and Mr. E. M. Gawne, Advisers to the Madras Governor, Mr. B. R. Sen, Food Secretary, Government of India, Sir Henry Knight, Adviser to the Bombay Governor, Dewan Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner, Madras, Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, Mr. N. Madhava Rao, Dewan of Mysore,



The Dewan of Mysore (left) and Sir S. V. Ramamurti (centre) who are to represent Mysore and Madras at the food discussions in London and Washington, with Mr. B. R. Sen, Food Secretary, Government of India.

Mr. G.E.B. Abell, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Mr. A.J. Platt, Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras, the Public Health Commissioner to the Government of India and a representative of the Deccan States.

The Viceroy, opening the conference, stressed the importance of tackling the food problem in a realistic manner and the need to distribute the available surplus as evenly as possible throughout the country.

A brief appreciation of the situation in their respective areas was given by spokesmen of the Mysore, Madras, Bombay and Deccan States Governments.

Food Delegation

Mr. B.R. Sen, dealing with the various points raised emphasised the necessity for equal sacrifice by all parts of the country. He also referred to the establishment of a co-ordination committee to deal affectively with common problems in the affected areas.

The Public Health Commissioner indicated the measures that have been taken to deal with any emergent situation that might arise as a consequence of the food shortage.



During his tour of scarcity areas in Mysore, the Viceroy saw repairs being made to a "bund" which forms part of the famine relief operations started by the Mysore State. Picture shows the villagers crowding round the Viceroy and the Maharaja of Mysore.

Paying a tribute to the Food Delegation which left India recently Lord Wavell expressed his confidence in its ability to represent India's case effectively and hoped that it would secure a good deal of extra supplies. The world's sympathy was with India, concluded His Excellency, but it was necessary to face the realities of the situation.

Earlier in the day the Viceroy learnt in Madhugiri Taluk, one of the worst affected areas in Mysore, that the villagers were supplementing their ration with jungle gram, while cattle were being fed on date palm leaves owing to the extreme shortage of fodder.

Tour of Scarcity Areas in Mysore

At crack of dawn the Viceroy, accompanied by the Resident in Mysore, Col. P. Gaisford, Mr. G.E.B. Abell, Mr. A.E. Drake, Secretary to the Resident, Mr. Sundra Rao, Director of Food Supplies, Mysore, Mr. Narayana Rao, Inspector-General of Police, Mr. O.S.N. Sheriff, Minister for Food Supplies, and Mr. Narasimhiah, Chief Engineer, Irrigation, flew over the triangular circuit enclosing the scarcity areas of Tumkur, Chitaldrug and Goribidnur, returning to the Yelahanka aerodrome, where His Excellency

breakfasted with the Air Officer Commanding at the R.A.F. Mess.

Seeing some clouds the Viceroy asked the Air Officer Commanding whether they signified rain. The reply was in the negative.

Vanivilas Sagar Reservoir

The plane flew at a height of 2,000 feet over the Mysore Plateau. The Vanivilas Sagar reservoir, where the river Vedavathi, a tributary of the Tungabhadra, has been impounded, was glimpsed from the air. The Viceroy was informed that the areas flanking the reservoir were the only portions where crops were now growing.

After breakfast, the Viceroy, accompanied by H.H. the Maharaja, Mr. B.R. Sen, Sir Thumboo Chetty, Private Secretary to H.H. the Maharaja, Mr. Seshadri, Revenue Commissioner in charge of famine relief, and others motored to Sira in the heart of the scarcity areas.

At Madhugiri, the Vice-Chairman and members of the Municipal Board explained their difficulties in regard to food, water supply, cattle fodder etc. There is only one good bore-well and

its water supply, it is feared, may not last two months.

The villagers engaged in repairing the dam as part of famine relief operations downed tools to greet the Viceroy and H.H. the Maharaja. The man in charge of the labourers stated that they were getting only 4½ ounces of ration which is the human subsistence level. Potatoes, sweet potatoes and groundnut were rationed and they supplemented their diet with jungle gram. One villager protested that ration at this level represented less than half of their daily needs.

At Sira, the Viceroy lunched in the Travelers' Bungalow and returned to Bangalore via Tumkur at 4 p. m. Despite the hot and dusty drive the Viceroy spent nearly an hour disposing of urgent work before the Food Conference opened at 5 p.m.

During the morning flight, Mr. N. Madhava Rao, Dewan of Mysore explained the situation in the State to the Viceroy with the aid of a scarcity area map which he is taking to London, where he will represent Mysore in the Food Delegation.

Struck by the unusual design of two forts, at Madhugiri (Honey Hill) and Sira, Lord Wavell stopped the car for brief visits. The only access to Honey Hill is on the northern face which slopes upwards at a steep angle presenting large sheets of bare rock. There is a legend that the defenders poured oil down the rock face to prevent attackers gaining a foothold. For nearly six years the Mahrattas held the fort which is historically linked with Hyder Ali, who was mainly responsible for the present fortifications.

There are many ponds on the hill with large granaries and store-houses formed out of the caverns which enabled the defenders to resist the long siege. The name "Honey Hill" is derived from the large number of bee-hives found in crevices all over the hill.

In 1687 the Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb captured Sira from the Raja of Ratnagiri making it the capital of five provinces. In 1761 Hyder Ali by virtue of an alliance, became Nawab of Sira. Captured by the Mahrattas, the fort was retaken by Hyder Ali's son Tipu Sultan, the "Tiger of Mysore."



A Mysore villager shows Lord Wavell his ration card, Mr. N. Madhava Rao (fourth from left), Dewan, explained that potatoes, sweet potatoes, Ragi (now very scarce) and groundnuts were rationed. Villagers supplemented this with jungle gram.

VICEROY'S DISCUSSIONS ON FOOD SITUATION

WITH the recent visit to New Delhi of the Governors of the Punjab and the United Provinces H.E. the Viceroy has had the opportunity of obtaining the views of six Governors, Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Jinnah, the Maharaja of Mysore and the Resident, Deccan States, on the food shortage.

The general aim is that surplus Provinces should ration themselves down to the rest of India so as to make their surpluses available for export to deficit areas, maximum procurement of foodgrains, the extension of rationing to more towns and reduction in the scale of rations.

Representations are being made almost continuously to get more food for India from abroad. The main difficulties are the world shortage in foodgrains and the shipping position.

On February 14 the Viceroy discussed the food situation with Sir Bertrand Glancy, Governor of the Punjab, and Sir Francis Wylie, Governor of the United Provinces, in so far as their Provinces were concerned. Owing to the failure of the winter rains, the United Provinces is now believed to be deficit in wheat and rice, while the Punjab has exported, since May 1945, only 500,000 tons of foodgrains, which is greatly below its normal exports.

Tour in South India

During his tour of the drought-affected areas and at the food conference in Bangalore, Lord Wavell discussed the position with the Governor of Madras, the Maharaja of Mysore, officials of the Madras and Mysore Governments, the Resident, Deccan States, and Sir Henry Knight, Adviser to the Bombay Governor. The Governor of Bombay had met the Viceroy a few weeks earlier. On his way to Wardha to meet Mr. Gandhi, Mr. G.E.B. Abell, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, broke journey at Nagpur and saw the Governor of the Central Provinces to obtain his views on the situation.

Within the Viceroy's House itself, strict rationing has been introduced. Rice is no longer served at any meal while the consumption of flour has been reduced to one-third of the normal. No bread, rolls or toast is served at lunch or dinner. Tea time means tea alone; no bread and butter, cakes or biscuits. There is a two-course lunch and a three-course dinner.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI'S APPEAL TO THE PRESS

A N earnest appeal to the Press for co-operation was made by Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, who flew to Allahabad on February 18, with Mr. B.R. Sen, Food Secretary, and Mr. P.N. Thapar, Information Secretary, to address the All India Editors' conference on the food situation.

"It is the patriotic duty of everyone," Sir Akbar said, "to adopt such measures as would release the maximum quantities of grain for areas in short supply. Entertainments and feasts should be cut out and, as far as possible, food should be kept out of the sphere of political controversy."

Appealing for the co-operation of the Press, Sir Akbar stressed the need for maintaining public confidence and for giving a correct lead to the country on the lines of His Excellency the Viceroy's broadcast and the statements of Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah.

Rabi Crop

In addition to a reported shortage of 3,000,000 tons of foodgrains in the country, Sir Akbar said that it was feared that, owing to a failure of winter rains, the rabi crop may also suffer a loss to an equal extent.

The Press was always free to draw the attention of Government to any anti-social practices of officials and non-officials, he added. But in this period of temporary crisis, he suggested that the Press should ensure the greatest discretion so that rumours of frightful scarcity or unfounded reports did not gain wide currency.

Mr. B.R. Sen then answered a number of questions. He revealed that all export of grain had ceased since August 1943. Army ration had never been more than 1½ pounds a day, that is, the equivalent of a manual labourer's ration and the question of a reduction in the scale was being considered by the Commander-in-Chief.

He added that the Food Department was in complete accord with the suggestion of discouraging lavish entertainment and favoured the conversion of private lawns and flower gardens into vegetable plots. In this connection he disclosed that existing military vegetable farms would be utilised for providing vegetables for civilian use.

The Food Secretary, continuing, said that, while 400,000 tons of wheat had been allocated for the first half of the current year, no final allocations had yet been made for rice.

(Continued on page 253)



Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, Government of India, held a Press Conference in New Delhi on February 16 in connection with the Railway Budget which was presented to the Central Assembly on February 18.

PRESENTING his RAILWAY BUDGET, 1946-47

first Victory Railway Budget in the Central Legislative Assembly on February 18, the Hon'ble Sir Edward

Sir Edward Benthall's Speech

Benthall, Member for Railways and War Transport, sounded a note of warning on the great potential danger which has to be faced as the result of the wartime legacy of high level of operating costs and commitments for the post-war amenities in the face of a level of rates and fares out of tune with the general level of prices. He suggested that the Legislature would have to give serious consideration next year to the linked problems of the levels of rates and fares, the price of coal and the level of wages.

Prominent features of the Railway Budget for 1946-47 are: A decline of Rs. 48 crores in gross traffic receipts from the anticipated peak level of the current year, which will lead to a reduction of the net surplus from Rs. 32 crores to Rs. 12 crores next year; the introduction of new designs for lower class passenger coaches which will include sleeping accommodation, the inauguration of a Betterment Fund for financing unremunerative improvements and amenities both for the public and staff; the provision of a lump sum of Rs. 2 crores to enable a start to be

made with the construction of new lines and relaying lines dismantled during the war and a heavy programme of open line rehabilitation work involving some Rs. 20 crores.

Sir Edward Benthall said.

Sir.—The Railway Budget for 1946-47, which I have the honour to present today, is at one and the same time a Victory Budget and the precursor of a series of more difficult post-war budgets. There is no need for me to recount once again the extent of the contribution of the railwaymen towards the victory which has placed India in a position to develop her economic and political life in freedom. The strain has at times been great but they have been equal to it. Though conditions particularly for passenger traffic have been difficult, all military requirements were successfully met, the people's food has been moved, industry has been maintained at a high level of productivity and, generally speaking, the railways have delivered the goods. The country can, I think, be satisfied that its greatest industrial asset has stood the test of war, but henceforward we must turn to a critical examination of this asset and consider how our

railway finances stand and how best the resources in equipment and material can be adapted to meet the changing needs of post-war India.

With the termination of the war the distribution of traffic has, of course, changed. The re-occupation of Burma relieved the pressure on the metre-gauge connection to the north Eastern frontier which so long was a cause of anxiety, with the result that goods traffic is now moving fairly freely on the whole of the Northern metre-gauge system, and this should continue. The Southern metre-gauge system remains relatively active but with the reinforcement of rolling stock and the easing of military demands goods traffic congestion will be gradually eliminated. On the broad-gauge, railways have loaded in the first nine months of the current financial year 6.24 per cent. more wagons and lifted 4.91 per cent. more tons of goods than in the corresponding period of the preceding year and, in spite of a decrease in military traffic, a high rate of activity continues although, of course, the distribution of traffic has altered.

The transport of increased outputs of coal, particularly in the up-country direction, has presented difficulties which have recently been accentuated by severe outbreaks of epidemic dropsy and by mechanical trouble with some of the over-age engines on the East Indian Railway. Steps have been taken to overcome these difficulties and to move more coal by sea and it is accordingly hoped, as the new rolling stock comes into full operation, to carry all the goods offering and to build up stocks of coal in 1946 at the consumers' end. The railways should have the capacity to do so provided nothing intervenes to restrict its use, but as the stringency is likely to remain for some months to come, it will be necessary for the time being to maintain in operation, in decreasing degree, a system of priority movement control.

Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic has continued at a very high level. The latest statistics show that, apart from the large number of military personnel moved in specials, the Class I Railways have carried an average of 85 million passengers every month during the current years. This means an increase of nine million passengers per month over 1944-45 or 20 millions over the monthly average in the year 1943-44.

The passenger traffic handled in scheduled trains in terms of passenger miles—a more comprehensive unit of measurement—had already doubled last year in comparison with the pre-war

level but during the current year it is nearly two and a quarter times as much. With the reduction of military demand, it has been possible to restore a certain number of train services but, as the House knows, conditions of travel are still very far from satisfactory. There are no fewer than 1,366 broad-gauge and 416 metre-gauge coaches still with the military and until we get these back or get new stock, we shall be unable to restore the services to a satisfactory level and must therefore continue to ask the public to be patient over our difficulties for a little longer.

The condition of the coaching stock, too, has deteriorated during the war through intensive use and though the supply of fittings is likely to become progressively easier, it is not always possible to improve the condition of carriages quickly by withdrawing stock for repair without depleting services further, with still more serious inconvenience to the public.

Coaching Stock

The improvement of the coaching stock position is one of the major tasks of the railways in the next few years. The first step to improve the position is the recovery and reconversion to civilian use of the stock loaned to the military and the overhaul of existing stock, some of which may require to be largely rebuilt. In addition, the 216 broad-gauge and 94 metre-gauge underframes which are arriving from Australia, together with all spare underframes which can be collected from the railways, will be utilised for the early increase of lower class capacity. This programme will very fully occupy the shop and labour capacity of the railways for coachbuilding. The employment of outside engineering works for the fabrication of bodies for some of the underframes is under consideration; but this will not prejudice the employment of railway labour. As a longer term project, experiments are being made in light weight "all-metal" stock, suitably insulated and, of course, of improved design. Sample orders have been placed in order to carry out the necessary tests.

The question of new designs for lower class passenger coaches has received intensive study and the opinions of Local Advisory Committees have been taken. Sample coaches are being constructed.

The approved layouts contemplate transverse seating sectionalised to give greater privacy for both Inter and III class passengers. The seats will afford adequate knee room and provide a degree of seating comfort beyond anything offered to Inter and III class passengers in the past and an innovation is being introduced in that



Indian Railways have made a vital contribution to the country's war effort not only by the manufacture of munitions of war and other essential supplies but also by the transport of these war materials and defence personnel. These pictures show (above) a battalion of the Bhopal Infantry leaving for a war theatre and (below) trucks carrying military lorries being examined before departure.





Camels of Bikaner Camel Corps arriving by train at an Indian port for embarkation overseas.

sleeping accommodation as such will be provided in these classes.

The number of passengers per lavatory will be further reduced and some small compartments retained for women and for reservation. Water storage capacity will be increased and water supply made available in both compartments and lavatories.

Engines and Wagons

Lighting will be improved and fans provided in inter class compartments. Renovation of upper class carriages will of course be taken in hand and railways will proceed with development of air-conditioned stock, but the main effort will be concentrated upon the improvement of lower class travel. It will, however, of course be appreciated that the volume of work entailed in bringing the stock up to the general standard which the country demands is large and cannot be achieved overnight by waving a magic wand.

The position regarding engines and wagons is more satisfactory than that of coaching stock. Of the 934 broad-gauge engines on order to which I referred in my last year's budget speech

733 have been put into service, 29 have been shipped or already received in India and 172 remain to come forward. These should go a long way to secure the power position.

Of the broad-gauge wagons previously on order 3,410 from the U.S.A. were cancelled on the cessation of Lease-Lend arrangements. Of the 17,934 wagons on order in India, we expect to have received 13,439 by March 31 and the balance next year. Tenders have been called for a further 4,100 wagons of Indian manufacture. We hope that we shall have received 6,000 of the 8,000 Canadian wagons and 3,800 of the 10,000 wagons on order from the United Kingdom by the end of financial year and the balance soon after. When all these deliveries have been completed, the railways which commenced the war with some 7,279 broad and metre-gauge engines and 193,805 broad and metre-gauge wagons should have available 8,541 engines and 239,000 wagons. Among these, however, are 389 metre-gauge engines and 11,000 metre-gauge wagons owned by the War Department but it is expected that the railways will take over a large proportion of these.

Staff and Retrenchment

Eleven per cent. of the total wagons have been in service for 40 years or have been recommended for premature replacement, but the Indian industry should be in a position to provide replacements and any further accretions necessary to meet developing trade. Of the engines, however, 29 per cent. have passed the normal age of 35 years and it may be necessary to order a certain number of passenger engines from overseas before the locomotive building works now in course of inauguration in India are in a position to meet the demand. The first boilers from Singhbhum are in an advanced stage of production and work is proceeding at Kanchrapara, although the heavy programme of engine rehabilitation in these works is resulting in slower progress than we could wish. On the whole, however, the stock of engines and wagons should be adequate for current purposes.

It is only natural that the large body of railway servants who have worked loyally and strenuously during the last few years in furtherance of the war effort should now view with apprehension the inevitable adjustments which must result from a return to peacetime conditions. Government is, of course, well aware of the widely felt fear that a reduction in railway activity and the absorption of ex-service men will result in the discharge of large numbers of temporary staff.

Publicity has been given to a number of misleading figures which bear no relation to

fact. It is true that a certain amount of purely war work undertaken by the Railways has ceased, together with a portion of the purely military traffic. This military traffic has, however, so far largely been replaced by increased civilian traffic and although it is difficult to look far ahead, there seems every prospect during the coming year of a demand for rail transportation comparable to that of 1943-44. But apart from this, rehabilitation works and new projects will absorb large numbers of railway workers in alternative employment and are being put in hand as rapidly as the supplies of raw material and the need for preparatory work permit.

A variety of other means have also been adopted to avoid retrenchment on a large scale. Overtime has been cut down; in some cases, reduced hours of work for certain types of staff have been introduced; greater facilities for leave resulting in the entertainment of more substitutes have been arranged; certain leave rules—as a long-term policy—have been liberalised, while some work normally carried out by contract is, where possible, being temporarily allotted to departmental staff.

The Railway Board and Railway Administrations are exploiting all these methods to the fullest possible extent in order to avoid throwing large bodies of workers out of employment during the immediate post-war period. There is no reason to believe that their efforts will not meet with success, but while the railways are playing their part in creating work for the workers, their degree of activity is, of course, ultimately dependent upon the general state of economic activity. So far, some 8,000 surplus men have been absorbed in this way and only 8,800 out of a total labour strength of over 850,000 have had to be discharged, many of whom were occupied on purely war work which has been closed down.

Salary Revision

The Railway Board have been in close touch with All India Railwaymen's Federation in regard to this question although they have been unable to accept the claim that no railway servant should be discharged, a claim which it would be impossible for any Government department or any other business concern employing large bodies of men to accept. The Board will moreover continue to keep a close watch on these adjustments in the labour strength and will consult the Federation from time to time as heretofore.

Organised labour is also demanding the immediate revision of scales of pay. It must be realised that a wholesale revision in the very great variety of scales which exist on different railways is at the best of times an intricate matter requiring close investigation. The diffi-

culties of such a revision at the present time are intensified by the uncertainty of future price levels. The Railway Board have, however, been working for some time on a suitable post-war pay structure with the idea that the actual scales could be determined without delay as soon as there is more certainty as to the level at which prices, rates and fares are likely to become stabilised.

As was recently announced on the floor of the House, Government have decided to set up a Commission which will be predominantly non-official in character, to go into the whole question of the scales of pay for all their servants. In the meantime railway servants may rest assured that the present rates of relief which they are enjoying will not be reduced as long as there is no material reduction in the cost of living.

Post-War Plans

The question of medical facilities and educational assistance, the working of Staff Councils and the Staff Benefit Fund, the hours of employment of railway workers, housing, technical training and the method of handling establishment matters, all these with other questions relating to specific categories of staff, are under review. In short the Railway Board are giving the welfare of railway servants a prominent position in their post-war programme.

Government recognise the important part which railway rehabilitation and development can play in mitigating the shock of transition between wartime and peacetime conditions and in providing work for railway and other workers who would otherwise be in danger of unemployment. Transport services are indeed the foundation of activity in the heavy industries and the railways are losing no time in putting into operation the plans, which the House has discussed on previous occasions.

The programme of construction of new railways and restoration of dismantled lines has been settled in consultation with Provincial Governments and surveys are proceeding on 3,000 miles of line. Work is being put in hand on such sections as require no further survey but the bulk of the work planned cannot commence until the next working season.

A large programme for building new staff quarters of improved types is under way and in designing these types the wives of railway staff have been consulted. The Sargent Committee has just submitted an interim report on the development of tourist traffic. Each railway has submitted its five-year programme for rehabilitation and development. The total amount budgeted next year for new construction and open line

rehabilitation works is Rs. 22 crores which should be a useful contribution to help counter the reduction in war expenditure.

The Railway Board are also considering on a regional basis various schemes of developing electric traction, the establishment of a Research Branch, and plans to take advantage of and improve on the latest technical progress. Generally there is good reason to claim that the railways, in spite of their preoccupation with heavy war tasks, now find themselves comparatively well ahead in putting post-war plans into operation and I am confident that they will not be found wanting in meeting industrial demands for the development of the country.

Road-Rail Co-ordination

The proposals for co-ordinating road and rail transport in accordance with the general terms on which the last Assembly approved the investment of Government railway finance in road transport companies, have made uneven progress. Road transport is, of course, a provincial subject and progress in each Province has therefore been governed by the policy of the Provincial Government concerned. Most Governments have formulated policies of developing their road transport on lines which permit the railways to participate.

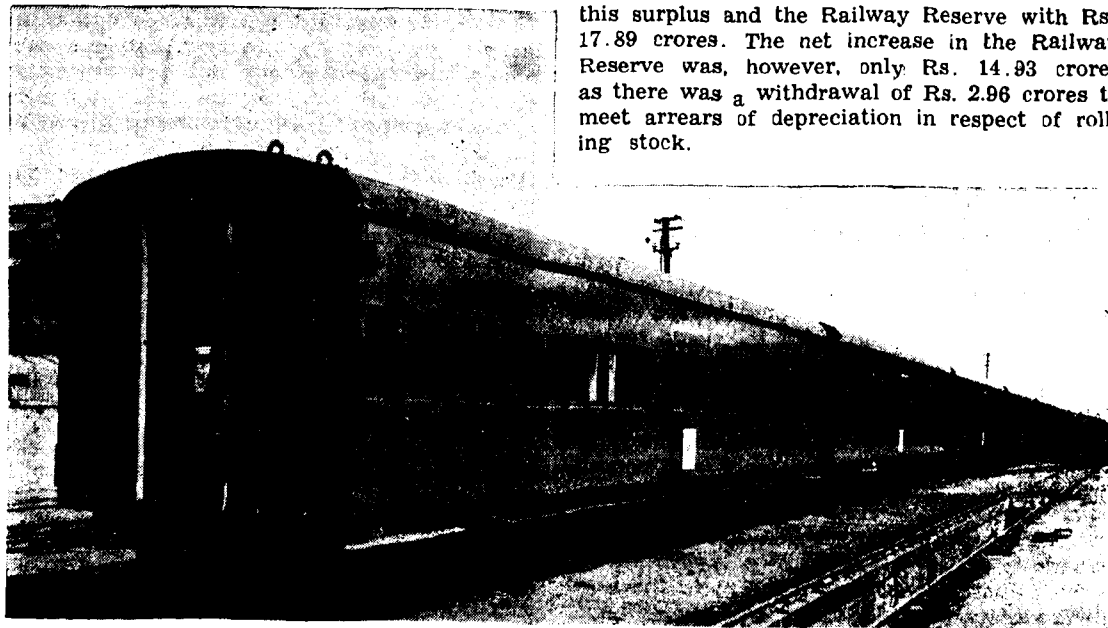
It has been possible, therefore, in some Provinces to negotiate freely agreed arrangements between the provinces, the railways concerned, and the operators; in others, the natural desire

of the operators to secure the best possible terms for themselves has resulted in prolonged discussions; other provinces again have not yet fully determined their policies and in such cases little advance is to be recorded.

Meanwhile the progress made by the Railway Board in carrying out the principles of the policy laid down by the House, has been the subject of examination by a special committee of this House. A sum of Rs. 3.48 crores has been included in next year's budget for investment in road-rail companies. If this is agreed to, the test is still to come, for the success of the policy depends upon the ability of the operators who are charged with the management of these companies to perform their public duties. Private enterprise in the management of Government capital is very much on trial, but a continued study of the problem in the course of the negotiations which have taken place during the last year confirms the view that the course adopted is probably the best suited to the particular circumstances of India.

Accounts for 1944-45

Turning now to the accounts, the actual surplus for 1944-45 proved to be Rs. 49.89 crores, an improvement of Rs. 7.88 crores on the estimate due to an increase of Rs. 2.08 crores in gross traffic receipts and a saving of Rs. 5.22 crores in working expenses mainly due to a throw-forward to the following year. General revenues were credited with Rs. 32 crores of this surplus and the Railway Reserve with Rs. 17.89 crores. The net increase in the Railway Reserve was, however, only Rs. 14.93 crores as there was a withdrawal of Rs. 2.96 crores to meet arrears of depreciation in respect of rolling stock.



An ambulance train built in the workshops of an Indian Railway.

Against our budget estimates of Receipts, we expect a large increase in passenger earnings, those from upper class traffic being expected to show a much larger proportionate increase (35 per cent.) than those from III class (14 per cent.). Our goods traffic will not differ appreciably from our estimate but there will be a considerable fall in parcels traffic. Our present estimate of gross traffic receipt is now Rs. 225 crores.

On the expenditure side we expect an increase over the Budget of Rs. 9.26 crores in ordinary Working Expenses and Rs. 24 lakhs in Payment to Worked lines. The principal increases are Rs. 1.32 crores for additional staff; Rs. 1.21 crores for increased Dearness Allowance and Rs. 1.68 crores for Grain Shop concessions; Rs. 2.45 crores for Maintenance expenditure; Rs. 2.03 crores for coal, including extra charges for shipment by sea; Rs. 1.84 crores for military sidings and the inflationary element in Works Expenditure; and Rs. 1.62 crores on account of interest and depreciation payable to the War Department for the use of works built at their expense and of rolling stock belonging to that department.

On the other hand special adjustments on account of rolling stock are Rs. 6.16 crores less and there will be savings on account of the disbandment of the Defence of India units and of the abolition of Air Raid Precautions of some Rs. 107 lakhs. Our revised estimate of total Working Expenses, including Depreciation at Rs. 17.05 crores and Payment to Worked Lines, is Rs. 169.30 crores against the original budget of Rs. 159.87 crores.

Estimates for 1946-47

Our net Revenue is expected to be Rs. 59.43 crores and after deducting interest charges of Rs. 27.36 crores, we expect a surplus of Rs. 32.07 crores which is Rs. 4.44 crores less than the original budget. Of this Rs. 32 crores will be transferred to General Revenues and the balance of Rs. 7 lakhs to the Railway Reserve Fund.

Turning to next year's Budget, calculations must, of course, be largely a matter of guess work. Basing our estimates of revenue, however, on this year's results and after allowing for a sharp decline expected in military and parcels traffic but for a maintenance of passenger traffic owing to a continuance of plethoric money conditions combined with cheap fares and a continued scarcity of consumption goods, we place our estimate for the next year at Rs. 177 crores which is Rs. 48 crores less than the gross traffic receipts expected this year. In addition we

expect a net revenue of Rs. 3.14 crores from miscellaneous transactions.

In making our estimate of ordinary working expenses in 1946-47 we have to reduce from this year's estimate Rs. 19.72 crores on account of the reduction in the special adjustments on account of rolling stock, military sidings and structural work, the write-off of the cost of dismantled lines and abandoned assets and the hire charges payable to the War Department. We have provided Rs. 54 lakhs less under repairs and Rs. 44 lakhs less under compensation claims. We expect to save Rs. 1.56 crores under Defence of India Units and Rs. 1.63 crores under loss on grain shops. These and other minor savings aggregate Rs. 24.66 crores. But although we hope to stop sending coal by sea in the course of the year with a resultant saving in freight we shall be using up this saving in moving more coal by rail in order to build up our depleted stocks. We also expect to spend Rs. 48 lakhs more on new minor works.

Division of Surpluses

After making these adjustments in the estimates for the current year, we place our estimate of ordinary working expenses for the next year at Rs. 125.73 crores. The appropriation to the Depreciation Fund will be reduced by Rs. 4 crores because of the stoppage of the additional contribution for excessive wartime wear and tear and there will be an increase of Rs. 17 lakhs on account of the increase in the Capital at charge which is due partly to the acquisition of further railway lines. Payments to worked lines are expected to be Rs. 61 lakhs less. After allowing for interest charges of Rs. 27.24 crores our surplus net revenue is expected to be Rs. 12.22 crores, Rs. 19.85 crores less than in the current year.

Without prejudice to any settlement under a new Convention regarding the division of future surpluses between Railway Reserves and General Revenues which may have to be the subject of further consideration by Government and this House during the coming year, it has been decided that the contribution to General Revenues will consist of 1 per cent. of the capital at charge of commercial lines less the loss on strategic lines, together with half the balance remaining after setting aside Rs. 3 crores for Betterment Fund. This will give Rs. 7.36 crores to General Revenues and Rs. 1.86 crores to the Railway Reserve Fund.

In February 1945 the Standing Finance Committee for Railways recommended that during years of prosperity a fund be built up by appropriation from surpluses for financial amenities for lower class passengers, the expenditure

on which was likely to be unremunerative. We now have before us a large programme of additions and improvements covering amenities to lower class passengers, staff welfare and other items designed for the safety and comfort of the public, which are not likely to be remunerative, and which unless other provisions were made, would, contrary to the best railway practice in other countries and the advice of leading authorities on railway finance, be charged to capital.

Government accept the view that such betterments as do not increase the earning capacity of the railways should be a charge to revenue and not to capital. In order, therefore, to provide for this and to enable the Board to plan ahead their programme of such works, they have decided to start a Betterment Fund by transferring a sum of Rs. 12 crores from the Railway Reserve and a sum of Rs. 3 crores from the net revenue of 1946-47.

Reserve Fund

Subsequent appropriations to the Fund will depend upon the net revenue of each year and on a consideration of the respective needs of the railways and of General Revenues subject, of course, to any Convention which may hereafter be adopted for the distribution of surpluses between Railway and General Revenues. Both appropriations to and expenditure from the Fund will be subject to the vote of the Legislature, but it has not been possible, in the time available since the decision was made, to include in the present Budget any estimate of the expenditure from this Fund next year.

We began the current year with a balance of Rs. 37.48 crores in the Reserve Fund. After withdrawal of Rs. 8.5 crores to cover the difference between the accumulations in the Depreciation Fund and the original cost of rolling stock, as arranged last year and adding the surplus of Rs. 7 lakhs expected, the Fund will stand at Rs. 29.05 crores on March 31, 1946. After transferring Rs. 12 crores to the Betterment Fund, as suggested, withdrawing Rs. 1.82 crores on account of arrears of depreciation and adding the appropriation from surplus of Rs. 1.86 crores and Rs. 2 lakhs representing the profit on branch line shares purchased from the Reserve which will be cancelled on the acquisition of the lines by Government, the Fund at the end of 1946-47 will stand at Rs. 17.11 crores, of which Rs. 7 crores was earmarked last year for deferred maintenance.

The Depreciation Fund which opened at Rs. 102.21 crores on April 1, 1945, is expected to close at Rs. 100.61 crores on March 31, 1946, and at Rs. 98.83 crores on March 31, 1947.

In closing my last Railway Budget speech, it is proper to review the position of railway finance. There is no question, of course, that the Indian Government railways have prospered financially in many ways as the result of the war. On April 1, 1939, the Railways had accumulated unpaid contributions to General Revenues of Rs. 35.41 crores, in spite of borrowings of over Rs. 30 crores from the Depreciation Fund which stood at Rs. 25.09 crores. The Railway Reserve Fund contained the exiguous figure of Rs. 48 lakhs only. At the end of the current year we calculate that after contributing during the war Rs. 158.43 crores to General Revenues including the arrears of contribution, our Depreciation Fund will stand at Rs. 100.61 crores and our Reserve Fund, before any transfer to the Betterment Fund, at Rs. 29.05 crores. We shall also have met loss on strategic lines to the extent of Rs. 6.01 crores.

In spite of these improvements calculations submitted to the Convention Committee showed that the Depreciation Fund is by no means excessive, if indeed it is adequate to meet the increased level of replacements. The Reserve Fund at the end of the current year will represent only some 3.82 per cent. of the capital at charge or only a little over one year's interest charges. It covers only a fraction of the large programme of amenities and improvements, many of them financially unremunerative, which we have in mind. Satisfaction must, therefore, be tempered with great caution, especially since the danger lies in our inability affectively to balance our budget in the future.

A Warning

In this last connection it is my duty to issue a very clear warning. In 1938-39 the earnings of the railways were at a level of about Rs. 100 crores; they rose in 1941-42 to Rs. 135 crores, in 1942-43 to Rs. 155 crores, in 1943-44 to Rs. 185 crores, in 1944-45 to Rs. 217 crores and this year we expect Rs. 225 crores. These results were mainly due to an increased volume of passenger and goods traffic, largely on account of war conditions and, only to a limited degree, which we estimate to an overall figure of 8 per cent., to increased rates and fares, mainly introduced in 1940.

Our ordinary working expenses in 1938-39 were only Rs. 54.01 crores and after deducting sundry abnormal charges, such as those due to the policy of writing down rolling stock purchased at high prices, rose to Rs. 102.35 crores in 1944-45 and are expected to be some Rs. 119.52 crores during the current year. Of these charges the increase between 1938-39 and the current year has been due to some Rs. 40 crores on

account of staff and Rs. 12 crores for increased costs of coal, the cesses on which payable by the railways alone now equal about 50 per cent. of the total cost of coal excluding freight in 1939-40.

Sir, in 1944 Government recommended the House to increase fares in order to build up a fund for post-war amenities for 3rd class passengers at the rate of Rs. 10 crores per annum. The House rejected the proposal, which Government responsively withdrew and in course of replying to the general debate on February 21 of that year I issued a strong warning to the House concerning the need for building up reserves in view of the inevitable fall in receipts on the cessation of war. I do not wish to revive old controversies nor would I materially alter the words then used, but, as then foreshadowed, we budget next year on a fall of Rs. 48 crores in receipts to a figure of Rs. 177 crores, which is below the 1943-44 level. Future tendencies are more likely to be downwards than upwards.

In the course of the next year or two, Government will probably have to consider several very serious problems in connection with railway finances, among them the basis of the Depreciation Fund and the revision of the Convention, all of which will require the careful study of Committees of this House. But even more important, Government and the House may well have to give serious consideration to the linked problems of the levels of rates and fares, the price of coal and the level of wages. These are knotty problems which have to be faced courageously and with a broad outlook, if our post-war plans are to be brought to fruition, for, once our budget becomes unbalanced and our reserves are eaten up—and under unwise management they can disappear almost overnight—it will not be an easy matter to rebuild them or to find the money for extensions, improvements, staff benefits and amenities to passengers.

With regard to staff, it is the aim of Government to maintain the maximum possible employment on the railways, provided work of an economic kind can be found for them and to maintain wages and salaries at a level which will continue to give fair deal to our men.

It will take a very severe effort to earn the money to do justice to every one and much will depend upon the efficiency with which the staff themselves handle the traffic offering and encourage more traffic.

As regards coal, no one, I think, wishes to see coal prices driven down to such levels as to render economic and efficient working of the mines once again impossible. If, therefore, expenses are not to be unduly cut, which would be

against the expansionist policy of Government, the need to increase rates and fares in the future may have to be seriously faced, and, in this connection, I would recall that railway executives in the United Kingdom and elsewhere contemplate, I believe, that to meet similar conditions an increase of 20 or 25 per cent. may be necessary. Happily it is not necessary in India this year and if traffic is maintained or expands, may never be necessary, but I should have failed in my duty if I had not put the contingency squarely before the House.

Rates

The acquisition by the Government of all the major Indian railways clearly renders desirable and possible a thorough revision of the railway rates structure. It is important in considering this subject to draw a distinction between a revision of the rates structure, system or procedure and the rating policy or determination of the level at which general or particular rates shall be based in the post-war world. With regard to the latter question the House will probably agree with me that it is as difficult to determine with any finality at this point of time what the future level of rates shall be, as it is for Government to determine what the level of salaries and wages of their servants shall be or for a business firm to settle with any degree of permanency what the future sales levels of their products shall be. All are dependant upon a clearer view of the general level of prices and of costs of living, and the permanent rating policy, must depend upon many factors as yet undetermined, such as the effect of road and sea transport on railway traffic and the tariff policy of the country.

There is, however, no reason why, the revision of the rates structure should not be tackled now. This task was in fact taken up by the Indian Railway Conference Association in 1943 and has since been under the close study of experts. In the past, the rating structure was affected by the fact that each railway company-owned and managed or otherwise, functioned as a commercial concern limited only by the statutory maxima and minima, and there has grown up a rating system of extreme complexity. It will probably bring home to the House the extent of this complexity if I mention that the unravelling of the system involves the detailed study and correlation of between 10 and 20 thousand rates. Progress may to the uninitiated seem slow, but valuable progress has been made.

The Wedgwood Committee in 1937 found that the application of the "continuous" mileage principle to telescopic rates where the disconti-

nuous" mileage principle is now in force, would be bound to lead to heavy losses to the railways, which might, of course, severely affect their economic survival. Intensive study has shown that this hurdle can be overcome, and the Indian Railway Conference Association have reported favourably on the possibility of introducing telescopic class rates on a "continuous" mileage and on various other improvements and simplifications.

It is hoped, therefore, before long to produce a revised system of rating which will eliminate the shortcomings of previous practice in unhealthy competition between railways which produced uneconomic and complicated rating and routing, to reduce very drastically the difference between railway risks and owners' risk rates, and to eliminate anomalies and simplify procedure to the greatest possible extent. These are objectives which had long been called for by public opinion, and I hope before next year that it will be possible to lay, before a Committee of this House and the Post-War Transport Policy Committee for detailed study, proposals in a form in which the implications of this particularly complicated problem can be fairly easily assimilated.

A Very Valuable Asset

And so to sum up, India has in her railways a very valuable asset which has been maintained without disastrous loss of efficiency owing to war usage and which is in many ways much better equipped technically than before the war. Rehabilitation is in hand and resources exist to effect it without undue strain. Financially the position is far sounder than it has been at any stage in the history of railways; its strength has been increased by the policy followed in the war and bears no relation to the situation revealed after the last war.

Lower class travel has not been comfortable in the past because the main consideration has been the provision of cheap travel to India's impoverished masses, but improved coaching stock and other amenities together with properly co-ordinated road services should better the conditions of travel in future. The railways should soon be able to meet the demand for goods traffic and will expand to meet further industrial and agricultural production. The one great potential danger which has to be faced is the wartime legacy of a high level of operating costs and of post-war commitments for amenities, together with a level of rates and fares out of tune with the general level of prices. Forewarned is forearmed. India has a great asset which must be carefully nursed and firmly administered.

(Continued on page 234)

Rs. 50 CRORES SURPLUS FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS

Railway Board's Report for 1944-45

THE Indian Government Railways yielded a net surplus of Rs. 49.89 crores after meeting all charges including depreciation and interest, in the year 1944-45, according to the Annual Report on Indian Railways recently issued by the Railway Board. Out of this Rs. 32 crores was paid to General Revenues and the balance of Rs. 17.88 crores was transferred to the Railway Reserve Fund.

Railway revenues increased both under coaching and goods traffic. The increased revenues were earned in spite of reduced passenger services, the publicity campaign against unnecessary travel, and deliberate curtailment of non-essential goods traffic, and were mainly due to the continued stimulus provided by war conditions.

The gross traffic receipts of Indian Government Railways broke all previous records and amounted to Rs. 216,38,00,000 as against Rs. 185,43,00,000 in 1943-44.

Working Expenses

The ordinary working expenses increased from Rs. 90.10 crores in 1943-44 to Rs. 123.34 crores, also a record figure. The main cause of the increase was the changes in the rules of allocation of expenditure on works and rolling stock made in order to mitigate the effect of wartime inflated prices on the Capital structure and on the Depreciation Fund, the effect of which was to transfer to Revenue Working Expenses during the year under review expenditure to the extent of about Rs. 19 crores on structural works and rolling stock, which would otherwise have been met from Capital and the Depreciation Fund.

Other important factors were the appointment of additional staff to move the increased traffic load, enhancement in the rate and scope of dearness and other compensatory allowances and the higher expenditure on coal and other fuel due to increase both in the quantity consumed and in the prices paid. As a consequence, the operating ratio, i.e., the ratio of working expenses (including appropriation to the depreciation reserve fund) to the gross earnings increased from 57.96 per cent in the preceding year to 65.14 per cent.

When compared with 1943-44, passenger earnings on all Indian Railways increased by Rs. 9.28 crores, from Rs. 67,17,00,000 to Rs. 76,45,00,000, an increase of 13.8 per cent, the number of passengers carried increased by about 37 millions—an increase of about 17.3 per cent and passenger miles by 5,085 millions, an increase of about 15.6 per cent. Each passenger was carried about 40½ miles on an average as against 41 miles, and upper class traffic (first, second and inter classes) increased by 33 per cent.

In comparison with 1943-44, the earnings from goods traffic on all Indian Railways increased by Rs. 11.23 crores, from Rs. 103,23,00,000 to Rs. 114,46,00,000, an increase of 10.9 per cent. The tonnage of goods carried increased by 50 lakhs of tons or about 5.21 per cent and each ton was carried an average of approximately 279 miles instead of 294 miles last year with the result that the net ton miles registered an increase of 31 millions or 0.11 per cent over the previous year, that is from 28,379 millions in 1943-44 to 28,410 millions in 1944-45.

The increased earnings were mainly derived from military traffic; iron and steel; wrought; iron, jaggree and molasses; oilseeds, rice not in the husk; coal and coke from the public and tea, raw.

Capital Expenditure

The heaviest increase in goods traffic was registered on the Bengal Assam Railway where the tonnage carried on the system increased by 52 million, an increase of 45.4 per cent, ton miles by 781.7 millions (56 per cent) and earnings from goods carried by Rs. 6.52 crores or 88.2 per cent.

Earnings from parcels, luggage and other miscellaneous sources of revenue also registered large increase from Rs. 28.87 crores in 1943-44 to Rs. 41.71 crores in 1944-45.

At the end of March, 1945, the total capital-at-charge on all railways including those under construction amounted to Rs. 864,19,00,000, which Rs. 787,00,11,000 was capital-at-charge on Indian Government-owned railways. The remainder Rs. 77,19,00,000 represented capital invested by Indian States, Companies and District Boards.

By far the greater portion of the capital on Indian Government-owned lines, namely Rs. 784,88,60,000, is Government capital and only 1/327 or Rs. 2,11,51,000 is owned by Companies etc. These figures include Rs. 54,46,000 on account of capital expenditure on strategic lines to the end of March, 1945.

The value of stores purchased by Indian Government Railways increased from Rs. 26.71 crores in 1943-1944 to Rs. 45.42 crores in 1944-45. The value of indigenous materials purchased went up by Rs. 11,34 lakhs and that of imported materials also increased by Rs. 7,37 lakhs. The increase in the total value of stores purchased was mainly due to increase in prices and the necessity to improve stock, where possible, against the vagaries of the supply position. Moreover, easing of the shipping position resulted in greater imports against outstanding orders from stores placed abroad.

Railways and War

The contribution of Indian Railways to the war effort rose steadily throughout the year under review and, resources being limited, there was a further curtailment of rail capacity for civilian use. Great difficulty was experienced in the procurement of stores of all kinds and maintenance, already overdue in most cases, had to be further deferred. The coal situation also continued to cause anxiety. Supplies were insufficient and poor in quality with the result that for a time the number of engine failures became unduly large and loss of time by trains was a common occurrence.

The need for increased supervision was only partially met as the Army and other Departments could not spare the services of many experienced railwaymen on loan to them for work directly connected with the war. The help of units of the U.S.A. Military Railway Service in working the northern portion of the metre-gauge section of the B.A. Railway was, therefore, all the more welcome and proved of very great value.

Overcrowding in Passenger Trains

The capacity of Railways being fully taxed and the demand for the carriage of goods and personnel continuing to rise, consideration was given to various means of relieving the congestion and of providing some alternate form of public transport. Rail-road transport schemes, designed to deal with traffic that could not be served by rail, were, therefore, introduced by a number of railways.

It was not practicable for Railways to arrange for any effective increase in the number of passenger trains owing to the heavy demands on rail transport for the Armed Forces, the impossibility of constructing new coaching stock during the war owing to short supplies of timber and other materials and to the serious coal situation. But every possible effort was made to minimise the consequent discomforts to the travelling public by the adoption of means such as the strengthening of passenger train services

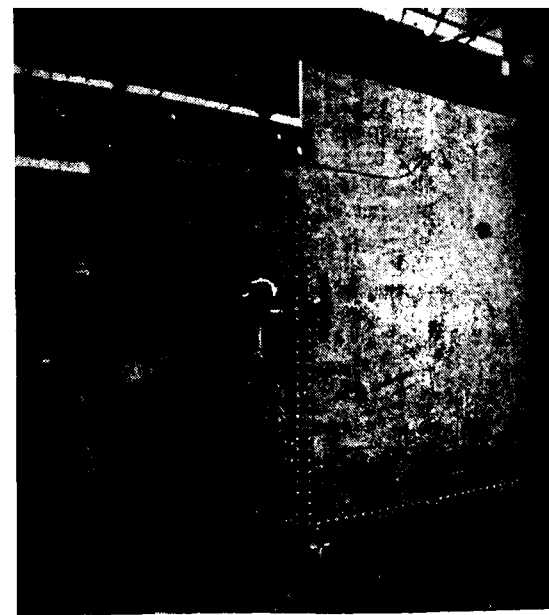


Assembly work on a locomotive boiler in an Indian Railway Workshop. Picture shows the method used for lining up the back end of the boiler. Horizontal and vertical positions are centred on the boiler and are used for checking the level of the boiler when placed on the engine frame. (Below) The outer casting of the boiler has been riveted, the fire box placed in position and the foundation ring riveted.

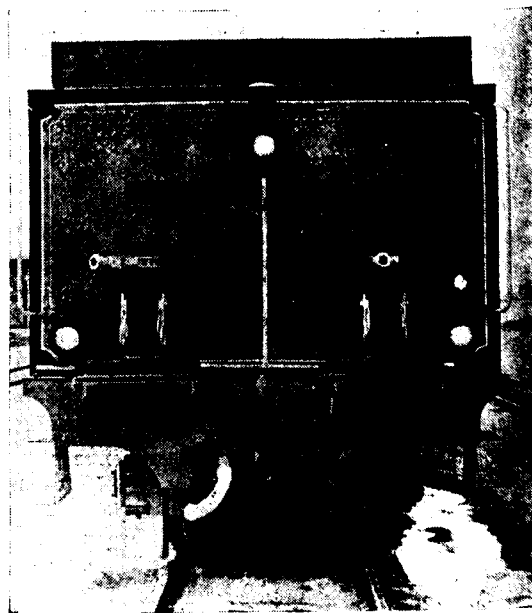


by extra carriages as far as available and within the permissible hauling capacity of the engines, intensive use of all available coaching stock and the reconditioning of obsolete vehicles, running of separate trains and reservation of separate carriages for military personnel, and vigorous efforts to prevent ticketless travelers taking up accommodation in trains.

According to the Government decision mentioned in the last year's report the contract



An engine tender is being assembled. The tender bottom plate is laid first and all angles are fitted, including vertical and horizontal stays. After this has been riveted, the side, back and front plates are bolted up, including bunker plate angles. (Left) A rear view of the tender which has a capacity of 3,000 gallons of water and 7½ tons of coal.



of the Dhond-Baramati Railway was terminated on September 30, 1944, and that of the Jacobabad-Kashmir Railway on March 31, 1945. The Government also decided to buy the following branch lines:—

(i) Dibru-Sadiya Railway, a metre-gauge line, 95 miles in length—with effect from April 1, 1945.

(ii) Podanur-Pollachi Railway, a metre-gauge line, 25 miles in length—with effect from October 15, 1945.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MARCH 1, 1946.

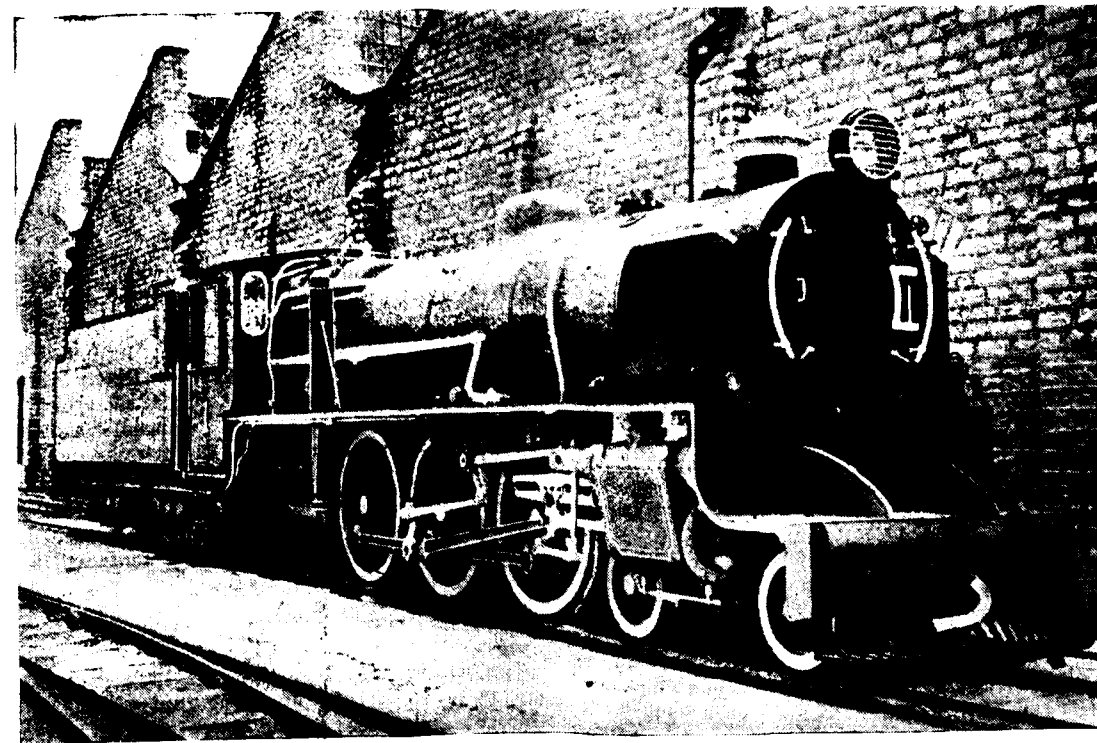
(iii) Hoshiarpur-Doab Branch Railways, broad-gauge lines about 91 miles in length, with effect from April 1, 1946.

(iv) Sialkot-Narowal Railway, a broad-gauge line, about 39 miles in length, with effect from April 1, 1946.

The contract with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was terminated prematurely and the Railway brought under Government management with effect from October 1, 1944.

Wireless Communication on Railways

Considerable progress was made during the year in the provision of wireless network on Railways as supplements to line communications particularly for use during emergencies. The development of wireless communication on almost all railways is progressing satisfactorily and most of the major railways are now being spanned by efficient wireless networks, inter-connecting all important junctions and transhipment termini with Districts and Railway Headquarters. The wireless system even with newly trained personnel and hastily installed apparatus has turned out to be a reliable and efficient means of communication and is rapidly establishing itself as an important part of the



A YB locomotive engine constructed in an Indian Railway workshop.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MARCH 1, 1946.

Railway organisation as was evinced during the breaches to the G.I.P. and B.B. and C.I. lines during the year.

Towards the end of the year, Railways have been transmitting well over 50,000 messages per month over their wireless network. This figure is rapidly rising. Further details about current developments in this regard and the basis on which Railways are building up their wireless and line layouts as permanent additional facilities to Railway operation along with the Railway tele-communication improved schemes, are given in Chapter III of the Report.

Locomotive Manufacture in India

At the close of the year under review, civil and mechanical engineering officers were placed on special duty with the Bengal Assam Railway to draw up detailed plans and prepare estimates for the remodelling of the locomotive workshop at Kanchrapara for the building of locomotives.

In regard to the sale of Singbhum workshops to Tatas for the immediate manufacture of boilers and for future development into a loco-building works, the Government concluded their negotiations with the firm and an agreement was finalised. An indent for special type of machinery for boiler manufacture was placed earlier in the year by Government on the Secretary of State for India for procurement in the U.K. to expedite the development of this project. An order for 100 boilers for super-heater goods engines was placed on these workshops in October, 1944, work on which was commenced without delay. It was arranged that the execution of this order was to be taken over by Tatas from the date of purchase of the shops.

The Ajmer workshops of the B.B. and C.I. Railway have continued to manufacture locomotives to a limited extent commensurate with their spare capacity and difficulties met with in regard to stores. An order for two YB metre-gauge locomotives was completed for the O.T. Railway. One had been handed over and the other was undergoing trials at the end of the year. Besides this, work on another order for 10 XTI tanks locomotives for N.W. Railway was proceeding.

During the year under review, post-war planning assumed considerable importance. The outlines of the plan mentioned in the previous year's report were filled in to some extent. Some of the important development features incorporated in the railway plans are:—

(i) *Reduction in the number of classes in the post-war passenger trains.*—It was decided

to plan for the provision of only 3 classes in the post-war period corresponding approximately to the present Second, Inter and Third classes and also to provide in addition to these three classes air-conditioned coaches on important mail and trans-provincial trains.

(ii) *Amenities for passengers.*—It was recognised that the post-war third class carriage must provide considerably improved accommodation.

(iii) *Quarters for Railway Staff.*—It was recognised that a large number of staff quarters, specially for staff in receipt of salaries below Rs. 100/- p.m. would have to be constructed in the post-war period. It was decided that the problem should be referred to a special *ad hoc* Committee which should be directed to consult the staff and their wives as far as possible to determine the room arrangements and improvement which would be most appreciated.

(iv) *Electrification of Railways.*—During the year under review, certain railways formulated specific schemes for electrification of considerable magnitude. These were being examined in detail particularly in relation to the conservation of coal.

(v) *Construction of new lines and replacement of lines dismantled during the war.*—During the year considerable attention was paid to the consultations necessary to formulate a plan for the requirement of new lines and replacement of dismantled ones. The post-war plan as it stood at the end of the year, included a list of about 5,000 miles of new railway lines awaiting survey.

Staff

The total number of employees (excluding staff on construction) at the end of the year under review was 962,009 against 884,003 (excluding State Railway Collieries' employees) in 1943-44. The cost of the staff on Class I Railways alone rose from about Rs. 49.69 crores to Rs. 56.69 crores. The general increase in number was due to the employment of additional staff to cope with the increased traffic and the rise in the cost was due mainly to the grant of enhanced rate of dearness allowance which for the first time included in its scope gazetted staff as well.

At the close of the year the number of railway grain shops rose to 729 against 591 in 1943-44. The number of ration card holders stood at 869,000. Foodstuffs to the extent of 14,512,000 maunds were sold in the shops with an average

(Continued on page 249)

LANGUAGE PROBLEM OF A.I.R. Advisory Committee's Recommendations

AT the invitation of the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Information and Broadcasting, a Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha, Member, Council of State, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, M.L.A. (Central), Dr. Zakir Husain and Dr. Tarachand, met on January 26, 1946, to advise the Government of India on the following questions:—

(i) Should the Hindustani news of A.I.R. continue to be broadcast in a common language or should it be broadcast separately in Hindi and Urdu?

(ii) If in a common language, what steps should be taken for the selection of vocabulary which should be satisfactory and generally acceptable?

(iii) What programme composition would achieve a fair representation of Hindi and of Urdu in spoken-word items other than news?

All the previous discussions on the Hindi-Urdu question which had taken place under official auspices, including the debates in the Legislature, were placed before the Committee and the difficulties that had arisen on account of the rival demands of the various sections of the people regarding the language of the Hindustani news bulletins and the composition of the Hindustani programmes of A.I.R. were brought to their notice.

A. I. R. Lexicon

So far as the language of the Hindustani news bulletins is concerned, it was pointed out to the Committee that during the last ten years or so the linguistic style of the Hindustani news bulletins had been fluctuating either from purely practical considerations or in response to the varying demands of the public. The language of these bulletins was, therefore, to be regarded as an experiment which had been in progress for some years, and the question for consideration now was whether this experiment should be continued and, if so, on what lines.

In this connection, All India Radio had compiled a Lexicon of about 8,000 English words commonly used in news, together with their Hindi and Urdu equivalents and suggestions for simple Hindustani synonyms, with the intention of circulating it to experts in the country for their

comments on the simple synonyms suggested. The Lexicon was placed on the table.

After a full discussion, the Committee unanimously came to the conclusion that the use of Hindustani as the common language for news bulletins though not free from difficulties should not be given up without a further attempt at arriving at a general acceptable vocabulary. For this purpose the Committee recommended that a Standing Advisory Committee should be set up to advise the Director-General, All India Radio, on the choice of vocabulary for Hindustani and that the A.I.R. Lexicon, which was a very valuable and constructive compilation should be circulated to suitable experts in the country for comments which when received, should also be considered by the Standing Advisory Committee suggested above.

One member, while agreeing with these recommendations, proposed that of the four Hindustani bulletins broadcast daily, two should be given in Hindustani, one in Urdu and one in Hindi. This was not agreed to by the rest of the Committee as they feared that the existence of an Urdu and Hindi bulletin side by side with bulletins in a common language would tend to defeat the purpose of the latter reducing its chances of success as an experiment and the Urdu and Hindi bulletins, because of their separatist character, would tend to become literary and would, therefore, be less widely intelligible.

Spoken-Word Programmes

For spoken-word programmes other than news such as talks, plays, poetry recitations etc., the Committee unanimously recommended that items in Hindi and items in Urdu should continue to be broadcast in spoken-word programmes other than news as it was most desirable to help and not to hinder the literary development of the two languages and that the question of fair and adequate representation, as between the two, should be referred to the Standing Advisory Committee mentioned above, as the matter would require detailed examination.

As for the composition of the Standing Advisory body, the Committee recommended that it should consist of experts representing the Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu, the All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan and the Hindustani Prachar Sabha, with temporary members to be co-opted by the Director-General, All India Radio, as and when the questions coming up before the Committee required it.

It was also suggested that as an auxiliary to the Lucknow Station of All India Radio, a studio should be installed at Allahabad where spoken-word items could be arranged for inclusion in the programme of the Lucknow Station

as it was felt that, pending the installation of more radio stations, this arrangement would enable the Lucknow Station to utilise the talent in the Eastern part of the U.P. more adequately than it could at present, in view of the long distances involved.

The Government of India have decided to accept all the recommendations of the Committee. Steps are being taken to set up a Standing Advisory Committee on the lines suggested by the Committee to circulate the A.I.R. Lexicon to suitable experts in the country for eliciting opinion and to install an auxiliary studio in Allahabad as early as possible.

ASSISTANCE TO RUBBER GOODS INDUSTRY

At a meeting of representatives of the miscellaneous rubber goods industry convened at the Directorate-General of Industries and Supplies, New Delhi on February 8, it was decided to set up a panel of six representatives for liaison between the industry and Government.

About 30 representatives of rubber manufacturing concerns were present and the problems facing the industry were discussed under four heads—raw materials, transport, equipment and technical assistance. It was pointed out that the transport situation was tight, but Government would do their best to give assistance in special cases where raw materials had to be moved speedily.

Some representatives drew attention to their recent application for the import of capital equipment and wanted help in getting imports from U.S.A. They were told that this was part of the general question of imports of capital equipment from abroad but the Department would assist the industry in getting any special equipment such as valve manufacturing plants and cycles tyres presses.

Technical Assistance

With regard to the question of technical assistance, the representatives were informed that three experts were arriving shortly from the U.K.—one to advise on mouldings, another on plastics and the third on general technology and engineering. They would be available to the industry for general assistance and guidance.

The representatives were also informed that Government were considering the establishment of a Central Technological Institute and laboratory and this proposal was welcomed.

P. AND T. DEPARTMENT'S POST-WAR PLANS

Special Officer Appointed

A START has been made to launch the Post and Telegraph Department's ambitious post-war programme. Mr. Krishna Prasada has been placed on special duty to work out details of the various proposals embodied in the post-war plan, which was recently approved by the Policy Committee on Posts and Aviation.

One of the questions under examination is whether more Post and Telegraph circles should be created or whether the administration in the circles should be decentralised. At present there are seven major circles with Post Masters-General at the head of the administration, the Punjab and the N.-W.F.P., U.P. Bihar and Orissa; Bengal and Assam; Madras; Bombay and Nagpur. Sind and Baluchistan form a minor circle with a Director of Posts and Telegraphs as its administrative head. Assam, which is now served by an Additional Post Master-General, subordinate to the head of the Bengal and Assam circle, is soon going to be raised to the status of an Independent minor circle under a Director of Posts and Telegraphs.

Two Alternative Plans

In order that the highest ranking postal officials should be more accessible and nearer to the public they serve, the Department is considering two alternative plans. One consists of dividing the existing major circles into divisions and putting each division under the administrative control of a Deputy Post Master-General. The alternative plan is to create additional minor circles under Directors of Posts and Telegraphs.

Another matter which is being investigated is the re-organisation of the office of the Director-General at its headquarters in Delhi.

Mr. Krishna Prasada, the Officer on Special Duty, has been Post Master-General in different circles and was till lately Director-General at headquarters. He was Chairman of the Bombay Postal Enquiry Committee, 1944-45, which was appointed to inquire into the grievances of postmen and inferior servants in that circle.

The ordinary money order service with Hongkong has been resumed with effect from February 1, 1946, under the same conditions as before the war.

INCREASED PRODUCTION OF FOOD CROPS

Results of I.C.A.R. Schemes

RESULTS are now available of the scheme brought into operation by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for speeding up production of important food crops like wheat, rice, pulses and millets; as also of oil-seeds, fruits and vegetables.

In July 1944 the Advisory Board of the Council drew up a plan (since then published as a Memorandum) in pursuance of which investigations on rice and other crops were carried out under grants from the Council in various parts of the country.

The details of the plan and the results achieved are given in the 15th Annual Report of the Council for 1944-45.

Rice and Wheat

Investigations on rice were conducted in Bengal, U.P., Bihar, C.P., Assam, Travancore, Raroda and Kashmir. New schemes were initiated in Bombay, Hyderabad and Sind.

On the effect of manure, green manuring at Chinsurah (Bengal) with Dhaincha gave the highest yield of grain and straw. At Nagina (U.P.) Sanai as green manure recorded the highest yield. At Sabour the application of artificial manures was found to be economically sound. It was also found that catch crops on the same land with gram, peas and Khesari could be taken without impoverishing the land and both Dhaincha and sunnhemp were found to be good green manure. At Raipur (C.P.) the combinations nitrogen and phosphate in equal proportions gave the highest yield and largest profit. In Kashmir crosses have been made with Russian, Chinese and American varieties giving higher yield and ripening earlier.

The investigations at Dacca on the fixation of nitrogen by algae in paddy land has established that the rice plant derives much of its nitrogen from this source. The algae, however, offer a disadvantage as they reduce available phosphorus and increase dissolved iron and manganese.

A suitable schedule for the guidance of cultivators has been worked out on the basis of results in Bengal, U.P., Bihar, C.P. and Berar, Assam and Orissa.

The botanical and agronomical character of a large number of hill wheats have been examined at Simla and the hybridization between hill

wheat and rust-resistant varieties have been completed. The schemes on breeding, milling and baking qualities, bio-chemical properties etc., are in progress in Agra, Simla, Mahabaleshwar, C.P. and Berar and Orissa.

Research on pulses in order to obtain high yielding disease and drought-resistant strains is being financed in Madras, Bombay, Bengal, U. P., Bihar, C.P., N.-W.F.P., Orissa, Sind, Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda embracing *Arhar*, *moong*, *urad*, *kulthi*, *moth*, *gram* and peas. A scheme on soya-beans is also in operation in the Punjab.

In the case of *jowar*, which is both a food crop and fodder, a survey of the insect pests during storage and a study of the method of storage are being made at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute. So far 12 pests have been found. Ashes, bhusa, sand and neem leaves have been found suitable as preservatives.

Various horticultural schemes are in operation in Madras, U.P., the Punjab, Bihar, Assam, N.-W.F.P., Orissa, Mysore, Hyderabad and Coorg to determine the best varieties, suitable stocks and scions and a cheap method of propagation.

The I.C.A.R. has financed two research schemes, one at Lyallpur and the other at Quetta for work on fruit and vegetable preservation. Similar schemes for production of seeds and acclimatized European types of vegetables, in Kashmir and Baluchistan have been financed.

Potato Cultivation

For the cultivation of potato, schemes are in operation in Simla and Bhowali while Karnal has been selected for seed potato production since May 1944 and it is expected to distribute 4,000 mds. of seed potato. At the Tobacco Research Sub-Station in Guntur a white flowered mutant has been discovered in one important variety and this colour characteristic will be of help in maintaining the purity of the strain. One of the objects is to make India independent of foreign import in respect of Virginia tobacco.

In regard to soils, manures and compost, the Report shows that the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute is conducting a soil survey for mapping and classification of soil and the work has been completed in many areas. With a view to speeding up production of organic manures as compost, work has been organised at over 100 centres and about 50,000 tons were prepared during the year under report.

The Council has sponsored several schemes to promote the rational feeding of cattle in villages. Investigations have shown that the comparatively low feeding value of rice straw is due to its chemical composition which drains salt from the body of animals fed on it, and that the quantity of concentrates required to produce the same amount of growth in cattle fed on wheat straw, green jowar and Napier grass is in the ratio of 100:72:73 respectively. No ill-effects were noticed on the health or milk yield of cows fed on toria cake.

Important work is being done on artificial insemination in connection with preservation and transport of semen the result of which will be immediately applicable to the process of breeding village cattle for improvement.

Cattle Diseases

To control cattle diseases strains of tuberculine suitable for use in India were prepared at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute and they were successfully employed in large Government cattle farms. Dessicated rinderpest vaccine has also been prepared and used with success. Research on the production of a foot and mouth disease vaccine is in progress.

Methods of detecting adulteration of ghee have been evolved and research is going on, on transportation, handling and distribution of milk, on tests for its cleanliness and keeping qualities as well as on its composition in order to formulate more satisfactory presumptive standards than now prevail.

Work on mixed farming, which has been carried on for the last five years, has shown that the practice has been followed with advantage in U.P., C.P. and Berar and N.-W.F.P., where the income of the farms under trial has increased appreciably.

SIR EDWARD BENTHALL'S BUDGET SPEECH

(Continued from page 226)

Finally, it gives me once again great pleasure to pay tribute in deep sincerity to the grand work of the railwaymen. From the Chief Commissioner, Sir Arthur Griffin, downwards they have given, under the heart-breaking limitations imposed by war conditions, good service to the public in critical days and, if I may end on a personal note, I shall for ever treasure the loyal support which I have had and the friendships and associations which I have enjoyed during my days among the railwaymen of India,

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES OVERSEAS

A special Board has been constituted for the selection of candidates who will be awarded scholarships for studies abroad during the year 1946-47.

It was recently announced that a number of scholarships will be granted by the Central Government this year also to Indian students for advanced studies overseas. The Special Selection Board, Overseas Scholarships, will examine all the applications, and after interviewing such candidates as they may decide to call, make recommendations to the Government of India. The Board will consist of the following: Sir Maurice Gwyer, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.C.L., LL.D. Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, Chairman; Dr. John Sargent, Kt. C.I.E. M.A., D. Litt., Educational Adviser to the Government of India; Dr. Sir S.S. Bhatnagar, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.I.C., Director, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan, M.A., LL.D.; Major Sardar Naunihal Singh, M.B.E.; Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj, M.L.A. (Central).

Mr. Ashfaq Hussain, Deputy Educational Adviser to the Government of India, will act as Secretary to the Board.

In addition to these, an expert or experts will be invited to assist the Board when selections are made for the particular subjects with which they are concerned.

COORG'S FIGHT AGAINST RINDERPEST

The Administration of Coorg have succeeded in a large measure in eradicating the disease of rinderpest, one of the gravest risks to which cattle are exposed.

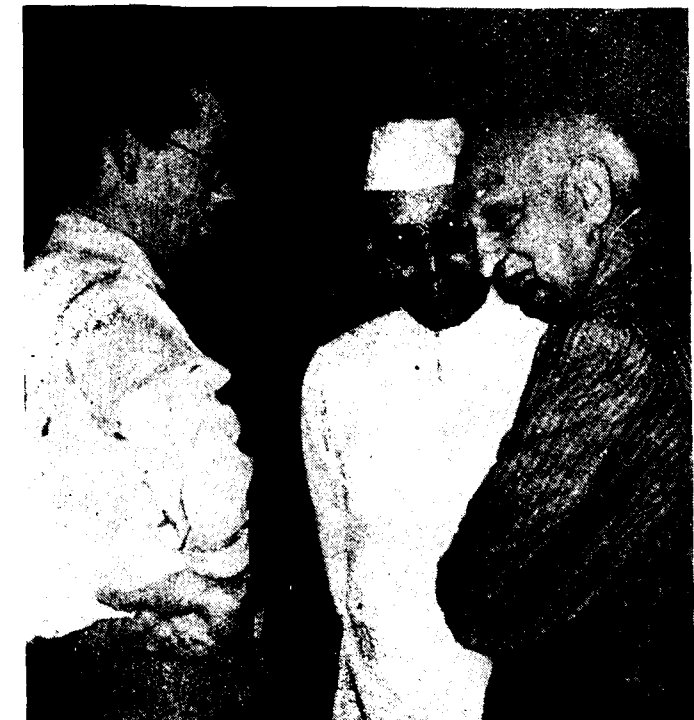
Coorg has now 90 per cent of her cattle permanently immunised against rinderpest and it is expected that within a few months all will be vaccinated. The cost of vaccination came to only half an anna per head of stock.

Major Grahame Williamson, Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India, who recently visited Coorg, made useful suggestions to the Administration for cattle improvement. One of them is that breeding has to be implemented by better feeding, specially of the young stock in the rice land. This can be done by making more use of forest grazing and by production and distribution of bone meal and minerals.



M.P's in Bombay

After their tour of the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province, the British Parliamentary Delegation visited Bombay and, later, South India. At Bombay, the M.P's had discussions with leaders of the Congress, the Muslim League, and other parties. Mr. N.M. Joshi, Labour Leader, entertained the delegates to tea at the Servants of India Society building. These pictures show (above) Mr. Joshi addressing the gathering, with Brig. Low on his right and Mr. Sorensen on his left. (Right) Brig. Low with Mr. B. G. Kher (centre) ex-Premier of Bombay, and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai.





Madras, Prof. Robert Richards, leader, and the other members of the Parliamentary delegation met Mr. Gandhi and discussed the Indian political situation. (Right) The M. P's also met Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, prominent Congress leader. Picture shows Mr. Rajagopalachari with (R. to L.) Brig. Low, Mr. Nicholson and Lord Munster.

IN MADRAS....



Mr. Hopkin Morris and Mrs. Muriel Nichol (both members of the Parliamentary Delegation) with Mr. Rajagopalachari.



The Mayor of Madras, Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj, gave a tea party on January 24, to meet the M.P's. These pictures show (Left) Rao Bahadur Sivaraj and Prof. Richards, leader of the Delegation, enjoying a joke and (Above) some of those who attended the party. (Right) Madras editors also entertained the Parliamentary Delegation to tea at the offices of the "Hindu".



Mr. Reginald Sorensen in a Harijan colony.





Mr. A. G. Bottomly and Mr. Sorensen, while in Madras, visited a fishermen's village where they spent an hour and a half going round the village, chatting with the fishermen and questioning them on some of their problems. (Below left) Mr. Bottomly listening to a fisherwoman's answer to a question put to her through an interpreter. Some of the M.P.'s also visited Cochin and Travancore. Picture (below right) shows Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dewan of Travancore, with Major Wyatt.



THIRTY PER CENT INCREASE IN CROP YIELDS

Results of Contour-Bunding Experiments

CONTOUR-BUNDING experiments in the Bombay Presidency have resulted in an increased yield of crops by 20 to 30 per cent. There was an increase in fodder crop also.

The chief benefits that have accrued from this method of field embankment are prevention of erosion and conservation of moisture in the soil with the consequent increase in crop returns. The movement of soil outside a contour-bunded area becomes difficult and it is estimated that erosion is reduced to one-half in the first year and to one-tenth at the end of five years. The additional moisture held in the soil by the action of bunds increases the yield of crops to a considerable extent. This yield can be further enhanced by Dry Farming operations (an improved scientific method of tillage with seed-drills, flat blade and tine-tooth hoes) in place of the ordinary method employed by cultivators.

Wadia Trust Scheme

Bunding work by the Bombay Agriculture Department was at first confined to assisting individual cultivators. In 1940 a scheme to extend the scope of this work was drawn up. In that year Sir Cusrow Wadia offered a big donation for creating a Trust Fund to carry out large-scale soil improvement. Government agreed to take part in this Trust Work and subscribed a sum equal to that accruing from the donation. Forty schemes covering 42,000 acres were put into operation. The Cusrow Wadia Trust schemes gave encouraging results and they were followed by large-scale bunding works in April 1943. They were start-

ed in Bijapur and parts of the adjoining districts where famine and scarcity conditions prevailed. During the period April 1943 to March 1944, 1,04,967 acres were treated in the Bijapur-Dharwar area and 8,843 in Sholapur.

The Government next undertook to proceed with the work on a permanent instead of a famine basis. In April 1944 two sections of land improvement were formed—one covering Bijapur, Belgaum and Dharwar and the other comprising Sholapur, Satara, Poona and Ahmednagar. Under the new scheme cultivators were required to meet part of the expenditure incurred. The annual cost of operations was estimated to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 12 per acre, out of which the cultivator was to pay only Rs. 9 and that too not in cash down. The sum was to be recovered in twelve equal instalments, the first not falling due till two years after completion of the work. By January 15, 1945, 1,81,156 acres were improved yielding a fair to good grain harvest and a good fodder crop.

While bunding is a proper method of treatment for agricultural land, it is not suitable for lands of steeper slopes and shallow soil.

Engineering and traffic surveys are to be carried out by the B.A. Railway administration for a 76-mile metre gauge railway line from Rohanpur to Dinajpur via Nithpur and Balurghat. The Railway Board had originally sanctioned engineering and traffic surveys, for a railway line on the 5' 6" gauge from Rohanpur to Hili via Nithpur, a distance of about 60 miles. This survey has now been abandoned. The new survey will be known as the Rohanpur-Nithpur-Dinajpur Railway Survey.

The following figures collected for six centres in Bijapur for the *rabi* harvest of 1943-44 give an idea of the comparative yields in bunded and non-bunded areas with and without Dry Farming operations.

			Average yield lbs. p. a.		Maximum yield lbs. p. a.		Minimum yield lbs. p. a.	
			Grain	Fodder	Grain	Fodder	Grain	Fodder
No Bunding	..	..	274	507	401	675	145	400
No Dry Farming	..	..		(163 acres)				
Bunding	..	..	344	643	625	1246	158	310
No Dry Farming	..	..		(234 acres)				
Bunding and	..	..	646	1657	916	1530	386	747
Dry Farming	..	..		(295 acres)				

COMMERCE MEMBER ON GERMAN REPARATIONS TO INDIA

Tribute to Work of Indian Delegation

"IN spite of what my Honourable friends say that we have not done our duty, that we have sat mum, it will not take away for a moment the effect of what we have done and what we propose to do still further. So long as I am in charge of this Department, I can assure the House that I will do my best. We have already done our best to get the best possible terms, and our delegates, to whom I again pay my tribute have done their very best in this matter".

So stated the Hon'ble Sir Azizul Huque, Commerce Member to the Government of India, speaking on the adjournment motion in the Central Assembly on February 1, 1946, moved by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on "India and German Reparations".

Sir Azizul Huque said: Sir my friend in his adjournment motion did not abide by the rules and regulations of the House. He thought probably that this might be an occasion, not only to censure the Government of India, but Russia, President Roosevelt, the Secretary of State, almost everybody that he could think of. I come as a very small fry and I do not think I need cover all the ground that my friend has covered. All I can say is that those who have some regard for truth and fact would recognise that myself and the Department of Commerce at least for a year have been pressing hard on all sides and it is not a fact that we have been sitting mum all the time.

History of Reparations

The question of reparations goes back to February 1945, when the heads of the three Big Powers met at Yalta. The decision was arrived at there that reparations are to be based on the organisation of victory, on the burden of war and losses suffered. The next stage came at Potsdam. In July a conference of the heads of the three Powers met and it ended in the signing of the Berlin Protocol, on August 1, 1945, whereby the western zone of Germany and appropriate German external assets were left to meet the reparations of the U.K., the United States of America and other Allied countries, excluding the U.S.S.R. and Poland.

The Paris Conference was thereafter convened to discuss the respective reparation

schemes and the data on which we were asked to base our reparations claim were loss of life involved in war, damage to property through enemy action, budgetary war cost and manpower allocable to the war. Ever since this reparation question was discussed, even before the Potsdam Conference was convened, we pressed very strongly that, apart from the basic principles enunciated, not merely physical damages, but human sufferings arising out of the conditions of the war, must be taken into account.

The Government of India specially emphasised that, in assessing the reparations claims, human suffering arising out of the war conditions should and must be taken into consideration. In fact the attitude of India was that the allocation of reparations on a bare statistical basis of the data supplied by or called for from the different countries would be wholly unjust.

Tribute to Mr. Iyengar

We could not forget the grievous loss of life in the Bengal famine. My friend from the South was very far off. I am aware of the history. We could not lose sight of the grim time we and our people, especially the poorer classes, had to pass through in conditions of war, in starvation and in the deprivation of essential supplies.

The Paris conference was called from November 9 till December 21. With the election on and with no legislature it was not possible for us to think of anybody except a strong official delegation. Mr. Iyengar, Mr. Nehru and Mr. Radbone, who is the Custodian of Enemy Property in India, were sent in the delegation with Mr. Iyengar as the head.

I can assure my friends that it was not an easy task for the delegation. Most of the continental delegates had never heard of the Bengal famine and its death role, and it is a well-known fact that India is so little known or understood outside India.

I pay my tribute to Mr. Iyengar, the leader of the delegation, who did not leave his place till the entire result was practically concluded. Our delegates tried hard and my friends should realise more and more that international conferences are not merely the result of formal discussions. They arise out of private talks, negotiations, informal discussions and various other categories or methods which are followed in all international discussions.

When the Conference met on November 9 all the countries represented there put forward their claims based on the totality of their effort against Germany—on the basis of physical damages, on the basis of the budgetary war cost, loss of life and the total manpower allocable to the war effort. The case of India was different and our delegates were fully instructed and at the plenary conference, Mr. Iyengar, the head of the delegation, gave a speech on behalf of India stating India's standpoint. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more as to the nature of our instructions than to read out a few extracts from Mr. Iyengar's speech there and I challenge my friends, at least if he has a conscience, to tell us as to whether we have not presented the case of India as best as we possibly could.

Mr. Iyengar's Speech

This is the speech:

"But I suggest that the Conference should go behind these figures and consider what is the human sacrifice involved in this expenditure. India is one of the poorest countries in the world with an appallingly low standard of living. She has, for generations, been underfed, underclothed and underhoused. Whereas in economically advanced countries the war has meant that luxuries have had to be eliminated, in India it has meant that people who already were undernourished had still less to eat, and people already underclothed still less to wear. In other words, while in one case it was the sacrifice, relatively speaking, of luxuries, in our case it has meant a sacrifice of the barest essentials of life. To take only one example, when we agreed to divert our supply of cloth for defence purposes it meant that the consumption per capita which was as low as 16 yards per year—one of the lowest in the world—dropped still further to 12 yards. In terms, therefore, of the privation involved, the effort represented by any budgetary figure is vastly greater in the case of India than in the case of the European countries and the U.S.A.

"For instance, the per capita income in rupees of some of the countries represented here just before the war was as follows:—U.S.A., 1,406; Canada 1,038; U.K., 980; Australia 792; France 621.

"The per capita income of India was only 65 rupees per year.

"The third feature which is unique in the case of India is the Bengal famine. We have read with much sympathy the accounts given in the memoranda of the other countries of the undernourishment, and indeed of starvation, which has occurred in different parts of

Europe; but I venture to suggest that in no country have we witnessed during the war a tragedy of the colossal dimensions that we had to witness in Bengal. There are no exact figures of the deaths that occurred during the Bengal famine directly as a result of starvation, but the lowest figure which has been adopted recently by the official commission of inquiry appointed by the Government of India is 1½ millions. This tragedy could have been averted in normal times by the import of food-stuffs into India and by the provision of transport, which was woefully short in Bengal. It was because of the necessity of building up for the D-Day that the ships could not be diverted to India. Therefore, we are on safe ground in putting forward that famine was the direct consequence of the war."

Sir, this is the speech. If this speech was not there, and we had not taken that attitude, then our share on the basis of damages to property would have been 0.1 per cent. Our share would have been half per cent. on the basis of budgetary figures and it would have been 3 per cent. on the basis of loss of life. Our point of view was pressed very strongly and the proposal of the Indian delegates was that the loss of life attributable to war, both in the armed forces and the civilian population, should be treated as an important factor in the allocation of reparations. This was ultimately accepted by the committee of the heads of all delegations and ultimately agreed to by the conference.

Important Factors

The Bengal famine and the difficult position of India owing to the food situation were treated as important factors in considering India's share. This would not have been possible if our delegates had not taken that line. The principal was accepted by the heads of the delegations that some consideration should be shown to India in the allocation of reparation for reasons contained in the speech which I just now read out.

In fact, in spite of the principles having been accepted, while the actual allocation was being discussed in private circles, it was anticipated that it would not be more than one per cent. or thereabout. Our delegates made it quite clear and very strongly protested against any such inadequate figure. By personal contacts and by private discussions, the Indian delegates pressed their case throughout and claimed a large share, and the result was two per cent. as regards basic items and 2.7 per cent. as regards plants and capital goods and equipment.

I might say here in this connection that, later on, it was the considered view among other delegates in their private talks that we have pulled off very well and that we should make some sacrifice in order to accommodate some other countries which have been hard hit as a result of the allocation by the final Reparations conference. But we stuck to that figure and we realised our position.

I feel that our delegates did extraordinarily well in the matter of representation of India's case. I think it is a cruel tragedy of life that men who have fought India's case in that manner should be told that they are at the beck and call of the Secretary of State and that they will be dismissed by the Secretary of State if they acted against his wishes. I realise that public life would be impossible in any country if people who are fighting the country's battle are decried and the value of their proposals belittled.

Japanese Reparations

In this case, we are exactly doing the same thing so far as Japanese reparations are concerned. My Honourable friend should at the same time remember that it is not the total cost of war. It is an allocation of a part which might be attributed to war. In other words, our total budgetary cost is to go into two heads, namely, that which we get from Japan and that which we get from Germany. Therefore, let him not run away with the idea that the figure represents the total budgetary cost, or the total estimated value of the loss which is the result of this war. I feel that we are pursuing this matter from day to day and even just now.

My Honourable friend is totally wrong in thinking that we have failed in our duty in the case of Japanese reparations. My Honourable friend perhaps does not know that the question of Japanese reparations has not yet been settled. It is still in the stage of discussion. As we have done in the case of Germany we are following the same policy. I do not belong to that faith in which I might say that I do not believe in this war, that I do not want any reparations and yet we criticise against those who fought the battle of India.

I hold that I am not in agreement with my Honourable friend. In spite of what my Honourable friends say that we have not done our duty, that we have sat mum, it will not take away for a moment the effect of what we have done and what we propose to do still further. So long as I am in charge of this Department, I can assure the House that I will do my best. We have already done our best to get the best possible terms, and our delegates to whom again I pay my tribute have done their very best in this matter.

LITERACY DRIVE IN COAL-FIELDS

MINERS of both sexes in India's coal-fields will soon be provided with opportunities for educating themselves under a scheme sanctioned by the Coal-mines Welfare Fund Advisory Committee.

The Committee decided to spend Rs. 3 lakhs for the scheme in the first year and "not less than Rs. 3 lakhs" for the next five years, at its meeting at Dhanbad on January 29, with the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, in the Chair.

This scheme of adult education is intended to provide not only education in the three R's but also in all other matters which will enable the miner to improve his standard of living.

The Advisory Committee approved a budget estimate showing expenditure of over Rs. 80 lakhs during the year 1946-47, a considerable portion of which will be spent on the provision of hospitals, child welfare centres and improved water-supply. Expenditure will be incurred in all coal-fields in India.

Employment For Women

Provision has been made for the continuance of anti-malaria work which, it is hoped, will banish malaria from all coal-fields.

The needs of women have not been neglected. As a part of the scheme for establishing creches in all mines, training of nurses has been approved. With a view to providing further employment for women—now again prohibited from work underground—the Fund is setting up vegetable farms, a step which, it is hoped, will also improve the nutritional standard of the miners.

Among various other things, the Committee also discussed a mass radiography survey for anti-tuberculosis work, putting up child welfare clinics and maternity hospitals, the construction of miners' townships and the Fund's relations with the Provincial Governments.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* of February 16, the Central Government have permitted the addition of any Provincial sales tax that may be payable, under the Provincial Law, to the ceiling prices already fixed, or to be fixed hereafter, of any article under Section 3 of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance.

Another notification published in the *Gazette* directs that the amount of sales tax charged in respect of any article must be shown separately in the cash memorandum.

RECRUITMENT TO I.C.S. AND INDIAN POLICE

Home Member's Statement in Central Assembly

SPEAKING in the Legislative Assembly on January 31, on Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's adjournment motion on the recruitment of Europeans to the I.C.S. and the Indian Police Service, the Home Member, the Hon'ble Sir John Thorne, said:

Sir, I shall try to adhere strictly to the terms of the adjournment motion, but I will depart from those for a moment to deal with the point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy. He was wrong in thinking that I referred this morning to any part of Sec. 244 of the Government of India Act except sub-section (1). I referred to that sub-section merely to make my point that appointments to these services are made by the Secretary of State. I did not myself refer to sub-section 4 which deals with another incident of recruitment, because it did not seem to me relevant to this discussion.

But I did not this morning and of course I do not now deny that the Secretary of State's decision was made after consultation with the employers of these services—the Government of India and the Provincial Governments. I think I said this morning that that consultation was naturally made. I do not wish anyone in this House to think that I am running away from any responsibility of the Government of India, I was merely taking, if you like, a perfectly constitutional view of the adjournment motion.

Recruitment

The first question to be answered is "Why has the Secretary of State resumed recruitment to these two services?" What I said this morning threw some light on that and I have no doubt that my Honourable friend the Mover knows all the facts; but there may be quite a number of members in this House who are not so well informed. I quoted this morning from the Press communiques of 1941 and 1942, which explained why recruitment to these services was then stopped, and when it was likely to be resumed. It was stopped for the period of the war, and the intention was to fill vacancies arising during the war as soon as possible after the war was over. As a result of that decision, the services are now seriously below strength. The demands of the administration have not decreased; they

have grown in many respects; and in some respects they are certainly likely to grow still more.

We have tried to keep the gaps filled by various devices. We have stopped long leave; we have put restrictions on retirement. In ways of that kind we have interfered, we have restricted the conditions of service to which people were accustomed, and I should like to take this opportunity of saying that the members of the services have borne those inconveniences with loyalty and without complaint.

But they are devices which cannot be continued long after the end of the war, and the gaps will have to be filled, and without them the services would soon be crippled. That is on the point as to why the Secretary of State resumed recruitment as he had undertaken to do, four or five years ago. I do not think that there will be any very serious question of that decision, but I come now to the main points of this adjournment motion—why he should have resumed the recruitment of Europeans.

Established Practice

In spite of what Mr. Neogy has said, it is not my function, nor is it within my power, to interpret the Secretary of State's decision. But there are some obvious considerations which must certainly have influenced him. The stoppage of the European recruitment would have been a departure from the established practice. Whether that practice was right or wrong is another matter; but the stoppage of European recruitment would have been a departure from established practice, and the time this undertaking was given in 1941 was certainly not a time when any departure from practice could reasonably be expected. The war was on, the outcome of the war was very uncertain, and the constitutional developments in India were equally uncertain. The promise was given in 1941—I read one part of that promise this morning: it continues:

"This decision (i.e., the decision that certain vacancies in services should be left vacant) applies equally to the recruitment of Indians and Europeans, to recruitment made in India and in England."...

PROF. N. G. RANGA: To whom was that promise made, please?

THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN THORNE: That was the undertaking given by the State in 1941, and it seems to me that any Secretary

of State taking action now, after the war is over, in accordance with the motion, would be guilty of a breach of faith if he went back on the terms of it....

PROF. N. G. RANGA: To whom was that promise given and on what provocation?

THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN THORNE: I do not understand my Hon'ble friend's question; but if he will allow me to go on, I invite him to have his say after I have finished.

Adjournment Motion

I dealt this morning with the wording of this adjournment motion, which speaks of the recruitment of European officers to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service permanently and suggests that that is opposed to the declared intention of the Government to hand over the administration very shortly to the people of the country....

Mr. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR: I withdraw the word 'permanently.'

THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN THORNE: I am not sure whether it is in order to withdraw bits of adjournment motions as you go along. I am entitled to deal with it as it was put on the paper. But in any case my Honourable friend has not withdrawn the suggestion that the action now taken is inconsistent with the declared intention of the Government to hand over the administration very shortly. I referred this morning to a statement which appears in this pamphlet as a foreword by the Secretary of State, and in the pamphlet itself under the heading "Terms of Appointment" there is this passage:

"Appointments will be made by the Secretary of State for India. While provision is made for the case in which an officer is able to serve under the Secretary of State for the full normal period, candidates are warned that their appointments under the Secretary of State will be liable to be terminated at any time on account of constitutional changes, subject to their being given twelve months notice."

It follows from that that the sooner there is a constitutional settlement, the sooner these constitutional changes come in, the sooner will it be open for the future governments of India, central and provincial, to wind up these services if they wish. None of these officers now being recruited will be foisted on the future governments of India; if the future governments of India do not want them, they will go.

Mr. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR: But at what cost?

THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN THORNE: I have not altogether omitted to take the question of cost into account. I know it was made clear this morning that these retirement grants are regarded as excessive. They are regarded as an unduly heavy burden to place on India. Once the decision too recruit was taken, the conditions of service had to be settled by the Secretary of State. As I am not in his confidence and it is not my business to interpret his decision, but when he spoke of termination of service, apparently he had two alternatives before him. One was to adopt the pensionary scheme with such changes as might be necessary in view of incidental war service, to adopt that pensionary scheme for his new recruits. The other alternative was to modify that pensionary scheme in view of the impending constitutional changes. If he had adopted the pensionary scheme I think he would have laid himself open to very strong criticism from Indians and especially my friends on the other side of the House. He chose the alternative, which is the fixing of lump sum payments. Those are the sums which will be found in Appendices II and IV of this pamphlet.

Amounts of Grants

Well Sir, my Hon'ble friend the Mover regards the amounts of those grants as greatly excessive. He quoted certain figures. I am not an actuary. I am a very innocent and ignorant person (An Hon'ble Member: Himmeler was not innocent) I was going to say in regard to figures, but I do know that to a person like myself, a layman, the capitalised value of a pension appears formidable or as the case may be, an attractive amount very much more than one would imagine from the amount of the pension. Perhaps even my pension, when I earn it shortly, would look very much more if some actuary capitalised it for me. (An Hon'ble Member: He is sitting behind you). I have not attempted it myself but my impression is if any one will proceed to decapitalise, so to speak, these lump sum figures, the results will not appear unduly formidable. However the main point is that the sooner these constitutional changes come into effect the smaller will be the sums to be paid under these terms as retirement grants.

Now, Sir, the period for which the services will continue—the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police—depends not, as my Honourable friend suggested, on the Secretary of State, the Governor General or even on the Home Member but on the statesmen and people of India. Speaking for myself no one, so far as I know, is offering me a retirement grant, but if an Indian will

(Continued on page 257)

TO ENSURE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF INSURANCE BUSINESS

Commerce Member Explains Amendment Bill

INTRODUCING the Insurance Act Amendment Bill, 1946, in the Central Assembly on February 7, the Hon'ble Sir M. Aziz-ul-Huque, Commerce Member, stated that barring a few additions, the present Bill was what had been practically agreed to by the Select Committee in respect of the previous bill and that the controversial clauses of the latter had been taken out from the bill now introduced. He proposed to introduce them (the controversial clauses) in a subsequent bill.

The Commerce Member said: It was in November 1944 that the Bill was first introduced in the Assembly and after a full debate, referred to a Select Committee. Among the present members of the Assembly, Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Essak Sait, Mr. Nauman, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer and Mr. Gwilt were members of that Select Committee. Others, but no longer in this Assembly, were Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Sir Bhagchand Soni, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. I should acknowledge here the valued work done by those who are not in our midst to-day, specially at the Select Committee stage, and I should specially like to mention about the great help and assistance we had received from Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, the distinguished leader of the opposition in the last Assembly and an eminent lawyer of all India fame.

A Carefully Considered Bill

The Bill was most carefully considered at the various sittings of the Select Committee in January 1945. While the Select Committee substantially agreed to the main features of the Bill either in their original form or with a few minor changes, a few new features of far-reaching importance were introduced at the Select Committee stage, the most important being two clauses relating to limitation of overall expenses of both life and non-life companies. As borne out by the Report of the Select Committee, there was a sharp difference of opinion in the Committee on this point and it was a subject of minutes of dissent for some reason or other from almost every member of the Committee; even those who were definitely in favour of the

principle of overall limitation suggested in their notes to have the figures recommended by the Select Committee further investigated.

The Report of the Select Committee was presented to the House on February 11, 1945, and Government were anxious to proceed further with the next stage of the Bill and take up all the provisions of the Bill as recommended by the Select Committee, excepting the two new clauses added at the Select Committee stage. But unfortunately the Budget discussions, voting of grants and other business of the Assembly filled up almost the entire time-table and there was not enough time left for further consideration of the Bill within its time-limit fixed for the last session of the Assembly.

Insurance Committee Report

In the meantime the attention of Government had been drawn to certain evil trends in the management of insurance companies, prejudicial to the best interests of insurance business in India. Government immediately appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir with Mr. Wajahat Hussain, Sir Alan Lloyd, Sir George Morton, Mr. K.R.P. Shroff, Mr. J. K. Mitter and Mr. Vaidyanathan as the members of the committee. That committee submitted its report to Government in July, and in accordance with the recommendations of this committee, a Bill is being drafted which I hope to bring before the House at an early date.

As the new clauses introduced at the Select Committee stage of the Bill I introduced in 1944 focussed a good deal of attention from insurance interests in India and were not free from certain amount of controversies from a section of Insurance interests, I have excluded these two clauses from the present Bill, so that the present Bill may deal as far as possible with more or less non-contentious items or clauses that were generally agreed to by the last Select Committee. I propose to incorporate the two new clauses at the Second Bill which I propose to introduce next.

Since that time our attention has been drawn to certain other flaws and lacunae, more or less of a minor nature, and opportunity has been taken to include a few clauses to remove those flaws in the present Bill with a view to clarifying some of the provisions of the Act.

The present Bill also introduces a few new proposals, which I hope would be agreed to by the House, some of them most urgently necessary. Under the Indian Insurance Act, the Superintendent of Insurance must be an actuary. Unfortunately, the number of qualified actuaries is extremely limited, only about 15 in the whole of India, and all of them are in most responsible positions in insurance companies and it is almost impossible to get a suitable man from among the actuaries with experience and knowledge to fill this important position.

I am grateful to the Oriental that at a critical moment in wartime they came to our assistance and lent us the services of Mr. Vaidyanathan. Mr. Vaidyanathan has been an asset to us and I wish to take this opportunity of placing on record his invaluable service to the cause of insurance in India. It will not be possible for Government to have the services of Mr. Vaidyanathan after March next and it is with extreme difficulty that he will be with us up to the end of March. We have tried our best to find out some suitable person after Mr. Vaidyanathan's eminent services with his experience and talents, but without any success, and sure, the House will not desire to get the Superintendent of Insurance from abroad.

Superintendent's Powers

I am advised after consulting the best insurance opinion that the time has come when with actuarial assistance under the Superintendent of Insurance, it should be possible for the Superintendent of Insurance to administer the Act even if he himself be not an actuary himself. Some of the most intricate technical, financial and economic places are being ably manned by Indian personnel as recruited from the various civil services or from the public life of the country. The Governor of the Reserve Bank is from the civil service. I do not therefore see any reason why we should not be able to find out a suitable Indian for this post even if he is not an actuary. The Government therefore feels that the relevant clause of the Act should be urgently modified to enable us to appoint a suitable Superintendent of Insurance. Necessary provision has, therefore, been made in the present Bill to incorporate an amendment on this point.

Another new proposal relates to the stage when the Superintendent can step in to ensure better management of the insurance business. Under the Statute, the Superintendent of Insurance has powers under Section 22 to question a valuation and under Section 33 he has powers to order an enquiry into the affairs of the company under certain contingency. But he has

no power to step in to correct the affairs at an earlier stage. He can exercise his powers long after mischief is committed.

It will be realised that in the long run the soundness of insurance business primarily depends upon the rates of premium and conditions on the basis of which insurance contracts are issued. If premium rates on which the working of a company depends are unsound the result of a valuation would naturally be such as ultimately to invoke the exercise of power under Section 22 by the Superintendent of Insurance. That happens at a later stage when the wrong has already been done. It has recently come to our notice that some companies have been quoting specially reduced premium rates for special classes of policy-holders, e.g., the "Directors and their friends."

In one case the category was further improved by the inclusion of "acquaintances" also in the text. All these discriminatory and unfair rates of premium must naturally affect the valuation. It is therefore proposed that the Superintendent of Insurance should have some power to have the rates of premium and conditions on the basis of which insurance contracts are issued, to be certified by an actuary approved by him, if he has reasons to hold that the original rates are *prima facie* unworkable. This will avoid the necessity of questioning a valuation under Section 22 at a later stage and will obviously give an opportunity to a company to rectify its defects at the earliest stage. The relevant clause in the Bill seeks to secure this end.

Another minor addition is proposed to give power to the Superintendent of Insurance to issue duplicates of registration certificates on payment of a fee. Insurers themselves sometimes desire more than one copy as original certificates may be mislaid or lost or they would like to exhibit them in their branches.

Agent's Commission

The next change is to allow commission to an agent who may revive a lapsed policy when he is not the agent who originally introduced the policy; old agents sometimes do not pursue their policies. The proposed section provides that it will apply only in the case of genuine lapses, i.e., which cannot be revived without a medical examination and that only after giving proper notice to the original agent; it should then be possible for another agent to revive a lapsed policy.

The present law provides for penalty to an agent for offering rebate or to anyone assuring his life accepting such rebate; but the penalty is very small to be in any way effective. The

penalty now is only Rs. 100 for the agent and Rs. 50 for the life assured. It is an open secret that in spite of this provision illegal rebates are freely resorted to. It has been represented to us that the penalty in both the cases should be substantially enhanced, and necessary provision has been made in the present Bill.

Barring these few additions the present Bill practically is the same as the last Bill, omitting, as I said before, the clauses about limitation of overall expenses. As most of the members of the House are new, I should take this opportunity to explain the main provisions of the Bill.

Firstly, the provision about the separation and earmarking of the investments representing the assets of the life insurance fund. Hon'ble Members are aware that an insurance company may be either a life insurance company or a company of composite character representing life, fire, marine and other contracts. Whatever may be the nature of the company, the life insurance fund is in the nature of a trust and should always be available most readily and no one should be allowed to play with that money, if the interests of the policy-holders have to be protected and safeguarded till their dues mature.

Interests of Life Policy-holders

A composite company representing fire, marine and other contracts may invest its life funds in non-life ventures and it may have to incur serious loss and may meet even with disaster under its non-life business. Anything that prejudices the interest of the life policy-holders must be scrupulously safeguarded and no disaster or loss in any non-life business, such as it may possibly be in fire, marine or accident business, should affect the interests of the life policy-holders.

Again, even if a purely life insurance company goes into liquidation its other creditors who are not the policy-holders should look to the realization of their dues only out of the assets of the company outside the fund representing the life insurance interests. They also cannot impinge in any way upon the interests of policy-holders. The Clauson Committee, which was set up in the United Kingdom, strongly advocated this being adopted. Recent legislation in the Commonwealth of Australia has provided for this. In America a company transacting life business is prohibited from transacting any other type of business, including other types of insurance business, so that any bad trading under other classes of business may not adversely affect the life business.

This was also the idea behind the legislation in 1938, viz. that the investments representing the life insurance fund should be separately earmarked and separately invested, as would appear from the notes on clauses which form the Annexure to the Bill as originally introduced. But the section, as it stands at present, does not achieve this end. The clause in the present Bill only seeks to ensure the position so that the Life Insurance Fund may be separately invested and earmarked as funds which cannot be touched by any other business or in any other transaction.

Insurance and other Businesses

Secondly, there has recently been a tendency among insurance companies transacting life business to expand into other classes of business. While this should not in any way be discouraged, it is only reasonable that they should not be allowed to transact other classes of business before they are able to bring up their life insurance fund to such a size as would cover their liability to their life policy-holders. Otherwise a composite company would start with a deficit to its life policy-holders.

The life policy-holders of a company which transacted only life business at the start naturally look to the original share capital as a security only to the life policy-holders; once other clauses of business are entered into the share capital would provide joint security to all clauses of policy-holders and to that extent the fund to which the life policy-holders will look to, should adversity set in, is diminished. The present Bill therefore proposes to raise the life insurance fund to an amount equal to the liabilities under life insurance policies before an insurance company may be permitted to undertake any other class of insurance business, namely fire, accident and marine.

Paid-up Capital

Thirdly, there have not been a few cases in which a company transacting life insurance business was *prima facie* unable to meet its liability towards life policy-holders, taking into account only the paid-up capital. In such cases the companies deem themselves to be solvent, taking into account uncalled capital as if it was cash in hand.

It is manifestly unfair to the life policy-holders for a company receiving its funds from the life policy-holders to spend away its money and then to plead the uncalled capital and try to equate a part of the liability to policy-holders from the uncalled capital. Uncalled capital represents nothing but promises and may not in

several cases be realisable, particularly when the concern is driven to the necessity of calling the uncalled capital to cover their thoughtless expenses and then to try to meet its liabilities to the policy-holders from the uncalled capital.

In view of the law as it stands at present, it has been held that uncalled capital could not be ignored and should be considered as available to meet the position of insolvency and no action for taking the company to liquidation could arise unless it could be proved that the uncalled capital was unrealisable. This is a most unsatisfactory position and the present Bill tries to rectify this.

Let us visualise the case of a company which started with a paid-up capital of a lakh of rupees and a very large uncalled capital of Rs. 99 lakhs. The promoters of this concern could go on merrily spending the life insurance fund of the policy-holders to the tune of if not Rs. 99 lakhs at least near to that figure, and when that stage is reached it can easily be seen how very difficult it would be to realise even a small fraction of the uncalled capital to patch up insolvency. The present Bill seeks to remedy the situation.

Prompt Disposal of Claims

Fourthly, there are some cases in which companies sit tight on claims even when they have been decreed by Courts of Law; without paying their liability as decreed by the Court they still go on merrily roping in new policy-holders, while profusely advertising their strength and, amongst other things, their prompt settlement of claims. The present Bill provides that this should be stopped, so that any company against whom payment of claims is outstanding may be debarred from securing any new life business before it is able to pay off their claims.

Fifthly, with a view to enabling companies to settle claims promptly the 1938 Act desired to give to policy-holders the facility of nomination as distinguished from assignment, as the latter is somewhat more rigid than the former. It was not at any time contemplated that the nomination which in most cases is for the benefit of wife and/or children, should attract the rigid provisions of the Married Women's Property Act. While it was not in any way desired, that a policy-holder wanting the security provided by the Married Women's Property Act should in any way be deprived of it, however rigid such security may be, it was intended that the policy-holder specifically desiring the elasticity provided by the nomination under the Insurance Act should not be subject to any rigidity as contemplated under the Married Women's Property Act. As the language of the

Law stands it is open to a doubtful interpretation and this has to a certain extent militated against many policies getting the privilege of nomination as was the desire of the Legislature when the nomination provision was introduced. An amendment seeks to remove this lacuna and confer on nominations the elasticity originally contemplated.

Provident Societies

Sixthly, the Bill provides that the facilities for amalgamation and transfer of business of Provident Societies as between themselves, with the sanction of the Superintendent of Insurance, and without resorting to heavy expenditure in a Court of Law. There are some societies which are struggling for existence and if they, should they wish to do so, can be amalgamated with stronger units, they can improve their condition.

The amendment contemplates to make this possible with no loss of time that may be necessary in effecting amalgamation through intervention of court and without incurring any heavy expenditure. There are some societies which are so small that if they are to make their transfer a court affair, there would hardly be anything left to transfer after meeting the legal expenses.

IMPORTS OF DRUGS FROM EMPIRE COUNTRIES

The arrangements under which shipments of drugs and medicines from the United Kingdom are sponsored by the India Office, on the advice of the Medical Stores Advisory Committee, will shortly be terminated, and the Government of India have had under consideration the licensing system which will take their place. Patent and proprietary medicines are already included in the Open General Licence, and Government have accordingly decided to extend the benefit of this Open General Licence to all other kinds of drugs and medicines with the exception of a limited number of items and preparations of which they form the major constituents.

A notification giving effect to this decision has been issued in the *Gazette Extraordinary* of February 4. Henceforward, therefore, importers will be free to import drugs and medicines from most of the Empire countries without the necessity of obtaining import licences, except for items on the excepted list. Licences for the excepted items will be granted by the Chief Controller of Imports.

RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING IN BENGAL

Mr. B. P. Khaitan's Radio Talk

THE significant points to be noted with regard to the five-year Plan of the Bengal Government are: (1) it aims primarily at the development of agriculture, (2) the total cost of the Plan by the end of the quinquennium beginning from April 1, 1947, is estimated to be about Rs. 145 crores and (3) the Plan is not a blue-print and, except where otherwise stated, no scheme outlined in the draft has yet received the sanction of the Government nor does it commit the Government in any way.

Thus stated Mr. B. P. Khaitan in a talk broadcast from A.I.R. Delhi on February 2. He added that the Provincial Government had set up a Post-war Reconstruction Board to facilitate further examination of the various schemes with reference to their rate and pace of execution and other problems related to planning.

Industrial Development

Dealing with the necessity of a balance between agricultural and industrial development, Mr. Khaitan said: "While the need for agricultural improvement and development is generally admitted, it cannot be the chief means of raising the standard of living of the people of Bengal or for that matter, of the people of India as a whole. The national wealth of the country and of all the provinces can be increased only after industries are promptly and adequately developed. It is now almost a truism to say that a country should develop alternate lines of production as an insurance against uncertainties of economic change. A greater balance between agrarian and industrial structures, between town and country, should be secured in order to give the population a greater security against economic crisis".

"It is necessary to bear in mind", said Mr. Khaitan, "that any taxation policy which is unrelated to the economic capacity of the community would result in diminution in the economic activity and ultimately in lowering the standard of living of the people. Regressive taxation while it may secure the necessary finance, will at the same time reduce the purchasing power of the consumer or the propensity of the community to consume. Any Plan which attempts to make more and more goods and services available to increasingly greater numbers would be successful only if the necessary funds are in the hands of the consumers to

purchase those goods and services. I consider that the tax policy should, therefore, be remodelled in such a way that it favours consumption."

"The controls that may be imposed on the economic life of the Province should be shaped in such a way that they are not merely restrictive and negative in character", continued Mr. Khaitan. "Their objective must be to create opportunities for all, instead of being merely concerned with the problems of production and distribution. Planning should not mean the promulgation of rigid control measures. It should be viewed as a continuous process which can be modified suitably and quickly to meet the changing conditions in life. There is great need to avoid rigid over-centralisation as well as undue decentralisation".

"Provincial or regional planning should not result in avoidable and unnecessary restrictions on the free movement of the factors of production between these regions. In fact, regional planning in India can be successful only with the adoption of policies that recognise the essential unity of India and the close inter-dependence of provinces on each other for raw materials and to market the goods produced".

RAILWAY BOARD'S REPORT

(Continued from page 230)

of 1,209,000 maunds per month or 1.43 maunds per month per ration card holder. The value of sales during the year totalled about Rs. 15 crores, rising from Rs. 1 crore in April 1944 to Rs. 1.7 crores in March 1945, giving an average sale of about Rs. 1.2 crores per month or Rs. 14.4 per ration card holder per month.

The cost of all the commodities sold during the year amounted to about Rs. 24 crores, while the cost realised by sales to employees at concessional prices was Rs. 15 crores so that the loss incurred by affording relief in kind to the staff was approximately Rs. 9 crores. The relief afforded to staff measured in terms of difference between the railway selling prices and the local market prices was Rs. 10.1 crores with an average relief per ration card holder per month of Rs. 10.

To provide for the more varied necessities of life for higher paid railway employees thirty grocery shops were opened at important centres on Railways. These shops supplied consumers' goods such as provisions, medical products, toilet requisites, stationery, haberdashery etc., at reasonable prices.



Indian troops, in training at a Signal Training Centre, operate a mobile wireless signal outfit.

EXPANSION OF INDIA'S LINE COMMUNICATIONS

Work of Signal Corps

NOW that security considerations permit, it is possible to reveal some details of the work that has been done by the Royal Corps of Signals and the Indian Signal Corps in the development of the line communication system in India during the war.

The tremendous expansion of line communications, found necessary in 1942 to meet the Defence Services' requirements, alone was estimated to cost Rs. 12 crores. This was combined with a smaller scheme to meet civil wartime needs and the estimated cost of the full Telecommunications Development Scheme when finally planned was Rs. 16 1/4 crores.

The Scheme envisaged the construction of thousands of miles of new lines, the installation of more than 100 telephone and telegraph carrier systems and of new telephone and teleprinter trunk exchanges at every important station in India, writes an Army Observer.

The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department found itself unable to provide sufficient engineers and workmen with the required specialist knowledge to ensure the rate of expansion necessary to meet operational requirements. The War Department therefore undertook the complete programme of installation and maintenance of Voice Frequency telegraph systems and associated teleprinters.

Special Signals Units

Seventeen special Signals Units, manned by officers and men with specialised knowledge and experience, were raised for this purpose. In addition, a total of 35 Signals Officers with extensive civil experience in the construction and operation of modern tele-communication systems were loaned to the P. & T. Department. They did invaluable work in such diverse operations as the design, manufacture, and installation of new trunk telephone exchanges, the supervision of the installation of carrier telephone systems, and the improvement of methods and output in the Telegraph Workshops.

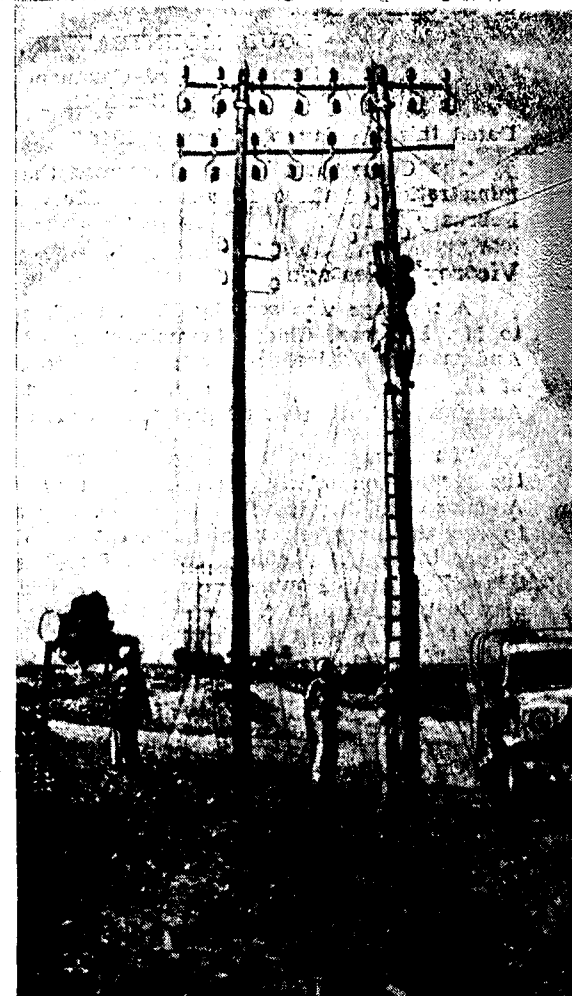


Signals trainees learn how to repair and maintain wireless transmitting and receiving sets. (Below) Indian signallers restore destroyed overhead cables and wires

Twenty Indian Signals Units were also raised to assist in the construction and maintenance of the new lines in the development scheme and have been continuously employed on this work since 1943.

While it is unlikely that the Defence Services will retain, for their own exclusive use, the very large line communication systems that Royal Corps of Signals and Indian Signal Corps personnel have helped to build up during the war, the work of these Signals Officers and men will not have been wasted and India as a whole will benefit from their efforts. The lines and equipment they have helped to provide will eventually reinforce the civil line communication system of India and help to provide the country with a telephone and telegraph service in keeping with its needs.

The process of progressively handing over tele-communication channels by the War Department to the Posts and Telegraphs Department has, in fact, already commenced.



CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF ANDAMANS RESUMED

A *Gazette of India Extraordinary* Notification issued on February 6 announced the resumption of civil administration in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and termination of military administration in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The notification stated:

The following proclamation issued by the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, is republished for information:

"I, Admiral the Lord Louis Mountbatten, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victoria Order, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Personal Aid-de-camp to His Majesty The King, Honourary Lieutenant General and Air Marshal, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia DO HEREBY cancel and withdraw, with effect from the 7th day of February 1946, my proclamation No. 1 to the people of the Andamans and Nicobar Islands dated 23rd day of September 1945.

LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN,
Supreme Allied Commander,
South East Asia.

Dated this 7th day of February 1946."

The Government of India resumed the administration of these Islands with effect from February 7, 1946.

Viceroy's Message

A message was sent by H. E. the Viceroy to Mr. Paterson, Chief Commissioner of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the occasion of his formally taking over charge of the Andaman Island's civil administration. It read:

"I send my good wishes on the occasion of the resumption of civil administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I was very glad to see the excellent rehabilitation work done during the military administration. I am sure this will be carried on under you, and the Islands may look forward to a new era of prosperity. My best wishes for the future."

The following message was sent to Mr. Paterson by the Government of India, Home Department:

"On the resumption of authority by the civil administration, the Government of India congratulate you and all Government servants in

the Islands on the admirable work already accomplished and send you their good wishes in your future task of rehabilitation and development."

The following messages have been exchanged between H.E. the Viceroy and the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command.

From the Viceroy: On assumption of civil administration in the Andamans I send you my warm thanks for the splendid work done by the military administration since occupation. I have seen for myself how well they worked and how good were their relations with everyone in the islands.

Supremo's Message

From the Supreme Allied Commander: Thank you so much for your very kind message on the transfer of the Andamans to civil administration. I am passing it to those concerned and I know it will give them very great pleasure.

The following message has been received from the Chief Commissioner of the Andamans Islands in reply to the Viceroy's message: On behalf of military and naval forces and staff of civil administration I thank Your Excellency for your very generous message. We shall spare no effort to justify your confidence.

INDIAN SAILORS', SOLDIERS' AND AIRMEN'S BOARD

Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, has been appointed President of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board in succession to Sir Mahomed Usman K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. The Secretary, War Department, has been appointed ex-officio member of the Board in place of the Defence Secretary.

Acting as the link between Indian Servicemen and their families and the local civil authorities, the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards made an important contribution to the defeat of the Axis.

There are now more than 200 Servicemen's Boards in various districts and states in India. The duties of these boards are to promote and maintain good relations between civilians and Servicemen; to assist in the welfare of servicemen and ex-servicemen and their families and to represent to the civil authorities matters which are of particular interest to the three Services.

INDIAN TROOPS RETURN FROM ANDAMANS

On the completion of their task in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands the 116th Indian Infantry Brigade, who have returned to India, have been congratulated by Lt.-Gen. Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Land Forces, South East Asia.

"You were entrusted with the very responsible duty of re-entering a part of the British Empire which had been occupied by the Japanese," says Gen. Dempsey. "You had to disarm and dispose of these Japanese after their surrender and to recover and evacuate our prisoners of war and to re-establish law and order."

"The high standard of your discipline and efficiency and the way in which you have performed this duty reflect great credit on your Brigade and upon the Army as a whole. I am proud to have had 116th Indian Infantry Brigade under my Command. Good luck to you all."

All Japanese in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, except for 112 war criminals held on Ross Island, have been evacuated. The Islands were reoccupied only four months ago, writes an Army Observer.

It was in October last year that 116th Indian Infantry Brigade, commanded by Brig. J. A. Salomons, landed at Port Blair from three troop ships. Headquarters ship was *Dihvara* commanded by Captain J. H. Blair, a descendant of the explorer who found Port Blair 150 years ago.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI'S APPEAL TO EDITORS

(Continued from page 216)

In conclusion, Mr. Sen suggested that the line taken by a section of the Press advocating higher prices of foodgrains was inopportune and commended to the Conference the Food Department's policy of securing a price fair both for the producer and the consumer.

In his final remarks Sir Akbar added that the severity of the food shortage would not be of long duration and, "if we can manage the next few months without mishap, particularly to younger people, I have no doubt that next year we shall be in a fairly easy street. The people of India would be grateful to the Press if those responsible for moulding public opinion could give guidance to their brethren all over the country."

WORK OF WAR CRIMES COMMISSION IN JAVA

A BUNGALOW in a Batavia avenue contains a row of neat, grim files. They are the results of many weeks' work by the War Crimes Commission in Java, and their pages list every cruelty ever perpetrated by man.

Alongside the names of the culprits is the now familiar catalogue of Japanese tortures—the water torture, the electric shock treatment, several hanging tortures, finger crippling, and the almost scientific system of flogging, starting with a plain stick and working up by way of various whips to an inhuman "cat" with hook-loaded thongs. Other and still more terrible brutalities are recorded, together with unimaginable privations and provocations, writes an Army Observer.

These cruelties were the work of Japanese prison camp staffs in Java and of the Indonesian collaborationist Political Intelligence Department. But retribution has been so thoroughly organised that an almost complete record of members of these staffs, with particulars of their service, has been compiled.

Professional Torturers

Every big town in Java had its prison camp, and every camp had its staff—and they are all on the list. Another file has details of every arrest so far made, most of the indictments being supported by signed statements by the victims.

The war criminals are of every rank, from private to general. Many are professional torturers, trained in a particular torture, and applying their specialities to civilian internees, women, children and prisoners-of-war—beatings of the camp guards themselves for various offences—with a fine impartiality.

The advance staff of the War Crimes Commission came to Java on the first Allied ship after the capitulation. They worked in close co-operation with RAPWI. Many dossiers were supplied by the Dutch, and Allied officers—former prisoners—contributed sworn statements.

No date has been fixed for the trial of these war criminals, but arrangements are well advanced.

The Government of India have further extended the date of the registration and issue of identity certificates to evacuees desirous of returning to Burma to April 30, 1946.

INDIA'S NEW AIR CHIEF



Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr

AIR Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, who has recently assumed the appointment of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, India, was born on August 3, 1891, and was educated at Wellington College, New Zealand.

He served in the Royal Naval Air Service and in the Royal Air Force in the war of 1914-1918. In 1919 he served in North Russia and in 1920 was Chief of Air Staff to the Lithuanian Government. Sir Roderick Carr was a member of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition of 1921.

In 1927, in a Hawker Horsley, he attempted the first R.A.F. long distance flight, England to Persian Gulf non-stop—a distance of some 3,440 miles.

Between the two Wars he saw service in the United Kingdom, the Middle East and the Far East.

At the beginning of World War II, he was commanding the Base of Advanced Air Striking Force of R.A.F. in France. In 1940 he was A.O.C., Northern Ireland and from 1941-45 was A.O.C. Number 4 Group, Bomber Command. In 1945 he was on the Staff of General Eisenhower, as Deputy Chief of Staff (Air).

On August 22, 1945, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr was appointed Air Marshal Commanding, Base Air Forces, South East Asia.

UNIQUE FRENCH HONOUR FOR MAJ.-GEN. GRACEY

At a special ceremony held at Saigon the title "Citizen of Honour of Saigon" was conferred as a personal tribute upon Maj.-Gen. Douglas Gracey, head of the S.A.C.S.E.A. commission in French Indo-China.

There was a big crowd outside the town hall to greet Gen. Gracey who, accompanied by Gen. Leclerc, Commander of the French Forces in the Far East, inspected crack French naval and military guards drawn up outside the town hall, writes an Army Observer.

Inside the brilliantly lit main hall, M. Cedile, Governor of the province of Cochin-China, welcomed the British General and said that the people of Saigon desired to give a token not only of the feeling of esteem which they held for him, but also of the deep friendship which they had for all the officers and men who served under him.

Gen. Gracey, who replied in French, said that the honour applied not only to himself but to the British, Indian and Gurkha troops whom he was commanding in French Indo-China.

"I am pleased to take the opportunity of this occasion," said Gen. Gracey, "to thank all those who helped the British, Indian and Allied prisoners of war both before and after the unconditional surrender of the Japanese. Never shall we forget what you did for them, especially those of you who at the risk of your own lives gave shelter to our escaped comrades in danger."

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCE FOR OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

AS a result of discussions between Members of the British Commonwealth, proposals for a joint British Commonwealth Force to participate in the occupation of Japan were agreed upon and conveyed to the United States Government by the Australian Government acting on behalf of the British Commonwealth Governments concerned, said a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G. H. Q., India, on January 31.

Following recent representations in Washington by the Australian Minister for External Affairs, Dr. H. V. Evatt, the United States Government have now formally accepted the participation of British Commonwealth forces in the occupation of Japan. Arrangements are now well advanced for the Force to proceed on the following basis:—

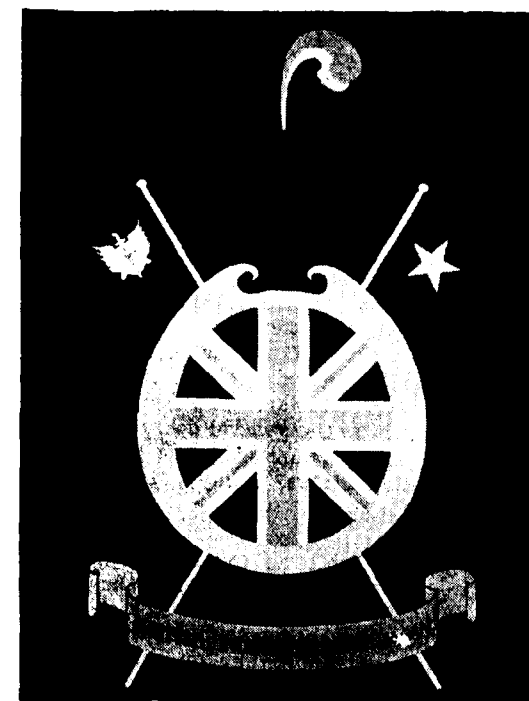
The Force is drawn from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and India. The Commander-in-Chief of the Force is Lt.-Gen. J. Northcott, C.B., M.V.O., of the Australian Military Forces. His Headquarters is fully integrated with representatives drawn from each service and from each Commonwealth reserve contributing to the force. Air Commodore F.M. Bladin, C.B.E., of the Royal Australian Air Force, has been appointed Chief of Staff to Lt.-Gen. Northcott.

Composition of Force

The Force comprises (a) the Force, with troops drawn from each of the contributing countries; (b) a land component organised as a corps establishment of one British-Indian Division and two independent Brigade Groups, one each from Australia and New Zealand; (c) an air component comprising squadrons drawn from the Royal Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Royal New Zealand Air Force and the Royal Indian Air Force.

A squadron of the British Pacific Fleet, which includes ships of the Royal Navy, the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Indian Navy, is stationed in Japanese waters under the operational control of the Admiral Commanding a Detachment of the United States Fleet.

The British-Indian Division is commanded by Major-General D. T. Cowan, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army, and includes the Fifth Brigade of the Second British Division and the 268th Indian Infantry Brigade. The remaining infantry bri-



The flag of the British and Indian Troops going to Japan under the command of Major-General D. T. Cowan, as part of the Commonwealth Force of Occupation, is the Union Jack. The badge, designed by the Force itself, consists of the Union Jack superimposed on a gold Britannia shield. Crossed lances with blue pennants carry the sign of Allied Land Forces, South East Asia, and the Star of India, indicating that the Force represents fighting men drawn from both commands which defeated the Japanese armies in Burma.

The crusader's helm, above the shield, with its red, white and blue plume, symbolises the cause for which they fought. Beneath, a red scroll bears the title: *British Indian Troops, Japan*.

gade groups include the 34th Australian Infantry Brigade, commanded by Brig. R. H. Nimmo. The commander of the New Zealand Brigade, which is coming from Italy, is Brig. K. L. Stewart, C.B.E., D.S.O.

The commander of the air component is Air Vice Marshal C. A. Bouchier, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., Royal Air Force. His senior Air Staff Officer is Air Commodore I. D. McLaughlin, D.F.C.

The air component includes No. 81 Australian Fighter Wing comprising three Mustang Fighter Squadrons No. 11 and No. 17 Spitfire Squadrons, No. 96 Medium Transport Squadron of the Royal Air Force, No. 4 Spitfire Squadron of the Royal Indian Air Force, and No. 14 Corsica Air Squadron of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

The British Commonwealth Occupation Force (B.C.O.F.) will form part of the occupation forces in Japan under the Supreme Command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for Allied Powers (S.C.A.P.). He has assigned the land component to the general operational control of the General Commanding the Eighth United States Army, who is in military control of the whole area of Japan. The air component has been assigned to the general operational control of the General Commanding the Pacific Air Command, United States Army (P.A.C.U.S.).

Duties

Lt.-Gen. Northcott as Commander-in-Chief B.C.O.F., is entirely responsible for the maintenance and administration of the British Commonwealth Force as a whole. He has direct access to General MacArthur on matters of major policy affecting operational commitments of the Force. On policy and administrative matters affecting the Force the Commander-in-Chief is responsible to the British Commonwealth Government concerned through a British Commonwealth organisation set up in Melbourne and known as the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia (J.C.O.S.A.),

Their instructions to the C-in-C., B.C.O.F., will be issued by the Australian Chiefs of Staff. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia comprise the Australian Chiefs of Staff and representatives of the Chiefs of Staff in the United Kingdom and New Zealand and of the Commander-in-Chief in India. This organisation is fully associated with the Australian Joint Service machinery. The Commander-in-Chief, B.C.O.F., has the right of direct communication with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia on administrative matters affecting the Force. On matters of governmental concern affecting policy and operations of the B.C.O.F., he will communicate through J.C.O.S.A., to the Australian Government who act as representatives of the Commonwealth Governments concerned.

The B.C.O.F., will be initially located in the Hiroshima Prefecture including the cities of Kure and Fukuyama. It will be responsible for the demilitarisation and disposal of Japanese installations and armaments and for exercising military control of the area but not for its military government which remains the responsibility of the United States agencies. The

B.C.O.F. area will not constitute a national zone. The B.C.O.F. may be called upon to conduct military operations outside its normal allocated area.

Kure will be the base port for the B.C.O.F., who will be responsible for the working of the entire port, the Kure naval yards remaining under United States Naval Control.

Provision is being made for the B.C.O.F. to be represented in the Tokyo Prefecture by a detachment which will probably be of a battalion strength. This detachment will be drawn in turn from each national component in the Force.

The British Commonwealth Force may be withdrawn wholly or in part by agreement between the United States Government and the Commonwealth Governments concerned or upon six months' notice by either party. It has also been agreed that progressive reductions in strength of the Force will be made from time to time in conformity with progressive reductions which may be made in the subsidy of the United States Occupation Forces in Japan.

The Australian Services Mission, hitherto located in Tokyo, has been transformed into an advanced echelon of Headquarters B.C.O.F. with the addition of officers from other Commonwealth components. For the present it remains in the Tokyo area to facilitate liaison with General MacArthur's headquarters.

Detailed Planning

Details of movements to Japan of the various components of the B.C.O.F. cannot yet be announced but detailed planning is now in progress on the following basis:—

(a) Naval port parties for the working of Kure port to arrive in the first week of February.

(b) Leading elements of the Australian component, including an airfield construction squadron, to arrive in the third week of February.

(c) Leading elements of the British-Indian division and advanced parties of British-Indian Air Components to arrive about March 1.

(d) Leading elements of the New Zealand Brigade which is moving from Italy to arrive about March 23.

The organisation of the B.C.O.F. and arrangements for its control through the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia which are outlined above constitute a further development in the closer integration of British Commonwealth co-operation. They ensure that each of the governments concerned has a full and effective voice in this joint undertaking.

CORPS OF ROYAL INDIAN ENGINEERS

THE King has bestowed the title of "Royal" on the Indian Engineers as a reward for their continued loyal and gallant services. The Corps will now be known as the "Corps of Royal Indian Engineers".

The Corps consists of nine groups. Three of these have been in existence for more than 100 years—Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners and the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners. The remaining six groups were formed during the war.

Battle Traditions

The battle traditions of the Royal Indian Engineers stretch back to 1780. The standard of their efficiency, both in peace and war, throughout many frontier campaigns, during the 1914-18 War and the present war has been enviable.

In 1939 the Indian Engineers consisted of 30 units with a total of 10,000 officers and men. In 1945 they had expanded to 711 units with a strength of 230,000.

A total of 198 gallantry decorations have been won by all ranks of the Indian Engineers during this war. These awards include one Victoria Cross and one George Cross.

"Please convey to all the ranks my heartiest congratulations on this recognition of their magnificent record in the late war and in the many wars and campaigns before it," says Gen. Auchinleck, C-in-C., in a special message on the occasion of the conferment, by the King, of the title "Royal" on the Corps.

RECRUITMENT TO I.C.S.

(Continued from page 244.)

take my place here in the next few months, I shall be very glad indeed for all reasons, both personal and public.

As regards these young officers now to be appointed, if India wants to keep them, many will no doubt be glad to stay. If India does not, if India wishes them to quit India, they will quit India, I have no doubt with many regrets, but they and we will have at any rate one satisfaction and that is that their departure will be a sign that India has attained that status which we all desire.

ARMY'S HEALTH IN 1945

LATEST information from General Headquarters shows that the health of the Army in India during 1945 was considerably better than in the previous year. Of particular interest were the results obtained by malaria-control. For example, during October—normally the peak month for malaria in India—admissions to hospital for this disease were the lowest ever recorded.

In 1942, 38.3 per thousand Indian troops and 19.1 per thousand British troops were admitted to hospital with malaria. In 1943, the corresponding figures were 36.0 and 26.6, a year later the figures being 26.3 per thousand Indian troops and 35.4 per thousand British troops.

In 1945 a remarkable drop occurred. Only 7.2 per thousand Indian troops and 6.4 per thousand British troops suffered from malaria. These results were all the more satisfactory as in the previous year the admission rates for British personnel, which had risen steadily since the outbreak of war, had become very high owing to the return of troops from the Burma border for rehabilitation.

Of the many factors which were mainly responsible for the results achieved perhaps the greatest was D.D.T.—the new chemical compound—spraying with which as an anti-malaria measure was first brought into use in 1945. But in malaria-control, as in all disease-control, success ultimately rests with the efforts of the men concerned.

C-in-C's Message

In a special Indian Army Order the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, refers to the improved health of the Army in India. "Of outstanding interest is the decrease in the admissions to hospitals for malaria. Certain factors, such as more favourable weather conditions and extensive use for the first time of spraying camps, barracks, etc., with D.D.T., may have contributed in bringing about this improvement, but I am confident that, considering the circumstances, this result could not have been attained without the wholehearted co-operation of all ranks in complying with orders issued from time to time to combat the disease.

"I take this opportunity of thanking all ranks for their co-operation in reducing the incidence of sickness in the India Command and I look forward with confidence to their continued support in this vital matter of health."

COMMISSIONS IN ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS

A PPLICATIONS are now being considered from civilians who wish to be accepted for special purpose Emergency Commissions for educational duties with the Army Educational Corps only. Those suitable will be granted Commissions provided they undertake to serve as officers for at least 12 months.

Applicants must be graduates of a recognised Indian or British University, or have special qualification or practical experience in civil or army wartime education, or hold a qualification which G.H.Q. ultimately consider acceptable in lieu. There is no age limit but applicants must produce a certificate of fitness from a competent medical authority.

Applications should be made through local headquarters who will provide the necessary proforma. A selection board will be appointed to consider applications and recommendations will be forwarded to G.H.Q. The board will state whether, in the event of rejection for an Emergency Commission, the applicant is recommended for and is willing to be employed as a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer under the Supernumerary List employed on educational duties.

Candidates on being commissioned must be prepared to undergo at least a month's course at the Army School of Education. They will not be required to undergo a course at an officers' training school.

C-IN-C. AT DEHRA DUN

For the first time during his tenure of office as C-in-C. in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck inspected a passing out parade of the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun. The parade marked the passing out of the last mixed company of British and Indian cadets.

Among the large crowd of spectators were two Indian Army V.Cs. Major P. S. Bhagat and Brig. A.E. Cummings. Music was provided by the Drums and Pipes of the Royal Inniskilling Regiment and the I.M.A. Band.

While in Dehra Dun, the C-in-C. attended the wedding of his Personal Secretary, Lt.-Col. W.R.P. Ridgeway to Miss Anne A. Collins, Senior Controller W.A.C. (I). Gen. Auchinleck himself was best man and the bride was given away by Lt.-Gen. Sir John Swayne, the then Chief of the General Staff.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CORPS TO BE DISBANDED

THE Government of India have decided to disband the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India).

This decision was made after a careful review of all relevant factors including, on the one hand, the desirability of keeping in being a nucleus of the Corps to serve as a basis for expansion in war and, on the other, the urgent need for educated Indian women in social, medical and educational fields. Whether the Corps, reconstituted and consisting wholly of women of Indian domicile, should be retained on a small scale in the peacetime organisation of the Indian Armed Forces was also considered before the decision to disband the Corps was taken.

The reductions in the Corps during 1946 will be phased according to the requirements of the Fighting Services, and it is anticipated that it will be possible to complete the disbandment in 1947.

Resettlement in Civil Life

On disbandment, members of the Corps will have the same facilities for training and resettlement as other members of the Forces and will be given all possible help in their resettlement in civil life.

The Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) was constituted in April 1942 under Ordinance XIII of 1942. Since its formation, the members of the Corps have done valuable work in various capacities, thus releasing men for the Fighting Services.

The Government of India take this opportunity of expressing their deep appreciation of the sterling services rendered by the officers and auxiliaries of the Corps.

When 10,000 Servicemen, led by the C-in-C. in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck march down Kingsway in a Grand Victory Parade on March 7, the salute will be taken by the Viceroy. After passing the saluting base, General Auchinleck will join the Viceroy on the dais.

Running commentaries on the parade will be given over loudspeakers from various standpoints along the route. All India Radio will broadcast the parade from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on 338.6 metres and 41.15 metres.

MAHARAJA OF REWA DEPOSED

IN 1942, owing to very serious allegations against His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa, it became necessary for the Crown Representative to set up a Commission of Enquiry. The Crown Representative, on considering the report of the Commission, permitted His Highness to return to the State on certain conditions. One condition was that no civil list allotment would be made to His Highness unless he made full disclosure of his disposal of the sums appropriated by him in the past to his personal control, and returned the balance to the State.

This condition has not yet been fulfilled and no civil list allotment has been made. The conditions also included the appointment of a Chief Minister and Council in accordance with advice tendered by the Crown Representative, and an undertaking by which all State business should be initiated in Council and that no variation by the Ruler of the orders and proposals of the Council should be valid without the concurrence of the Resident. It was at the same time made clear to His Highness that, in the event of his failing to abide by these conditions, he would render himself liable to deposition at the discretion of the Crown Representative. His Highness accepted these conditions and returned to the State.

Breaches of Undertaking

His Highness has recently committed several gross breaches of his undertaking to the Crown Representative. One of these occurred at the time of Dussehra when, in spite of his promise that all State business should be initiated in Council, His Highness announced without any reference to that body, that he had conferred responsible government on his subjects. His Excellency welcomed the substance of this announcement and, accordingly, if this had been the only breach of conditions which His Highness had accepted before returning to his State he would have been prepared to overlook it, although His Highness' past record suggested his purpose was rather to circumvent these conditions than to introduce responsible government.

His Highness' subsequent activities, however, constituted a further infringement which cannot similarly be overlooked. On the pretext of protesting against the departure of the Maharajkumar on a tour abroad to complete his training, His Highness has embarked on a course of constant interference with the State

administration, by stirring up students, by sending threatening communications to members of the Council and even, in complete defiance of his undertaking that all State business should be initiated in Council, by issuing instructions to the Chief Minister to close all offices, and suggesting that, if this was not done, His Highness would himself visit the offices and persuade State servants to leave.

New Constitution

In these circumstances the Crown Representative, with the approval of the Secretary of State has come to the conclusion that it will not be possible to carry through the programme of reforms while the present Ruler is on the gadi; and therefore in the interests of the State and its people the Maharaja is being deposed and the Heir-Apparent recognised as his successor.

In order to introduce a popular system of government a Committee, including representatives of all interests in the State and with a Chairman of the highest standing available, will be appointed by the new Ruler immediately to recommend the action which should be taken to give effect to the ex-Maharaja's announcement and to frame a constitution.

LABOUR OFFICERS FOR TRAINING IN THE U.K.

The second batch of Labour Officers to be trained in the U.K. in Labour Administration will shortly be leaving India. They consist of nine officers from the Central Government, nine from the Provinces and two from the Indian States.

The object of this training scheme is the provision of the personnel necessary for labour administration, some aspects of which are of immediate importance to India. The officers selected will undergo training in the Ministry of Labour, U.K., for a period of about eight months. Specialisation will be in one or more of the following five groups, namely, working of employment exchanges, resettlement and rehabilitation, factory inspection and labour welfare, industrial relations and working of trade unions and wage inspection or coal-mines welfare. The officers will acquire detailed knowledge of how such work is being done in the U.K., first through a theory course in the Ministry of Labour and then by practical training in the regions.

The first batch of Labour Officers returned to India in December 1945 after about eight months training in the U.K.



Soldiers being put through the cement course at the Baluch Regiment's training centre and (below) Some of the work completed by them.

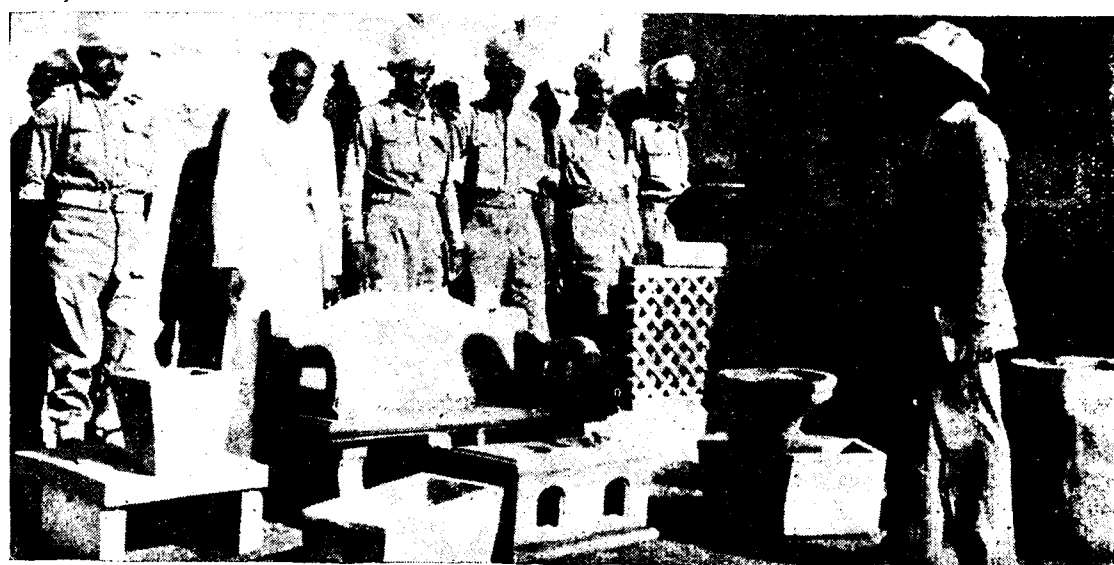
BALUCH REGIMENT'S RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

Soap, rope, *newar*, netting, *bidis*, cement, bricks, lime and toys are only a few of the items which men of the Baluch Regiment are learning to make as part of the regiment's extensive schemes to fit Servicemen for better opportunities in civil life.

At their regimental centre at Karachi, Baluch soldiers can undergo a two months' course on general farming, including vegetable, cereal

and fruit growing, the use of manures and irrigation, reclamation of soil, co-operation and consolidation of holdings, rural reconstruction, animal husbandry and poultry farming.

For those due for immediate release there are short courses on the care of cattle, goats, camels and poultry and on the conservation of soil, writes an Army Observer.



The men also receive instruction in knitting and embroidery. Others can become qualified carpenters, tailors, armourers, fitters and vehicle drivers.

Training in First Aid for the home with the use of inexpensive remedies, easily available to villagers, is another useful aspect of the resettlement programme.

At the Baluch Regiment's training centre soldiers are also taught to make nets.

(Below) Soldiers working on fret saw designs.



OVER 230,000 DEMOBILISED FROM THE SERVICES

More than 80,000 men and women were released from the Indian Armed Services during December, 1945. The total releases since October 1 last year now amounts to more than 230,000 and represents 26.1 per cent of the "target" of 850,000 releases for the period October 1, 1945, to May 31, 1946.

Of the official figures for December releases 1,394 were accounted for by the Royal Indian Navy and 79,065 by the Army. The latter figures including 76.35 released through Demobilisation Centres, a reduction in strength of 2,648 from other causes and 65 personnel of the Indian State Forces returned to their States.

The total decrease in the strength of the Indian Army since October, 1945, to the close of the year is 225,136. This includes 148 W.A.C. (1) Officers and 308 Auxiliaries. During December 210 members of the W.A.C.(I) returned to civil life, the figures for the W.R.I.N.S. being 75. Since demobilisation started 139 W.R.I.N. Officers and Auxiliaries have left the Service.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF BEVIN TRAINEES

OUT of 713 Bevin trainees 509 were in employment on January 1, 1946, and special efforts are being made by the Labour Department and Employment Exchanges to find suitable jobs for the rest. Some of the unemployed Bevin Boys are being considered for various posts such as Trade Testing and Assistant Trade Testing Officers, Instructors at the Technical Training Centres, etc. and nine of them joined the Labour Department in the first week of February, 1946.

As the services of Bevin trainees taken into the National Service fall within the definition of War Service, they are considered also for all Government vacancies reserved for War Service candidates. Under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Amendment Ordinance, 1946, their rights of reinstatement in their previous employment have been safeguarded and in fixing their remuneration, credit for the skill and experience acquired by them since leaving their previous jobs has been provided for.

Two Difficulties

The unemployment of about 28 per cent of the Bevin trainees including 56 thrown out of work with the closing of Ordnance factories expected to end as soon as industry is able to adjust itself to civilian production and Government and private post-war development schemes are put into operation.

But there are two difficulties in the way. In wartime the trainees were receiving comparatively high wages, the average increase being 211 per cent. Employers are reluctant to pay the same wages for peacetime production, while a considerable proportion of the unemployed Bevin Boys are unwilling to accept lower wages.

Another difficulty faces those who acquired special training. Of 94 Bevin Boys who were specially trained as aero-mechanics, 49 are still in employment in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory, but the services of others cannot now be utilised unless more aircraft factories are started. Employment Exchanges are, however, taking up the question of their employment. Special instructions have been issued to them to assist the Bevin trainees.

MAXIMUM PRICES OF IMPORTED MOTOR CYCLES

Consignments of commercially imported motor cycles are beginning to arrive in India and the Central Government have fixed the maximum retail sale prices of various makes and types. The prices thus fixed obtain only at ports. For inland prices, transportation charges from ports to the inland destination as also the transit insurance charges will be in addition to prices at ports. The prices fixed are as follows:—

Make and type of motor cycles.	Maximum Retail prices at ports.
	Rs.
1. Ariel, 3½ H. P. Model 'NG' 1946 with speedometer and rear carrier	2,220
2. Triumph, 350 C.C., side valve, W.D. Model (Rebuilt).	1,390
3. James, 125 C.C.	1,120
4. James, 98 C.C.	745
5. Scott, 98 C.C.	825

The price of Scott 98 C.C. motor cycles distributed by Government, through Messrs. Bombay Cycle & Motor Agency Ltd., Bombay, fixed at Rs. 825, is inclusive of transit insurance charges.

BICYCLE PRICES REVISED

In view of the improvement in the supply position, the Central Government have, by a notification under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance published in the *Gazette of India* dated February 2, reduced the sanctioned additions to landed cost from 20 per cent. to 15 per cent. (wholesale) and from 40 per cent. to 30 per cent. (retail) in respect of cycle parts and cycle accessories, and in respect of cycles, the maximum selling prices of which have not already been fixed by the Central Government separately.

The wholesale and retail prices so calculated may be exceeded by a sum, equal to the freight from the nearest port to the place of sale plus octroi duty actually paid in respect of the articles. Dealers in certain specified Hill Stations have been permitted to add five per cent. to these prices.

By another notification under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance published the same day in the *Gazette of India*, the Central Government have revised the maximum wholesale and retail selling prices chargeable

by a dealer in respect of certain makes of bicycles.

The prices that follow against each make are the wholesale and retail selling prices respectively: Raleigh—Rs. 111-8; and Rs. 126; B.S.A.—Rs. 114 and Rs. 129; Beeston Humber—Rs. 111-8; and Rs. 126; Rudge Witworth—Rs. 101-4 and 114-8; Hercules—111-8 and Rs. 126; Dayton—Rs. 106 and Rs. 120; Phoenix—Rs. 105 and Rs. 118-8; and Phillips—Rs. 92 and Rs. 104.

The prices fixed are for cycles complete with manufacturers' parts in accordance with specifications contained in the relative manufacturers' catalogues. The prices in respect of ladies' bicycles may exceed the prices of bicycles of particular makes by Rs. 10.

The maximum retail prices which a dealer may charge elsewhere than at Bombay, Karachi, Madras and Calcutta in respect of any of these makes of cycles may exceed their specified maximum prices by a sum not exceeding Rs. 10, equal to the freight from the nearest port to the place of sale and the octroi duty actually paid. Dealers in certain specified Hill Stations are permitted to add five per cent. to the maximum wholesale and retail prices.

Chettur Mission to China

With a view to exploring the prospects of exporting Indian products to China, particularly short staple cotton and tobacco, of which there is a large surplus in this country, the Government of India in the Commerce Department has sent a delegation to China, consisting of Mr. K.K. Chettur, Commerce Department (Leader), and three representatives of commercial interests, namely, Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand, Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman Mitha and Mr. G.B. Kotak. Mr. F. Jassawala of the Commerce Department and Mr. A.A. Javeri of the Industries and Supplies Department, are accompanying the Mission as technical advisers.

The Mission will be a fact-finding body, making a rapid survey of the Chinese market. It will concern itself mainly with finding out how much surplus stock of Indian cotton and tobacco can be disposed of in China and by what methods. It will generally examine the question of re-establishing, on a stable and expanding basis, import and export business between the two countries.



The Chettur Trade Delegation to China which left New Delhi by air on February 13. Mr. K. K. Chettur, the leader of the Delegation, is fourth from the left.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA: PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Government's Assurance of All Possible Assistance

"I NEED hardly add that the Government fully realise the implications of the proposed legislation and the gravity of the situation in South Africa. We have had full discussions with our High Commissioner who should be in South Africa today or tomorrow. We have, as advised by the leaders of the Indian community in South Africa, asked our High Commissioner to place before the Union Government the suggestion of sending a representative delegation of Indians from this country to South Africa to explore the possibilities of an alternative settlement."

Thus said Mr. R.N. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, speaking on the adjournment motion in the Central Assembly on February 4, 1946, moved by Seth Govind Das on the proposed Bill to freeze property deals between Indians and other races in South Africa as announced by General Smuts.

Alternative Settlement

Mr. R.N. Banerjee said: Sir, the House would perhaps like to have some idea of what Government's information is regarding the latest developments. The House will recollect that this matter was last discussed here on February 9, 1945. They would like perhaps to hear what happened since then. On that occasion, it was explained on behalf of the Government that the enforcement of the Reciprocity Act in the first week of November 1944 had some effect. The three Natal Ordinances which were designed for the segregation of Indians and which were the immediate occasion for the enforcement of Reciprocity Act were abandoned. The Governor-General's assent was not given to these ordinances and they lapsed after the expiry of one year.

Field Marshal Smuts made a public declaration that these Ordinances were contrary at least to the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement. He also made a statement that alternative settlement would have to be explored. We therefore thought of lying low a little and, in view of the fact that this question is a very old one and in view of our position of comparative disadvantage in this matter, we have always thought it best to exhaust all possible resources of negotiation and compromise.

Our new High Commissioner reached South Africa about the end of February last year and the Housing Emergency Ordinance was introduced in the Union Parliament. The object of this Ordinance was to provide better housing facilities for all classes particularly Indians.

In the drafting of this Ordinance our High Commissioner in consultation with the leaders of the local Indian community and their legal advisers played rather an active part. Our High Commissioner was taken into confidence at every stage of the drafting of this Bill, and the Bill as it emerged finally was pronounced by competent authorities to be formally non-discriminatory.

The Bill, however, contained a provision for the establishment of provincial Housing Boards under provincial legislation. In pursuance of this provision of the Bill, in August last year the Natal Government introduced a Housing Board Bill, and this Bill became law towards the end of November last.

In the scrutiny of this Bill also our High Commissioner in consultation with the leaders of the local Indian community and also their legal advisers played an important part. He was taken into confidence at every stage and the Bill as it emerged finally contained but one minor provision to which the Indian community took exception. That provision gave the new Housing Board the power to dispose of lands with a servitude aimed against Asiatics. We did not make a very serious grievance of this although we recorded our protest, because even without this legislation in cases of sales of land by individuals and municipal committees they have now the right of adding what is called an anti-Asiatic clause.

Field Marshal Smuts' Assurance

We acquiesced in this under protest particularly because Field Marshal Smuts issued a public statement on the date this Bill became law in which he gave a very definite assurance that all these measures would be worked without any injustice to the interests of Indians. It was after this that our High Commissioner left South Africa and came here for purposes of personal discussion about the position.

We have no official intimation about the exact provision of the new measure, but we have some unofficial information. It seems that the Pegging Act will lapse but a new Act is to be introduced to take its place which will provide for restrictions on the Indians' right of keeping

and acquiring land more or less on the same lines as the existing restrictions in the Pegging Act. The new Act is also to be made permanent. We have also been told that the measure may contain some elements of enfranchisement for the Indian Community. The utmost that we have been encouraged to hope is that there will be a loaded franchise for Indians, that is to say, Indians possessing certain minimum property or educational qualifications will be allowed to vote for European representatives who would represent them in the legislature.

That is all that I am able to say at this stage. I need hardly add that Government fully realise the implications of the proposed legislation and the gravity of the situation. We have had full discussions with our High Commissioner who should be in South Africa today or tomorrow. We have, as advised by the leaders of the Indian community in South Africa, asked our High Commissioner to place before the Union Government the suggestion of sending a representative delegation of Indians from this country to South Africa to explore the possibilities of an alternative settlement. We are hoping that something will come out of this suggestion.

The only thing I can say at this stage is that we will have to wait for some time the results of the discussion which our High Commissioner will have with the representative of the Union Government, and as soon as we have had that, Government will be able to take a decision about their further line of conduct in this matter. I need hardly repeat, Sir, that Government fully realize the implications of this measure and the gravity of the situation, and they will do their very best to give the Indian Community all possible assistance.

As one of the means of spreading knowledge of nutrition among the people, a proposal is being considered by the Central Food Department to inaugurate a Government-sponsored restaurant in New Delhi in collaboration with the Delhi Administration. Balanced meals prepared under hygienic conditions will be served to the general public at cheap rates, and it is hoped that other Provinces and States will start similar restaurants at selected centres in their respective areas.

To the restaurant will be added a Milk, Tea and Fruit Juice Bar, an experimental kitchen for demonstration purposes and a Nutrition Museum.

These nutrition restaurants will not compete with the catering trade, but would undoubtedly assist in raising the standard of hygiene and nutrition of commercial restaurants generally.

Improved Facilities for Indian Haj Pilgrims

IMPROVED shipping and other facilities, which the Government of India propose to provide for Indian Haj pilgrims in the future were outlined by Mr. R.N. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, in a reply to a question in the Central Assembly on February 5, 1946.

Mr. Banerjee stated: "Steps have been taken to provide berthed accommodation in the existing as well as in new ships to be constructed for the transport of pilgrims. Necessary arrangements have also been made for providing the prescribed quantity of fresh air, water taps, improved latrines and medical facilities. Proposals for the reconstruction of the pilgrim camp at Karachi are also in hand and a budget provision of Rs. 27 lakhs has already been made. The construction of a *musafirkhana*, exclusively for pilgrims at Calcutta, is also under consideration."

The total number of Haj pilgrims that left Indian ports from 1939 to December 1945 was 36,895.

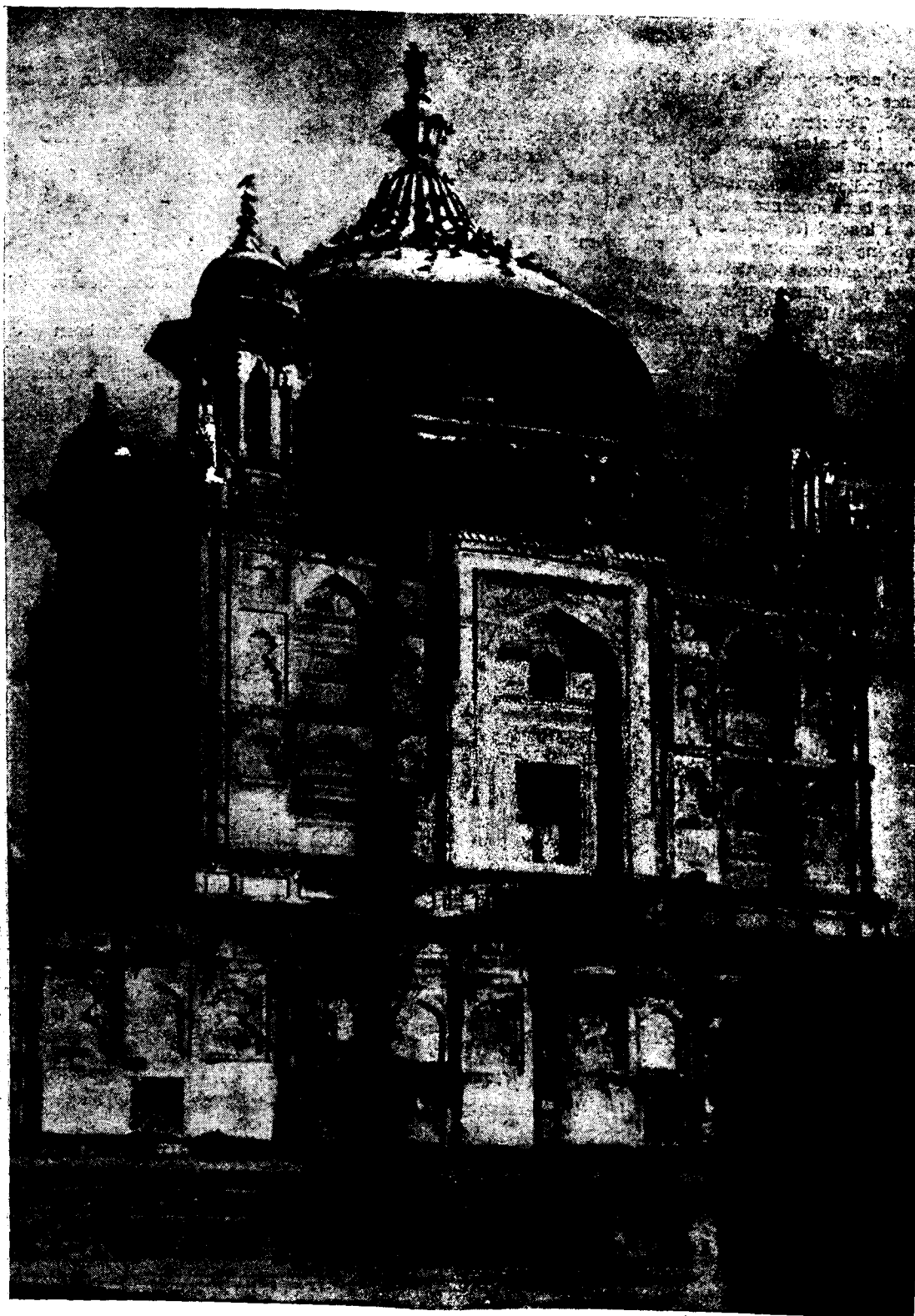
Mr. Banerjee also stated in reply to another question that the Government of India had made no profit in any way on account of the pre-collection of the Saudhi dues and transportation charges from the Haj pilgrims during the 1944-45 Haj seasons.

PALANPUR LINKED BY TELEPHONE TO REST OF INDIA

The Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, opened a trunk telephone line to Palanpur, a Western India State, on February 9. H.H. the Nawab of Palanpur, who was taking the inaugural call, warmly thanked Sir Mahomed Usman and the Posts and Telegraphs Department for carrying out the work expeditiously. Sir Mahomed Usman replying hoped that the State would benefit by this new service, and promised to convey the Nawab Sahib's appreciation to the Department.

This is the second of the new trunk lines to Indian States to be opened, the first one being to Jamnagar in Kathiawar.

The traffic on the Radio Telephone Service to the U.K. that Sir Mahomed Usman inaugurated recently, has increased considerably of late, Calcutta alone putting through 104 calls in the month of January, 1946.



An old tomb in the Khusru Bagh at Allahabad.

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INDIAN
INFORMATION



In appreciation of the services rendered by H.M.I.S. 'Narbada' in the reoccupation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, her Commanding Officer (Lieut.-Commander J. P. Bayliss, R.I.N.) and First Lieutenant (Lieut. W. J. M. Teale, R.I.N.) were presented with swords handed over by senior Japanese Officers after the Japanese C.-in-C. had signed the instrument of surrender. The ceremony took place on the upper deck of the R.I.N. sloop at Port Blair. Picture shows Captain J. M. Blair, R.N.R., Naval Force Commander, presenting a Jap sword to Lieut.-Commander Bayliss.

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Tibetan Goodwill Mission in India	286
Viceroy Opens Yadavindra Soldiers' Club at Patiala	289
Progress in Post-War Planning and Development	294
M.P. Delegation	303-306
Sir Cyril Jones on Empire Dollar Pool	307
Indian Students in U.S.A.	313
Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar's Speech at United Nations' Conference	321
Export of Indian Goods to East Africa: High Commissioner's Report	331
C.-in-C. on I.N.A. Trials	338
Red Eagles Return Home	341

COVER PICTURE: An Alleppey (Travancore) scene.

THE CENTRAL BUDGET FOR 1946-47

Finance Member's Speech in Central Assembly

PRESENTING the first post-war budget of the Central Government, the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member to the Government of India, in his first and almost the last budget, indicated in the Central Assembly on February 28, 1946, a revenue deficit in the current year of Rs. 144.95 crores, as against Rs. 155.29 crores anticipated in the Budget Estimates. Revenue for the next financial year, at the existing level of taxation, is placed at Rs. 307 crores and expenditure at Rs. 355.71 crores, leaving a prospective deficit of Rs. 48.71 crores.

The revised estimate of Defence expenditure, for the current year met from revenue is Rs. 376.42 crores as against the original estimate of Rs. 394.23 crores. The estimate for 1946-47 is Rs. 243.77 crores.

The Financial Settlement will continue for one more year, at the request of the Government of India. The question of alternative methods of financing H.M.G.'s future expenditure, stated the Finance Member, is engaging the closest attention of Government.



The Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, leaving for the Central Assembly to deliver his budget speech.

THE BUDGET AT A GLANCE

1945-46 Original Budget

Expenditure: Rs. 517.63 crores.
Revenue: Rs. 362.34 crores.
Deficit: Rs. 155.29 crores.

1945-46 Revised Budget

Expenditure: Rs. 505.61 crores.
Revenue: Rs. 360.66 crores.
Deficit: Rs. 144.95 crores.

1946-47 Budget

Expenditure: Rs. 355.71 crores.
Revenue: Rs. 307.00 crores.
Deficit: Rs. 48.71 crores.

(This estimated deficit of Rs. 48.71 crores is increased to Rs. 70.16 crores, as a result of the several tax reliefs announced in the Budget. By transferring Rs. 26.10 crores from the War Risks Insurance Funds, the deficit is reduced to Rs. 44.06 crores).

Defence Expenditure

1945-46

Budget estimate: Rs. 394.23 crores.
Revised estimate: Rs. 376.42 crores.

1946-47

Budget estimate: Rs. 243.77 crores.

As regards India's forthcoming negotiations with H.M.G. regarding the sterling balances, he stressed that "India will be entirely free to take any line that she may see fit to pursue." Any idea that she was committed in advance to a scaling down of the balances was entirely without foundation.

Finally, the Finance Member announced that a Taxation Enquiry Committee would be set up in the near future which he hoped would be predominantly non-official.

The Finance Member said: Although I have not undertaken any intensive research to establish the fact, I imagine that I am the first Finance Member to deliver his first Budget in

the knowledge that it will almost certainly be his last.

In the interval since my distinguished predecessor presented his sixth and final Budget, the international and domestic scene has been transformed. The monstrous ambitions of the Fascist dictatorships have been utterly destroyed and the peace-loving and democratic nations can look forward to the building of a new world in the confidence that for many years to come their plans will not be frustrated and set at naught by the threat of external aggression.

But though our external foes have been overthrown, the world, and particularly India, is still confronted by a whole array of dangerous and enduring enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment; and of these the most formidable is poverty. If we can expel this adversary from our midst, we shall find no great difficulty in dealing with the allies who revolve round his axis.

Leadership

Let us not deceive ourselves, however, into thinking that we can triumph over the forces thus drawn up against us without a supreme and combined endeavour. Victory will not be achieved without sustained effort, without sweat and tears, without money or without leadership. Almost the greatest of these is leadership, and at this point I shall refer to the only political issue which I propose to raise in the course of my speech. No army has encompassed the defeat of its enemies on the battlefield without faith and confidence in its leaders. With all the earnestness at my command I add one more plea to the leaders on the benches opposite to co-operate with those on this side and with His Majesty's Government in finding an early solution to the political problem. I am conscious of the difficulties and am not insensible of the width of the gulf which has to be bridged, but it is my firm conviction that with toleration, restraint and good-will a solution can be found. What is certain is that for every day the solution is deferred, for so long will be postponed the attainment of India's destiny which is hers by right.

What I have said so far is merely to indicate in broadest outline what I conceive to be the aims of India's national long-term policy. Fiscal policy is merely one of the means to achieve national policy and in the proposals which I am about to submit to the House I have kept these long-term aims in mind. But necessarily and inevitably my proposals have been coloured and qualified by the conditions which have been created by the war and by its merciful termination earlier than any of us had dared to hope.

Let us pass these conditions under a brief review. While India has been spared the material destruction that has befallen many other coun-

tries, she has suffered in full measure, and in some directions in greater measure than others, the economic consequences of war. Her industrial equipment has been worked to the very edge of a breakdown and there is a large backlog of maintenance and replacement to be made good; more than that, the development of her economy and even her reconstruction are being delayed through her inability to obtain the necessary capital equipment owing to destruction and unsatisfied demands in the supplying countries. Civilian building has been almost entirely neglected for over five years, and this presses heavily on a country where the large annual increase in population and where growing industrial development require a continually expanding building programme.

In India, as elsewhere, there have occurred large shortages of consumer goods, caused on the one hand by the failure of supplies from overseas and on the other by diversion of a large part of her productive capacity to war purposes. Outstanding examples are textiles and foodgrains, though there are many other examples. I do not propose to dilate on the foodgrains situation, since that is only too well known to the House. Finally, as elsewhere, the purchasing power in the hands of the public has enormously increased and here, too, the consuming public is anxious to make effective use of its spending capacity. In other words, there are still pockets of inflationary forces which require to be closely watched and controlled.

Deflation: A Warning

In one important respect, however, the situation in India resulting from the cessation of hostilities differs from that in other important belligerent countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In largely agricultural countries such as India and the Middle Eastern States, war expenditure, though in absolute amounts much less than in the industrialised states of the West, has had a proportionately greater effect in stimulating the growth of the national income. It follows that, with the fall in war expenditure which is now inevitable, a greater proportionate effort will have to be made if the national income is not to fall too far below its war-level. In other words, deflationary tendencies will, in the absence of countervailing measures, begin to manifest themselves before very long. When I mention that the drop in defence expenditure on account of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India combined will be of the order of Rs. 600 crores next year as compared with the Budget this year, the House will realise how strong these tendencies will be. It must, therefore, be the object of the Government, in the coming year, with the help of the public and of the business community, to avoid the Scylla of increasing inflation and the Charybdis of too precipitate a deflation.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE BUDGET

Reduction in the rate of income-tax on the second income slab of Rs. 3,500 from 15 pies to 12 pies and on the third income slab of Rs. 5,000 from two annas one pie to two annas. Earned income relief will be raised to one-fifth, subject to a maximum of Rs. 4,000. On merits, and as a partial offset to the loss of revenue involved by these changes the tax on the balance of income above Rs. 15,000 is increased from four annas nine pies to five annas. Surcharges on income-tax and super-tax are amalgamated with basic rates—a proposal that will not only affect all classes of tax-payer, but benefits the provinces to the extent of Rs. 12.75 crores at the expense of the Centre. There will be a more gradual steepening of the super-tax rate.

A reduction in the duty on kerosene from four annas six pies to three annas nine pies per gallon. The duty on motor spirit is cut from 15 annas to 12 annas per gallon, while an impost is levied on gold bullion and coin and the silver duty is raised.

The main proposals affecting industry, in whose expansion the Finance Member sees the earliest prospect of increasing the national income and raising the standard of living, are:—

- (1) discontinuance of E.P.T. after March 31;
- (2) special depreciation allowances for new buildings, plant and machinery;
- (3) relief from customs duty on imported raw materials, plant and machinery;
- (4) reduction in the tax on companies;
- (5) adjustment of tax on dividends to encourage ploughing back of profits;
- (6) income-tax relief for building expenditure.

The Finance Member foreshadowed the formation of an Industrial Finance Corporation, mentioned investigations into a scheme for a National Investment Board and announced a Taxation Inquiry Committee.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1945-46

Revenue

It is against this background that I now proceed to review the financial position for the current and the following years.

Total revenue receipts are now expected to reach Rs. 360.66 crores, a decrease of Rs. 1.68 crores on the budget estimates.

Customs receipts are likely to improve by Rs. 9½ crores as a result of larger imports. Under Central Excises, however, we expect a short-fall of approximately Rs. 2 crores from the Rs. 48.59 crores provided in the Budget.

Under Taxes on Income, we estimated a collection of Rs. 190.5 crores, Rs. 90 crores under Excess Profits Tax and Rs. 100.5 crores under other taxes on income. We now place the revenue at Rs. 189 crores, the short-fall of Rs. 1½ crores occurring under ordinary income-tax. The divisible pool of income-tax is likely to amount to Rs. 55.94 crores and the share of the Provinces together with the carry over of Rs. 5.28 crores from the previous year, to Rs. 28.75 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is now estimated at Rs. 32.84 crores, Rs. 96 lakhs more than the budget figure. Expenditure is placed at Rs. 22.17 crores, an increase of Rs. 2.14 crores, due mainly to post-budget decisions regarding war and dearness allowances. The anticipated surplus of Rs. 10.67 crores will accrue to general revenues.

The contribution from Railways to General Revenues has been taken at Rs. 32 crores as envisaged in the Budget Estimates.

Expenditure

DEFENCE SERVICES.—It has been customary during the war years for the Finance Member to give in this section of his speech a general review of the progress of the war and the activities of the Indian Defence Services both in India and abroad. Partly in order to reduce the length of my speech and partly because I feel that such a review would come more appropriately from the War Department I shall, on this occasion, confine myself to only such broad matters of policy as directly affect India's defence expenditure, leaving it to my Hon'ble friend, the War Secretary, in the course of the budget debates, to give the House fuller and more detailed infor-

mation on the administrative measures and other activities with which his Department is primarily concerned. I am circulating with the Budget papers an Explanatory Memorandum prepared by the War Secretary setting out in more detail the main administrative measures in the field of defence and giving details of the amounts provided in the defence Budget Estimates.

The outstanding events of the year were, of course, the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 7, followed, about four months later, by a similar surrender on the part of Japan. Though the latter event came about six months earlier than was generally expected, plans for the demobilisation of personnel of the Indian armed forces had been under active preparation for a considerable time before V-J Day and it was found possible to put these into operation at the beginning of October last. The number of personnel to be demobilised in India is well over a million and a half and no effort is being spared to speed up the rate of releases. It is a formidable task, which is complicated by transport difficulties and the uncertainties that must necessarily exist for some time regarding the ultimate size and composition of India's defence forces, but we expect it to be largely completed by the end of the coming financial year.

Demobilisation

The actual discharge of personnel from the Indian armed forces represents, however, only one aspect of the process of demobilisation—using that term in its wider sense of the unwinding of war activities and the diversion of India's economic resources, both human and physical, from winning the war to the tasks of rehabilitation and development. Thus the defence authorities, besides dealing with the problem of the orderly release and repatriation of over one million and a half men from the fighting services, which includes the making of arrangements for the welfare of soldiers awaiting discharge and their education and preparation for civilian life, are directly concerned with the cancellation or reduction of their demands for stores of all kinds, the closing or slowing down of munitions manufacture, the stoppage of building activity and the declaration of surplus stocks and the disposal of fixed assets no longer required for defence purposes. The complementary schemes and measures to ensure that the personnel and industrial resources thus set free are utilised as fully and speedily as possible for the recuperation and expansion of India's civil economy, are primarily the concern of the civil authorities both at the Centre and in the Provinces, though naturally, in view of the strong interest that the defence authorities have in the resettlement of defence personnel, they are constantly brought into consultation regarding these matters.

In view of the fact that by the middle of the year the war had ended, it may come as a sur-

prise and disappointment to some that the revised estimate for the current year does not indicate a more substantial fall in the expenditure chargeable to India's defence estimates, as compared with the budget for that year. The budget estimate was Rs. 394.23 crores and the revised estimate is Rs. 376.42 crores. The explanation for this is to be found very largely in the heavy costs of war gratuities, special leave and other terminal benefits granted to personnel on discharge in addition to their pay and allowances and other maintenance expenses while awaiting discharge in India.

With effect from V-J Day (September 2, 1945) the supply of goods and services from the United States of America to the United Kingdom and other countries under Lend-Lease arrangements came to an end and from the same date those nations, including India, ceased to provide services and supplies for the U.S. Forces on Reciprocal Aid terms. It was agreed however, as a matter of administrative convenience, that supplies and services through mutual aid channels should continue for a short time to be rendered on both sides, but on a cash repayment basis. A number of claims and counterclaims are arising between India and the United States of America on this account.

Another matter outstanding between India and the United States of America is the settlement of Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Aid, and the transfer to the Government of India *en bloc* of stocks and installations accumulated by the United States of America authorities in India during the war and now surplus to their requirements.

It is clearly necessary to arrive at an early understanding with the United States of America on these matters and the Government of India, therefore, welcomed a suggestion from the U.S.A. Government of their discussion at Washington. Two senior officers will accordingly be deputed to America for this purpose.

Civil Estimates

The revised civil estimates for the current year stand at Rs. 129.19 crores, an increase of Rs. 5½ crores over the Budget figure. Civil expenditure connected with the war shows a fall of Rs. 7 crores, but this is more than offset by the provision under "grants-in-aid" of a further subvention of Rs. 8 crores to Bengal. This further assistance is calculated to bring the total Central grant to Bengal to a figure representing roughly half the cost to the Province of the disastrous 1943 famine, and does no more than enable the Government of Bengal to break even on their revenue account to the end of 1945-46, when most other Provinces have been in a position to tuck something away for purposes of their post-war development. It is accompanied by a withdrawal of the Central Government's

offer to meet half the losses involved in the rapid turnover of food stocks which was found to be necessary to prevent wholesale deterioration, and represents the last measure of special assistance which Bengal will require from the Centre as a result of the major calamity which was peculiar to that Province alone.

For the rest, the increase in the Revised Estimates is due mainly to the strengthening of the Central revenue organisation and to expansion in a number of Departments, mostly those which are popularly called "nation building." I do not propose to refer here to individual variations since they are explained in the Explanatory Memorandum which accompanies the printed Budget Statement, and developmental expenditure will be dealt with separately later on in this speech. There are, however, one or two matters of general interest which I should like to mention in view of their bearing on Central expenditure.

Supply Department

The House will appreciate that the sudden termination of active hostilities did not end the difficulties and abnormalities of the country's economy which the war brought into being. In the discharge of its responsibility for the economic health of the country, the Government has of necessity had to maintain the system of controls, both economic and financial, which was developed during the war, but although some of the controls have come to stay, since you cannot have a planned economy without some controls, the remainder are being, and will continue to be, withdrawn as soon as they have ceased to serve the purpose for which they were designed. Indeed, some 150 control measures have already been so withdrawn.

The work of the Supply Department, now that wartime procurement operations have ceased to be of primary importance, is being directed towards restoring the civil economy of the country. The department has been amalgamated with that of the Industries and Civil Supplies and the new department will deal mainly with the development of industries in accordance with the approved plans. During the first seven months of the current year the value of orders placed by the Supply Department was Rs. 107 crores compared with Rs. 162 crores during 1943-44.

Latterly one of the main tasks of the department, however, has been to terminate war contracts already entered into and arrange for the disposal of surplus stores. By December 1945, existing contracts to the value of approximately Rs. 20 crores had been cancelled, while in other cases contractors were permitted to utilise the materials acquired by them for Government contracts for the production of goods required by the public. As a result of this policy, the amount of compensation paid has been very small and

amounted to only Rs. 8 lakhs to the end of January, representing the final settlement of claims for contracts totalling over Rs. 13 crores. Some Rs. 8½ crores have also been received by the direct sale of surpluses. I have already referred to the negotiations which are taking place with the American authorities in connection with the disposal of U.S.A. surpluses in this country.

The future policy in regard to Ordnance factories has been laid down, and, as a purely short-term measure, the available spare capacity is being utilised for the production of civilian goods in short supply.

A Co-ordination Committee of Council has been appointed to ensure that the many complicated problems connected with the transition of India's economy from a war footing to a peace footing are effectively integrated and speedily dealt with. The Defence Department was wound up last month.

To summarise the whole budgetary position in 1945-46, the figures are these:

Original Budget. Expenditure Rs. 517.63 crores, Revenue Rs. 362.34 crores, giving a revenue deficit of Rs. 155.29 crores.

Revised Budget.—Expenditure Rs. 505.61 crores, Revenue Rs. 360.66 crores, yielding a revenue deficit of Rs. 144.95 crores. The revenue deficit position has, therefore, improved to the extent of Rs. 10.34 crores.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1946-47

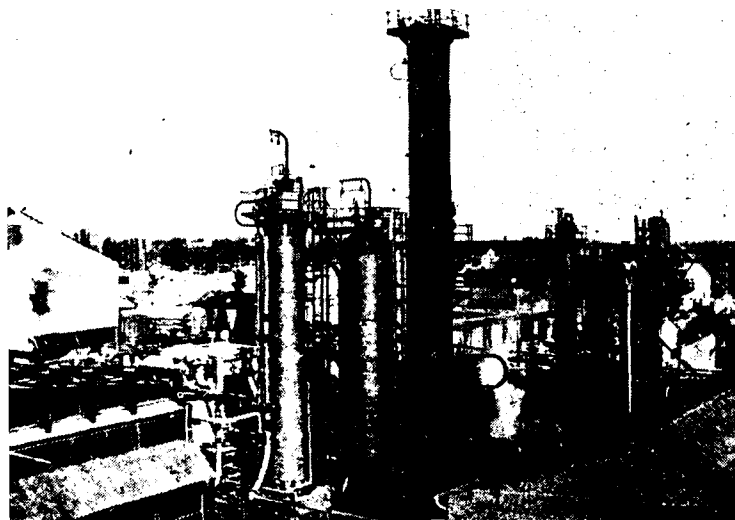
Revenue

I turn now to the financial year 1946-47. Before taking into account fresh taxation proposals and an adjustment to which I shall refer later, our total revenue estimates amount to Rs. 307 crores compared with Rs. 362.34 for the current year.

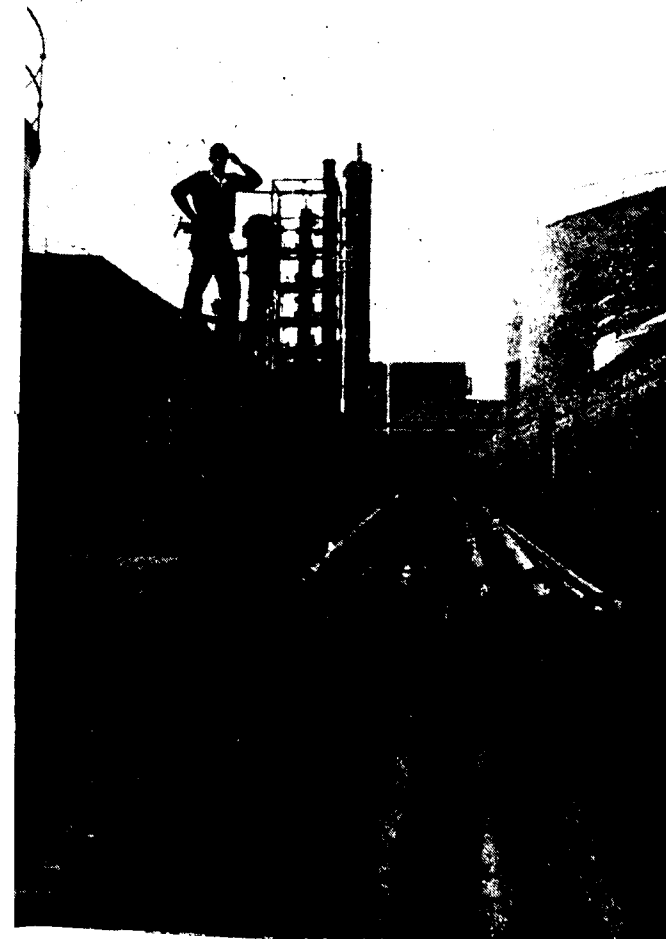
Customs receipts have been placed at the conservative figure of Rs. 65 crores net, which is the same as in the revised estimates for the current year; but with an improvement in the shipping position and with the increasing availability of supplies from exporting countries receipts may well exceed this figure. Under Central Excise Duties, the estimates provide for Rs. 47.20 crores.

Now that war activities have ceased, we are allowing for a total revenue of Rs. 158 crores only under Corporation and Income-Taxes. This includes an expected yield of Rs. 75 crores from excess profits tax. The divisible pool of income-tax has been taken at Rs. 46.79 crores and the share available to Provinces at Rs. 19.64 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to be Rs. 32.25 crores



An Indian oil refinery. During the war this refinery worked on large Government contracts for petrol and lubricating oils. (Right) The water cooling towers of the refinery.



Some of the pipe lines carrying various oil products to the storage farm at the oil refinery.

and expenditure Rs. 22.25 crores, inclusive of an extra-contribution of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Renewals Reserve Fund. The surplus is estimated to be Rs. 10 crores.

In modification of the policy pursued during the war years, of taking the entire surplus of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to general revenues, it is proposed, for the coming year, that the contribution should be three-quarters of the surplus instead of the whole. The share which accrues to the Posts and Telegraphs Department will strengthen the resources available for expenditure on post-war schemes.

As regards the contribution from Railways, we are providing for Rs. 7.36 crores. This represents a drop in receipts by Central Revenues of nearly Rs. 25 crores. The House is already aware of the basis of this estimate from the Railway Budget recently presented.

Expenditure

Defence Estimates.—As already mentioned, general demobilisation will be in progress throughout the year 1946-47 and for this reason the defence estimates for that year are inflated by the abnormal expenditure arising out of that process. Provision has been made for the maintenance of an Indian contingent consisting of one Indian brigade, one R.I.A.F. squadron and two R.I.N. sloops, with ancillary and administrative units and formations, to be stationed in Japan during the year as part of the forces of occupation furnished by the United Nations. Apart from the great part played by her armed

forces in the subjugation of the Japanese, India's representation amongst the forces of occupation is an appropriate and inevitable recognition of her international importance.

Some reduction in the estimate has resulted from the decisions to withdraw Japanese campaign pay, the further accrual of war service increments, and other wartime concessions, with effect from various dates in 1946-47.

Financial Settlement

It has been decided, after consultation with His Majesty's Government, that the Financial Settlement will remain in force until April 1, 1947. In spite of much discussion on the subject both in this House and elsewhere some confusion of thought and misunderstanding still persist about the nature and intent of this Settlement. Three separate, though interconnected issues are involved.

First, there is the principle in accordance with which expenditure on the armed forces of India is borne by the revenues of India and of the U. K. respectively. The principle is simple and is not new. It has been in force for many years. It is this: expenditure incurred for the purposes of India's own defence falls on India: the remainder falls on His Majesty's Government.

Secondly there is the so-called Financial Settlement. This is merely a set of accounting rules for allocating to the respective exchequers the total war expenditure in accordance with the principle to which I have just referred. Experience gained in the last war showed that the normal peacetime methods of determining the shares to be borne by India and the U. K. in accordance with this principle are quite impracticable under war conditions and the Settlement was, therefore, devised as a rough and ready means of arriving at India's share of defence expenditure, which, while broadly conforming to the accepted principles of incidence would not impose an intolerable strain on the administrative and accounting machines.

Shortly after the conclusion of hostilities with Japan, His Majesty's Government asked us to consider a suggestion that the Financial Settlement might be terminated on March 31,

1946. It was pointed out to them, however, that the great virtue of the Settlement lies in its saving of manpower and that, in view of the heavy calls that general demobilisation and other transitional activities would make on India's administrative and accounting staffs, the reversion during that year to the normal accounting methods of allocating expenditure would be impracticable. It was therefore urged by us that the retention of the Settlement until the end of that year (by which time these disturbing factors would have largely disappeared) was essential, and His Majesty's Government has accepted this view. I want to emphasise that it was Whitehall and not Delhi that wanted to drop the Financial Settlement at the end of the current financial year.

Thirdly, there is the method of financing the expenditure for which His Majesty's Government is responsible. This is not affected in the slightest degree by the terms of the Financial Settlement itself; it follows that the continuation of the Settlement for another year in no way prejudices the question of an alteration in the financing procedure hitherto followed, which, as the House knows, has resulted in heavy accumulation of sterling balances. The question of alternative methods of financing His Majesty's Government's expenditure is engaging the closest attention of Government although as will be seen in a second, the amount involved next year is insignificant in comparison with the total of our sterling assets to date.

Hydari Mission's Work

The estimate of defence expenditure recoverable from His Majesty's Government for the year 1946-47 is only Rs. 42 crores, against Rs. 489 crores in the Budget for the year 1945-46. The very marked decrease in next year's claim reflects partly the success of the Hydari Mission's efforts to secure a reduction of the demands for war purposes on India's productive capacity, partly the decision to discontinue, except in respect of certain agreed categories of stores with effect from April 1, 1946, the use of India as a source of supply of the S.E.A. Command's requirements, partly the fact that, to a large extent, the requirements of both the India and S. E. A. Commands during 1946-47 will be met from stocks in India paid for by His Majesty's Government in previous years; and finally the large reduction in the numbers of Indian troops employed overseas. The recoverable expenditure for 1946-47 will thus represent for the most the pay and allowances of Indian forces employed on occupational duties overseas (elsewhere than in Japan) and connected transportation charges incurred in India.

While the war lasted, the budget estimates of the defence services ceased for the most part to serve as instruments for restricting and generally controlling expenditure. This was inevitable in view of the impossibility of foreseeing the course of the war and, therefore, the measures that would have to be taken to meet the threats to India's security as they arose from time to time. Clearly, if a measure could be shown to be essential for the prosecution of the war, its introduction could not be opposed merely on the ground of the absence of budget provision. Now that the war has ended this state of affairs can no longer be allowed to continue and it has been decided to reintroduce, as far as possible, the normal procedure for budgetary control over defence expenditure during 1946-47. Owing to the existence of numerous abnormal factors it will not be possible to introduce the normal peacetime accounting and budgetary procedure in its entirety, but I contemplate that such control will be substantially secured.

Defence Expenditure

The budget estimates of defence expenditure for 1946-47 amount to Rs. 243.77 crores and Rs. 1.57 crores for the Revenue and Capital heads respectively, as compared with Rs. 376.42 crores and Rs. 14.93 crores in the revised estimates 1945-46. His Majesty's Government's expenditure is now Rs. 347 crores in the revised estimates for 1945-46 and, as already stated, Rs. 42 crores in 1946-47.

CIVIL ESTIMATES.—I shall not, at this stage, detain the House with details of the civil estimates. Suffice it to say that expenditure debitable to Revenue amounts to Rs. 111.94 crores.

The position for the coming year is thus as follows. The expenditure detailed in the civil estimates comes to Rs. 111.94 crores and provision for the defence service has been placed at Rs. 243.77 crores, the combined total being Rs. 355.71. The total revenue at the existing level of taxation is estimated at Rs. 307 crores. We are thus left, before making adjustments resulting from taxation proposals, with a prospective revenue deficit of Rs. 48.71 crores, as compared with Rs. 155.29 crores in the original and Rs. 144.95 crores in the revised budgets for 1945-46.

In the context of war finance our ways and means operations have assumed a position of special importance and my predecessor took occasion to explain the changed significance which they have come to occupy in the broader

field of Government's financial and economic policy as a whole.

During the period of hostilities, due to the situation created by our own war expenditure and that of the Allied Governments, a major pre-occupation was the problem of trying to absorb by taxation and borrowing, the purchasing power in the hands of the public so as to bridge, or to reduce to a manageable size, the inflationary gap. Today the problem in its broadest aspects has, as I have indicated earlier in my speech, two facets, first, of securing stability in the immediate future by keeping in check an inflationary potential that undoubtedly still exists, and secondly, of preventing any material decline in business and economic activity as a result of the cessation of wartime expenditure.

Diversion of Surplus Funds

In so far as the immediate problem still remains that of an excess of purchasing power competing for a limited volume of consumer goods, a main objective of our policy in the financial sphere must be to ensure that through the issue of various loans and through other forms of borrowing, as well as by measures of taxation, surplus funds in the hands of private citizens are diverted to the public fisc to the extent that they are not devoted to new productive enterprises. Investment in Government loans and the consequent withdrawal of redundant purchasing power from the public has the twofold advantage of mitigating the pressure of such surplus funds on the prices of consumable goods, and, at the same time, of building up reserves in the hands of Government for development purposes.

With this purpose in view, we have continued our efforts to popularise investment in Government loans. While the support accorded by the various sections of the public to the borrowing programme of Government has been satisfactory, a great deal remains to be done to bring home to the population in the rural areas the desirability of investing in Government loans, in furtherance of the common good. With the object of turning the savings movement from a wartime measure to combat inflation, to a peacetime organisation which can serve a great social end, the Small Savings Scheme has been reorientated with the primary purpose of encouraging consistent savings among the less well-to-do section of the community.

Particular emphasis has been directed towards ensuring that no pressure is brought to bear, but that the people should be persuaded, by reasoned explanation of the advantages, to

save regularly whenever possible and however small the amount. The propaganda which has recently been launched with the co-operation of gentlemen eminent in the public life of the country has been directed towards these ends and I should like to take the opportunity of acknowledging the support which they have given in laying the foundations of a scheme which, I believe sincerely, is not only in the interests of the individual saver but also to the advantage of the community as a whole. I greatly hope that the day is not far off when the people will cease to keep the bulk of their savings in the form of hoarded currency, or bullion or superfluous ornaments, and will put their savings to work to create new wealth. It has always seemed stupid to me that man should expend so much effort in digging out treasure from mineral deposits only to bury the bulk of it in safe deposits.

During the last financial year Rs. 40½ crores were invested in Small Savings and during the first nine months of 1945-46, Rs. 43½ crores have been accumulated. The total amount invested by the public in the various public loans offered during the period February 1945 to January 1946, aggregated Rs. 346 crores, compared with Rs. 286 crores during the corresponding period last year.

Public Loans

The progressive total of public loans issued since the beginning of the war up to the end of January 1946 reached the figure of Rs. 1,178 crores. Impressive as this total is, the House will agree that there is no room for complacency when we regard the development expenditure in prospect. It is true that it has been possible to float the loans required for the prosecution of the war cheaply, but it is necessary at the same time that funds required for India's development should be obtained at equally and even more favourable rates. If large developmental expenditure is to be undertaken, whether from the public fisc or from the private sector, one of the pre-requisites will be the ability to borrow what is needed at cheap rates of interest.

On the other hand, the capacity of the country to lend to the State will depend, to an appreciable extent at any rate in the years immediately ahead on the volume of the expenditure by the Government of the day coupled with other recognised important factors such as Government's taxation policy, the retention of selected controls and the public's liquidity preference. Borrowing and spending must, therefore, go hand in hand.

As a result of the gradual funding of our floating debt, there is a reduction in the outstandings of Treasury Bills. Thus, against a

figure of Rs. 104.81 crores at the end of December 1945, the corresponding figure at the end of December 1945 was Rs. 66.01 crores. It is true that our comfortable ways and means position does not compel the continuance of this form of borrowing, but this class of investment plays an important role in the money market. In the coming years it may be necessary, and even possible for Government to exercise greater discrimination in the finding of development expenditure and to meet some of it by short-term borrowing. I am satisfied that we can without risk carry a floating debt substantially in excess of the present figure.

Excluding the contributions for quotas under the Bretton Woods Agreements, in regard to which special arrangements will be made with the Reserve Bank of India at the appropriate time, the total borrowings which I hope to raise during the coming year amount to approximately Rs. 300 crores. This compares with Rs. 346 crores raised during the last twelve months.

Sterling Credits

As regards sterling, during the first nine months of the current financial year £228 million were added to the Reserve Bank's holding and it is estimated, allowing for the receipts during the last three months of the year, that the total holding on March 31, 1946, will be of the order of £1,330 million.

As I have already indicated, additions to this total on account of His Majesty's Government's defence expenditure will be quite small next year even if no change is made in the method of financing this expenditure. Indeed it is possible that in the course of 1946-47 the United Kingdom may succeed in increasing her exports to India to such an extent as to avoid any further additions to our sterling credits and, perhaps, even to reduce them. And this, of course, is quite apart from the amount of sterling which will be convertible into free exchange as a result of the negotiations which will take place in the course of the year between His Majesty's Government and ourselves.

I have made it clear on previous occasions that the arrangements to be made for the transfer of these balances are a matter for bilateral settlement between India and the United Kingdom and I take this opportunity of reiterating what I have said before, namely, that should negotiations take place while the present Government is in office, I would hope to associate representatives of the leading political parties in the country and other non-officials with the delegation appointed to undertake the discussion with His Majesty's Government.

I would also repeat what I have told the House previously, that India will be entirely free to take any line that she may see fit to pursue at these negotiations and any idea that she is committed in advance to a scaling down of the balances or to a continuance of arrangements under which such balances will continue to accrue is entirely without foundation.

When these negotiations will take place, however, it is not yet possible to say, but it is highly unlikely that they will be held until the United States Congress has ratified the U.S.-U.K. Loan Agreement.

In my opinion, no grounds exist for the fears which have been expressed that India's ability to obtain, in the immediate future, capital equipment from abroad will be prejudiced by the fact that a large portion of her foreign exchange reserves are in the form of sterling. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that, for a number of years to come, the main consideration will not be the availability of exchange but the physical capacity of the two main exporting countries to meet the demands of a war shattered world. At the same time, the absorptive capacity of India herself and the rate at which the necessary technical personnel can be made available, may well be limiting factors of considerable importance.

Empire Dollar Pool

Another question which is closely connected in the public mind with sterling balances is that of the so-called Empire Dollar Pool. There is a widespread belief that the arrangement which goes by this name has been grossly unfair to India, that this country has contributed enormous net amounts of hard currency to the Pool and that it would be to our advantage to withdraw from it without further delay.

There is, I am afraid, a great deal of misconception about the whole subject. Nobody is to blame for this misconception. It is mainly due to the fact that, for security reasons, it was not possible, while the war was on, to disclose the volume and details of the transactions which took place through the Dollar Pool.

I should like to examine the question very briefly under four heads: Firstly what is the nature of the Empire Dollar Pool? Secondly, how has its operation affected India? Thirdly, would it be to our advantage to withdraw from the Dollar Pool immediately? Fourthly and lastly, to what extent has India contributed to the Pool assets in excess of assets drawn by her from the Pool?

To take these points in turn. First, what exactly is the Dollar Pool? The Dollar Pool is,

in effect, the modification, imposed by war conditions, of the sterling area arrangement which has existed for a century. Under this sterling area arrangement, Empire countries, and other countries as well, found it convenient and economical to settle their transactions on international account through sterling through London. Before the war, sterling was freely convertible into any other currency. When war broke out, the ability of the Commonwealth to earn foreign exchange was severely reduced owing to the fact that productive capacity previously devoted to exports had to be diverted to armaments, munitions and other warlike stores. At the same time imports necessary for the prosecution of the war remained high. The different countries in the Commonwealth were, however, affected in this respect in varying degrees and an arrangement was therefore entered into among them whereby earnings of dollars and other hard currencies would be pooled and the essential requirements of the several countries in terms of these currencies, would be met from the Pool.

Secondly, how did the pooling arrangement affect India? The answer is that India had free access to the Pool to finance her essential current imports from hard currency countries, which included the U.S.A., Canada, Switzerland, Sweden and Portugal. Moreover, a sum of 20 million dollars was specially earmarked to pay for capital equipment required by India from non-sterling countries for her post-war development.

Thirdly, would it be in India's interest to withdraw from the Pool forthwith? In my view, it would be premature and unprofitable to do so, since the balance of trade with the U.S.A. has been unfavourable to India for many months. In other words, India is receiving from the Pool more dollars than she is currently earning, and she is far from having exhausted the sum of 20 million dollars to which I have just referred. Moreover, under Article 7 of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, the U.K. are committed to making arrangements which will involve the dissolution of the Dollar Pool within one year of the effective date of that Agreement.

Lastly, what is the excess of India's contribution to the Pool over her drawings from it? The wildest and most fantastic guesses have been made and the lowest, non-official guess has put the figure at several hundred crores. I have been at considerable pains to establish what the true position is. Owing to the number and complexity of the transactions, it is very difficult to arrive at completely accurate figures, but with the help of the Reserve Bank I can give figures which are approximately correct. Here they are: Between September, 1939, and March, 1945, India

earned hard currency assets to the amount of Rs. 364.33 crores. Excluding the 20 million dollar special fund which I have already mentioned, India has utilised hard currency assets to the amount of Rs. 265.02 crores. To this latter figure should be added the net import of gold from the United Kingdom during the same period, since gold is equivalent to hard currency. Computed at the world (not the Indian) price, the value of this gold is Rs. 50.08 crores. The balance in India's favour is, therefore, Rs. 49.23 crores as at March of last year.

It is contended that India should claim this amount from what remains of the Dollar Pool. Having regard to the essential character of the Dollar Pool, it seems to me difficult to establish a claim on this basis. The most that could be claimed would be a *pro rata* share of the existing Pool assets. But even if the full amount could be established, it is much less than I hope and expect that we shall obtain by way of free exchange from the pending negotiations between India and the United Kingdom on the subject of sterling balances.

"Grow More Food" Campaign

I shall now turn to the important subject of development planning, in which great strides have been made during the past twelve months, both at the Centre and in the Provinces. My predecessor last year referred to the steps which had been taken at the Centre for dealing with post-war planning and development, and mentioned a number of important preparatory measures which had been put in hand, such as the establishment of a Central Electrical Power Board, an Irrigation and Waterways Board, the Resettlement and Re-employment Directorate and the training of students overseas. Preparatory work of various kinds has expanded and intensified throughout the year, particularly in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign, essential training both in India and overseas, preparations for the resettlement and re-employment of ex-soldiers and discharged war workers, and various research activities.

In addition, all-India policies in respect of a number of subjects such as education, agriculture, food, health, labour, transport and civil aviation have been announced. The Central Government Departments have not confined their activities to advancing their own plans but have also been able to assist the Provinces in the preparation of theirs. Some, indeed most, of the subjects which I have just mentioned are, of course, primarily the responsibility of the Provincial Governments, but we hope that the general policies suggested, for example,



Assorting potatoes. The "Grow More Food" Campaign has given a fillip to potato cultivation.



A Cabbage field.

in the Report on Education and in the Report of the Committee on Public Health will afford valuable guidance to Provincial Governments.

All Provincial Governments have formulated their 5-year plans, and they are now under review by the Centre so as to ensure that they are properly co-ordinated *inter se*, are generally in broad accord with all-India policies and objectives, and are individually and collectively feasible. I anticipate that, after due examination and discussion with Provincial Governments, the 5-year Provincial plans will be finalised in the course of the next few months. They involve expenditure of the order of Rs. 900 crores, part of which, however, will extend well into the second five year period. In addition to this, the plans of the Centre in respect of railways, roads, civil aviation, tele-communications, Central institutions etc., will also add up to a considerable figure. Our approach to the problem of planning has been of the severely practical kind, for which the main justification is that we now have within a minimum of time a very large programme of practical and desirable schemes in an advanced stage of preparation.

I have already mentioned the very heavy drop in war expenditure and the deflationary tendencies which this drop will set in motion with a consequent threat of widespread unemployment and depression. The House will doubtless wish to know what is being done to meet the situation. Industrial development cannot be relied upon to fill the immediate gap, if only because of the difficulties and delays in securing large-scale imports of capital goods. No Government whether Central or Provincial, can afford to contemplate with complacency the onset of deflation or allow purely financial considerations to stand in the way of maintaining the economic health of the country. Public expenditure of a useful kind is the obvious remedy, and in May last Provincial Governments were asked to select from their 5-year plans schemes which would create employment and could be started at short notice; they were promised a substantial contribution towards the cost of such measures.

When the war with Japan came to an unexpectedly early end, the position was further reviewed and our offer of financial assistance extended. Provincial Governments have been urged to embark forthwith on all schemes which provide a high proportion of employment relative to the cost, or are productive or of economic importance calculated to increase the national income. Such schemes will include roads, buildings, minor irrigation works, anti-erosion measures, agricultural and forestry

development, and public health measures such as anti-malaria, water supply and drainage schemes. As an incentive to urgent action we have undertaken to provide Provincial Governments with all the funds that they may require for approved schemes of this nature up to the end of March 1947.

In the case of self-financing schemes, this assistance will take the form of loans, while for others we are prepared to make advance grants to cover the full costs, which will not be recoverable but will be adjusted against whatever scheme of Central grant is eventually decided upon. Lists of schemes proposed to be taken up during this interim period have been received from most of the Provincial Governments, and approval is being freely and quickly accorded. A lump sum provision of Rs. 35 crores has been made in the budget estimates for such advance payments, and of Rs. 15 crores for loans to Provinces for productive development works.

Housing Scheme

For Central Government development schemes, excluding some Rs. 22 crores on Railway items, a total provision of about Rs. 27 crores has been made in the Budget. This covers development expenditure in the Centrally Administered Areas, expenditure on the post-war plans of the Posts and Telegraphs and the Civil Aviation Departments, special loans to Port Trusts to assist them in carrying out works which will create employment, and a lump sum provision for various schemes of the Central Departments which are not sufficiently advanced for inclusion under the ordinary departmental budgets. One of these latter items, to which I would like to invite attention, is the Labour Department's subsidised housing scheme. Building is one of the most useful and desirable forms of investment, in regard to which there is, as I have already said, a tremendous leeway to be made good. The scheme, which is intended to benefit not only employees of Governments and Local Authorities but also industrial workers, provides for a subsidy up to 12½ per cent. by the Centre to local bodies and industrial employers, provided the Provincial Government concerned is also prepared to make a grant equivalent to 12½ per cent. of the cost to enable suitable houses to be constructed for the poorer classes of workers who are not in a position to pay a full economic rent.

The scheme will apply mainly to urban employees, but we have not overlooked the importance of improving rural housing conditions also, and we are considering the possibility

of setting up model housing schemes in selected villages in Delhi Province or other Centrally Administered Areas. In order to assist and stimulate private buildings activity special steps are being taken to increase allocations of coal for the burning of bricks and release of timber, cement and steel, to relax controls over these materials and to expand production capacity. I think it is true to say, in regard to all the various schemes to which I have referred, whether Central, Provincial or private, that any delay which may arise is far more likely to be due to lack of qualified personnel than to lack of funds.

In the matter of the general financing of Governmental plans there is little that can usefully be added to what has been stated in the last two Budget speeches. The scope for development is greatest in the Provincial sphere, but planned development on a national scale must be a joint and co-ordinated effort by both the Central and Provincial Governments with a large measure of pooling of resources notwithstanding constitutional limitations. The Centre and the Provinces alike will need to develop their taxation resources to the full. If this is done, and effort during the early years is concentrated on economic measures designed to increase material prosperity and national income so as to build up revenue on which expansion of the social services must depend, there is good reason to believe that funds will be available to the extent that they can be usefully spent.

Central Grants

It seems likely that Provincial Governments between them will have, by the end of the current year, balances of the order of Rs. 70 crores, and will acquire during the next six years revenue surpluses totalling some Rs. 100 crores. They have based their plans on the broad assumption that, apart from borrowings either from the Centre or from the market, they will receive Central grants during the quinquennium amounting to approximately Rs. 250 crores which will be distributed roughly on a population basis.

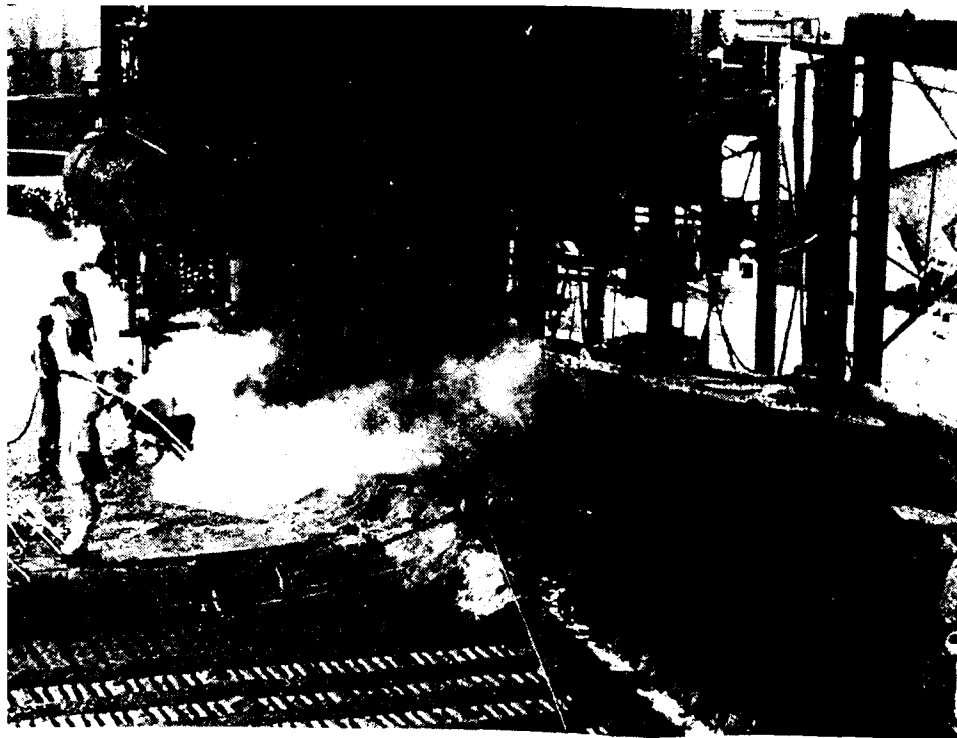
I do not myself regard population as an altogether appropriate basis of distribution and would prefer a scheme more on the lines of the Australian grants system, under which grants to States are made on the recommendation of an independent and impartial body such as the Australian Federal Grants Commission. As I understand it, the Australian system aims at achieving a reasonably equal stan-

dard of social and cognate services in all the States of the Commonwealth. In making their recommendations, the Commission takes into account such factors as the natural resources of each State, its stage of industrial development, its taxable capacity, the extent to which this taxable capacity is exploited, and so on. The Commonwealth Government have very kindly agreed to receive one of my senior officers to study on the spot the working of the Australian system and the possibility of its adaptation to Indian conditions. Pending his report I am not in a position to make any more definite statement on the subject.

Industrial Development

It is not on the activities of the Government alone, however, that the rapid development of India will depend, but also, and to a very large extent, on the efforts of private enterprise, particularly in the industrial field. I do not propose to go into the details of the various measures which the Planning and Development Department, in co-operation with the other Departments of Government and the industries concerned, have in hand for the rapid progress of industrialisation of this country. Reference to those measures will take place during the course of the budget debates. For my part I need only mention some of the more important measures which I have taken in hand. One of them is the establishment of an Industrial Finance Corporation in order to ensure the availability of medium and long-term credit to industrial enterprise in India where the more normal methods of industrial finance are inadequate. Detailed proposals for the establishment of such a Corporation have reached an advanced stage of preparation. Legislation will be required, and I shall endeavour to introduce the necessary measures in the course of this session.

Another matter which is under the consideration of my Department is that of the planning of investment, both public and private, with a view to securing the fullest and most advantageous utilisation of the economic resources of the country in the interests of planned capital development. Investigation is required to determine whether a National Investment Board should be set up for this purpose, and, if so, how it should be constituted and on what lines it should work. Meanwhile the existing control over capital issues must necessarily be continued. Some measure of relaxation has been rendered possible by the steady reduction of pressure on goods and services in short supply which the end of the war has brought about; but that



The blast furnace of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works and (right) heaps of scrap metal ready

to be charged into the furnace

control is necessary to prevent excessive flow of capital into less important or less desirable directions which would lead to unregulated and lopsided development will, I think, hardly be disputed. Whatever final decision is taken will require the backing of new legislation, until which time the course must be kept clear by retaining the existing Defence of India Rule in operation.

If control over investment is to be made effective, the Government of India's statistical and economic organisation will have to be so strengthened as to enable us to prepare, and to present with the Annual Budget, a National Investment budget. We are not at present in a position to introduce this desirable reform, but I have this year taken the first step by presenting a Central Capital budget along with the Central Revenue budget. It is but a modest step towards the ultimate objective, but it seems to me to be an innovation in the right direction. Even if it serves no other purpose, it will at least permit of a proper presentation of our transactions of a capital nature and focus attention on the productive and dead-weight indebtedness of Government, and on the expenditure of loan monies on productive and unproductive schemes. The changes made are explained at length in the Explanatory Memorandum, and I trust that the departure made from past practice will meet with the approval of the House.

Before I explain the taxation proposals for next year, there is one further matter to which I would like to refer. A widespread desire has been expressed for the appointment of a Committee to examine and report on the present tax structure and taxation incidence, with special reference to their effect on trade, industry, employment, standard of living, savings and capital formation. The Government appreciate that more than 20 years have elapsed since the last general enquiry into taxation in India was held, and that the situation has in many ways changed materially since then, particularly during the six years of war. Not least of the changes has been the re-orientation of economic thought in the interval.

With the cessation of hostilities and an era of intensive development begun, which will require constructive planning of taxation with a view to ensuring the most effective use of the taxable resources of the country, the present may reasonably be regarded as ripe for a fresh comprehensive taxation review. I propose, therefore, to set up a Taxation Enquiry Committee in the near future. Since one important object of the proposed enquiry would be to secure, as between the various classes of taxpayers, an equitable distribution of the burdens of taxation, it would seem to be essential that as in the case of the Taxation Enquiry Committee of 1924, the scope of the enquiry should extend to the whole field of taxation—Central,

Provincial and local. While it would not be appropriate for the Committee to concern itself with the question of the distribution of taxable resources between the Centre and Provinces, it should cover the harmonisation of Central and Provincial taxation where experience has shown conflict or overlap to exist in their respective spheres, as defined in the Constitution Act.

The present lack of uniformity in the incidence of taxation as between Provinces, illustrated by the varying rates of sales tax, octroi, property tax, motor taxation, etc., could be dealt with by the Committee. The main purpose of the enquiry would, however, be to ascertain what adjustments or modifications of the taxation system of the country as a whole would be required and could, from the practical administrative point of view, be introduced in order to produce a properly balanced and scientific tax structure, fair in its incidence and adequate to the needs of a forward development policy without deterrent effect on initiative and private enterprise, and with due regard to the administrative requirements for the prevention of tax evasion. The Provinces are in favour of an enquiry of this nature.

My provisional view is that the Committee should be predominantly non-official in character and that it should be an expert rather than a representative body, although care should be taken to obtain the views of all the interests affected,—industry, commerce, agriculture, labour, the consumer, the ordinary taxpayer and

lastly, Administration, both Central and Provincial. Above all, it should not be unwieldy. There appears to me to be in India a tendency to set up not only too many committees but also committees which are quite unmanageable from the point of view of size. I shall greatly welcome the views of Hon'ble Members as to the scope and composition of the Committee.

TAXATION PROPOSALS

I now pass to my taxation proposals for next year.

I said early on that fiscal policy was not an end in itself. It must subserve the ends of national policy. Its purpose should be not merely to raise a given revenue but to raise it in such a way as to obtain the maximum social and economic advantage and to distribute the burden as justly and as fairly as possible between the various classes of tax-payers. This is, of course, an ideal which it is difficult to achieve in this imperfect world, where psychological and political factors operate to modify and qualify economic theory and doctrine, but the pattern and design of my proposals attempts to conform as near as possible to this ideal.

The lines of this pattern are made plain in the opening paragraphs of my speech. Let me recall briefly the gist of those paragraphs. I pointed out, first, that a great deal of money would be required to combat the evils of poverty, ill-health, squalor, illiteracy and unemployment; and secondly, that during the next year or two Government must do all it can to offset the fall in economic activity which will otherwise result from the heavy drop in military expenditure.

The largest single source of revenue in the years immediately ahead will have to continue to be the profits of industry. I am conscious of the depressing effect on industrial enterprise of a high level of taxation on profits, and that it is the expansion of industry which holds out the earliest promise of increasing the national income and raising the standard of living in the country, although India will not achieve the maximum of economic health and wealth until agriculture as well as industry have multiplied their productivity many times.

The fiscal problem, so far as industry is concerned, is how to lay it under a heavy contribution and, at the same time, to encourage it to expand. This is the problem which I have attempted to solve, but its successful solution will require the wholehearted co-operation of industry itself. If it be the aim of India's industrial leaders, as I am sure it is, not so much to make millions for themselves as to raise the standard of life of India's toiling and poverty-stricken millions, then the problem can be solved.

Here is my own contribution to its solution. First, I propose to discontinue the Excess Profits Tax on earnings arising after March 31, 1946. The only justification for E.P.T. as a tax is the emergency which called it into being. By all the canons of taxation doctrine it is a thoroughly bad tax. It is rough and ready in its operation; it is unfair in its incidence and, beyond a certain point, it is a direct inducement to inefficiency. Except that I, as tax gatherer-in-chief, cannot refrain from casting a longing, lingering look behind at its high yield, none of us will, I think, mourn the passing of the Excess Profits Tax.

It will, of course, be realised that the discontinuance of the tax will not, of itself, affect the revenue of the coming year nor give any immediate relief to the class of tax-payer to whom it applies, since the tax will still be payable in respect of all excess profits earned up to March 31, 1946. The scheme of compulsory deposits will also remain in force to the end of the E.P.T. period.

As regards the refunds of E.P.T. deposits, they will be sanctioned in advance of the date for which the law provides, on condition that they are not distributed as dividends to shareholders but are required for the provision or replacement of buildings, plant or machinery.

When I remind the House that E.P.T. will yield Rs. 90 crores in the current year and is estimated to produce Rs. 75 crores in the coming year, Hon'ble Members will be able to measure the loss to revenue and the benefit to industry which the abandonment of E.P.T. implies.

One last word about E.P.T. Concern has been expressed about losses and expenditure which may arise in the period of transition from wartime to peacetime conditions and which may involve hardship if they are not allowed against the profits of the final E.P.T. chargeable accounting period. This question is under consideration and, when it is known what is the actual extent and nature of these hardships, then will be the time to consider appropriate legislation.

Relief to Industry

The next relief to industry which I propose is to revive the proposals which were dropped last year to grant special initial depreciation allowances of 10 per cent. on new buildings and of 20 per cent. on new plant and machinery and to allow for income-tax purposes expenditure on scientific research. In addition, I propose to widen the scope of what is called the obsolescence allowance, so as to make it include the loss of the asset by destruction or demolition and also to extend it to buildings. These proposals will cost Rs. 2 crores.

In order to complete the picture of the easements which I propose for industry, I shall now move to the field of indirect taxation. I shall

return later to other direct taxation proposals which will affect industry.

I am anxious at the earliest possible moment to meet the demand so often made in the past for the relief from Customs duty of raw materials imported for industry; and also, to the extent that this may be practicable without injury to Indian manufacturers of similar goods, to reduce the rates on such imported plant and machinery as are now dutiable. The former proposal is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 70 lakhs. As regards the latter, it is difficult to estimate the cost of relief till a careful review of the position is made. So no allowance has been made in the revenue estimates on this account at this stage. It is proposed to give effect to the decisions separately by a notification under the Sea Customs Act.

Income-Tax and Super-Tax

I now revert to the direct taxation field but, before dealing with it as it specially affects industry, I should like to mention a proposal which will affect not only all classes of taxpayers but also Central and Provincial Revenues, namely, the amalgamation of the surcharges on income-tax and super-tax with the basic rates. This amalgamation is estimated to benefit the Provinces to the extent of Rs. 12½ crores at the expense of the Centre.

Coming back to industry, the total of the present rates of income-tax and super-tax on a company is 7½ annas. I propose to reduce this total of 7½ annas by 1½ annas to 6 annas, by a reduction of 2 annas in the super-tax and an addition of ½ anna to the income-tax. This is estimated to cost Rs. 7 crores. For the past two years the Finance Act has contained a provision giving a rebate of super-tax to companies at the rate of one anna on all sums not distributed as dividends. This, in effect, imposed an extra tax at the rate of one anna on all sums distributed as dividends. I think that circumstances now warrant the introduction of a new method for discouraging the distribution of dividends. In my view, a reasonable distribution is something which the shareholder has a right to expect and which should not attract a penal rate of tax. I am, therefore, proposing that, excluding dividends payable at a fixed rate, sums equal to 5 per cent. on the capital of the company, including reserves, and equal to 30 per cent. of the total income, may be distributed without attracting more than the 1 anna rate of super-tax. Dividends above that datum line will become liable to additional super-tax at steepening rates. I hope that this provision will keep the distribution of dividends within reasonable bounds and encourage the ploughing back of profits into the business. This is estimated to yield about Rs. 1½ crores.

Before turning to the non-company direct taxpayer, it will be appropriate to mention at this stage another and somewhat novel proposal which affects both classes. I have referred more than once to the possible emergence of deflationary tendencies consequent upon the very heavy fall in military expenditure, and I reminded the House that, owing to the difficulty experienced by our industries in obtaining adequate quantities of capital equipment from abroad, they would not be able to do a great deal next year to replace the economic activity engendered by the vast military expenditure of recent years. There is, however, one direction in which the private sector of the national economy can do much to help. I mean, of course, building, which has been almost at a standstill, except for war purposes, for the past five or six years. The great advantage of a large building programme is that the ratio of labour costs to total costs is high and so therefore, is the employment factor.

Apart from the offer of subsidies for working-class dwellings which I have already mentioned, Government are doing all they can to assist by increasing the free availability (but by this expression I do not, of course, mean free of cost) of bricks, timber, cement and steel. But so important do I regard private building as an anti-deflationary activity that I have felt justified in going further and in making a contribution in the fiscal field. I am, therefore, proposing some income-tax relief where new buildings are begun and completed within the next two years. For residential buildings, I propose a two years' income-tax exemption and for buildings used for the purposes of the business, profession or vocation I propose that the initial depreciation allowance should be 15 per cent. instead of 10 per cent. These proposals are contained in a Bill to amend the Income-Tax Act which is being put before the House. As next years' estimates are not likely to be affected, no provision has been made on this account.

And now I turn to greet the ordinary direct tax-payer, and I hope that, on reading tomorrow morning what I have to say, he will think the greeting cordial, or at any rate, as cordial as any greeting between an Income-Tax Officer and an assessee can reasonably be expected to be. In my judgment, the steep rise in direct taxation inseparable from the war has borne more heavily on the man of moderate means and particularly on the man with a moderate fixed income than on almost any other class of taxpayer. I think the time has come to give him some relief. I propose to do this in two ways. First, by reducing the rate of tax in the lower

ranges and secondly by increasing the earned income allowance. As to the first, I propose to reduce the rate on the second income slab of Rs. 3,500 from 15 pies to 12 pies, and the rate on the third slab of Rs. 5,000 from 2 annas 1 pie to 2 annas. These two changes will cost about Rs. 1½ crores. As to the second, I propose to raise the earned income allowance from one-tenth of the earned income, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,000 (in terms of income), to one-fifth, subject to a maximum (in terms of income), of Rs. 4,000. This relief will cost about Rs. 3½ crores.

I propose to take a further and, as I think a logical step in carrying over the differentiation of treatment between earned and unearned income into the super-tax range. At the same time, I propose to increase the number of slabs in incomes subject to super-tax, the result being a more gradual steepening of the rates, although the rates will be more severe on the largest incomes than at present. The differentiation in favour of earned income is one anna in the rupee between Rs. 25,000 and up to Rs. 2 lakhs and half an anna between Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 5 lakhs. On the balance above Rs. 5 lakhs there is no differentiation. This proposal is estimated to yield about Rs. 75 lakhs. On merits, and as a partial offset to the loss of revenue involved in the three changes which I have just described, I propose to increase the rate of income-tax on the balance of income above Rs. 15,000 from 4 annas 9 pies to 5 annas. This will yield about Rs. 3½ crores.

Life Insurance Firms

With two other and relatively minor changes I shall be done with my proposals relating to direct taxation. The first is a reduction of the rate on life insurance companies from 5 annas 3 pies to 5 annas. The second relates to the discontinuance of the provision for funding a portion of the tax in the case of incomes up to Rs. 6,000. The reductions in the rates on the lower slabs and the increased earned income allowance now proposed take away the justification for this provision. Salaried assesses, however, have to be given the benefit of the provision in the coming year, since they came under the scheme one year less than other assesses. These two proposals are estimated to cost Rs. 25 lakhs.

I have now dealt with relief to industry and to the man of moderate means, and some of my Hon'ble Friends opposite will be wondering whether I propose to do anything for the poor man. In the field of direct taxation, I can obviously do nothing since he does not pay direct taxes. At least he does not pay them directly. The ex-

tent to which an increase or a decrease in direct taxation is passed on to him through the price of the articles he has to buy is one of the things which I hope that the proposed Taxation Inquiry Committee will examine and ascertain.

Nor is it easy to do very much for the poor man in the field of indirect taxation. The main advantage which he will derive from my proposals will be through the schemes, economic and social, which will be financed by the yield of the taxes contributed by the wealthier sections of the community.

But there are two other things which I am doing for the poor man, one negative and the other positive. As to the first, I do not think that any of my proposals will add to the cost of his essential purchases—indeed the contrary should be the case—and secondly, I propose to reduce the duty on kerosene, which plays so important a part in the economy of the poorer class households, from 4 annas 6 pies to 3 annas 9 pies an imperial gallon. This will cost about Rs. 65 lakhs, of which Customs will bear Rs. 60 lakhs.

Indirect Taxation Proposals

And this brings me to my other indirect taxation proposals. I propose to continue (subject to some modifications) the general surcharge for one more year. In the customs tariff a small change is proposed in respect of "Wines". The rate of surcharge on "Wines," which is now one-fifth, will be raised to one-half, thereby bringing it on a par with "Spirit." I expect an increase of revenue by about Rs. 5 lakhs on this account. The duty on cinematograph films, both exposed and not exposed, is at present assessed on *ad valorem* rates. It will be an improvement to convert this into a specific duty charged on footage, and this change, besides yielding an increased revenue of Rs. 45 lakhs, will make for administrative convenience.

In the interests both of the revenue and of the indigenous grower, I consider it desirable to raise substantially the duty on imported betelnuts. I propose to fix the duty (without any surcharge) at the standard rate of 5½ annas a pound, with a preference of 6 pies a pound for British colonies. British colonies even now enjoy a preferential rate of 45 per cent. *ad valorem* against the standard duty of 54 per cent. *ad valorem*. The yield is estimated at Rs. 155 lakhs. I have considered very carefully whether, concurrently with an increase in the customs duty on imported betelnut, I should not reduce the excise on indigenous nuts in view of the fact that the wholesale trade, instead of passing the whole tax on to the consumer, has tended to reduce the price paid to the grower, thereby diminishing the benefit which the latter has derived from the high prices resulting from the cessation of foreign

imports during the war. Any such reduction would, however, I am convinced, be absorbed by the wholesale trade and would bring little, if any, benefit to the grower.

I am satisfied, moreover, that the increase now proposed in the customs duty on betelnuts renders reduction of the excise less necessary, since wholesale prices ought thereby to remain hereafter at a level which will permit the payment of a reasonable price to the grower. I have, however, been very impressed by the grower's difficulties, which I believe to be rooted in the weakness of his bargaining position *vis-a-vis* the wholesaler and I think that the grower's interests will be best served by organising the marketing of his products in such a way as to strengthen his position *vis-a-vis* the wholesale dealer; by improving cultivation methods and, if possible, finding further uses for the nuts; and I propose accordingly to make an annual grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for the purpose of financing measures designed to improve the production and marketing of this crop.

I propose a change in the levy of duty on cotton. At present the customs duty on raw cotton is 1 anna a pound and a further duty of the same amount is levied under the Cotton Fund Ordinance of 1942. The Fund has a sufficient balance to its credit to carry out the purpose for which it was created and it is no longer necessary to aid the Fund by proceeds of the special duty. At the same time, general revenues cannot afford to give up the amount yielded by the duty and I propose to amalgamate the two charges into a consolidated duty of 2 annas a pound (without any surcharge) which will be leviable wholly under the Indian Tariff Act, the Ordinance being repealed.

Motor Spirit and Bullion

I shall bring my indirect taxation proposals to a close with two important changes. The first relates to motor spirit and the second to bullion. It admits of no doubt that, if India is to advance economically and socially, a great improvement in her road communications will be necessary. Village must be joined with village, town with town and producing centres with markets. Although the supply of motor spirit is at present severely restricted, it is not too much to hope that before the next financial year is out both vehicles and petrol will be available in much greater abundance. I propose to encourage the use of road transport by reducing the rate of duty on motor spirit from 15 annas to 12 annas an imperial gallon. This will cost Rs. 165 lakhs of which the share of Customs will be Rs. 120 lakhs.

My last proposal under Customs is in respect of bullion. As the House is aware, the Indian prices of gold and silver bear no sort of parity

with world prices. The paucity of imports has, in a large measure, contributed to the present high and artificial prices. With the end of the war and with the general restoration of normal trade in sight, we may expect the resumption of bullion imports, but we must be prepared to have ready a suitable machinery which will render it unattractive on the part of anyone to indulge in speculation and to hope to reap profits at present levels. I propose, therefore to provide for the imposition of a specific duty on gold bullion and coin at the rate of Rs. 25 a tola of 180 grains fine. This rate will be varied from time to time by a notification under the Sea Customs Act, in order to attain in an orderly manner a reasonable measure of approximation to world prices. The House will appreciate the difficulties that lie in the way of framing any estimate of the likely imports during next year and the revenue that may result. I am, however, allowing for a revenue of Rs. 1 crore on this account, but the figure is no more than a shot in the dark.

Duty on Silver

As regards silver, the existing duty is 3 annas an ounce, with a surcharge of 7-1-5 pies. As it is proposed to have a specific duty (without surcharge) on gold, it is appropriate that the rate on silver should be brought reasonably in line with gold. I accordingly propose to alter the existing rate to 8 annas an ounce, without any surcharge. At this stage I am making no revenue provision on account of this change in the tariff, but this must not be taken as meaning that I am satisfied that there will be no increase in supplies available to the market next year.

All these changes, except that in regard to raw cotton, are being put into immediate effect.

I shall now summarise the financial effect of the above proposals. In the field of direct taxation, my income-tax proposals will cost Central Revenues Rs. 21.50 crores, while the changes under customs and excise are expected to yield a net Rs. 5 lakhs. The estimated gap between revenue and expenditure will thus be increased from Rs. 48.71 crores to Rs. 70.16 crores. To bridge a part of this gap, I propose to transfer to revenue Rs. 26.10 crores, being the estimated balances in the two War Risk Insurance Funds, which sums are transferable to revenue in pursuance of the provisions of the relevant Acts. On the basis of these proposals, next year's deficit comes to Rs. 44.06 crores.

I have come to the end of my story. I have aimed at keeping the revenue at the level necessary to sustain and advance India's economy and

I have tried to do this by distributing the burdens and the reliefs evenly and fairly over the various classes of taxpayers. Is it too much to hope that the last budget presented by a British Finance Member will be judged on its merits and will not be rejected on purely political grounds? I humbly believe that my proposals will do something to help my Indian successor, who will shortly be taking over from me and to whom I wish the best of good fortune, to lead India farther along the road to prosperity, happiness and greatness. However that may be, I can assure him of one thing, namely, that he can search the world in vain for a more able, a more loyal or a more devoted body of public servants than those who serve in India's Finance Department and who are predominantly Indian. Brief though my association with them has been, it will always be a source of pride to me that it was my privilege to be their leader, even if for so short a time.

RAJA OF LUNAWADA'S GIFT TO INDIAN ARMY V.C.'s

Lt. Maharana Shri Verbhadrasinghji Ranjit Singhji, Raja of Lunawada has presented Rs. 3,232 to Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and men of the Indian Army who have won the V.C. during this war. This sum is in addition to Rs. 1,000 which he has sent to the Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces, to be distributed among the first ten soldiers of the Indian States Forces who have won the highest military awards and another Rs. 1,000 to the 8th King George V's Own Light Cavalry for the comforts of the unit, of which he is an honorary officer.

Through the Raja of Lunawada's generosity six V.C.Os, or their next of kin in the case of posthumous awards—who have won the Victoria Cross have each received Rs. 202 and 20 Indian soldiers or their next of kin have each received Rs. 101.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, in a letter to the Raja of Lunawada, says: "I was much moved by your generosity to the recipients of Victoria Crosses, to ten soldiers of the State Forces and to the 8th Cavalry. I know how much this will be appreciated by the fortunate recipients."

The C-in-C. also thanked the Raja for his contribution of five per cent. of the gross revenues of his State to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.



H.E. the Viceroy and Lady Wavell with members of the Tibetan Goodwill Mission.

TIBETAN GOODWILL MISSION IN INDIA

IN the stately Durbar Hall of the Viceroy's House, H.E. Lord Wavell on March 2, received from the Monk Leader of the Tibetan Goodwill Mission, which is now in India, a ceremonial scarf for His Majesty the King Emperor, together with a letter for His Majesty conveying Tibet's congratulations on the Allied victory.

The Mission, which has been sent by the Tibetan Government, consists of eight members. They arrived in Delhi by train from Calcutta on February 27 after travelling 314 miles on horseback from Lhasa, crossing four sky-scraping passes ranging from 14,000 to 16,000 ft. In their long coloured chuba robes, they alighted from the Calcutta Mail and were welcomed by Capt. Euston on behalf of H.E. the Viceroy, and by Mr. C.B. Duke and Mr. F. Ludlow of the External Affairs Department. In the Tibetan tradition of welcome to distinguished guests, Mr. Ludlow later presented them white silk scarves.

The ceremony at the Viceroy's House on March 2 was colourful. Attended by Col. D.H.

Currie, Military Secretary to the Viceroy, the members of the Mission, dressed in brightly coloured robes and wearing blue and red boots, entered the hall in procession. A number of Tibetan servants brought other gifts for the King Emperor and the Viceroy—quaint tea urns, beautifully illuminated scrolls, fruit dishes, carpets and coloured wooden boxes, with locks and keys of strange design.

A photograph of the Dalai Lama, which was specially presented on the occasion, was placed on a separate table.

The Monk and Lay leaders of the Mission, Dzasa Chhoden Tendar and Dzasa Khemed Se Kusangtse, took up their stand in front of the Viceroy and Her Excellency and the Monk Leader approached and presented the ceremonial scarf and letter. The Leaders then presented gifts of scarves to Their Excellencies. H.E. the Viceroy, in turn, presented white silk scarves to members of the Mission.

Tea was then served to Their Excellencies and the Mission. Through an interpreter, Rai

Sahib Sonam, the Viceroy enquired of the health of the Dalai Lama and the Regent and of the Mission. His Excellency also put questions on the Mission's journey and asked whether they had been comfortably accommodated.

The Leaders replied that the Dalai Lama and the Regent were in good health and expressed the Mission's appreciation of the arrangements made for their stay.

The Viceroy and Lady Wavell left the Durbar Hall in procession and the members of the Mission, accompanied by Mr. H.S. Weightman, Foreign Secretary, Lt.-Col. R.R. Burnett, Joint Secretary, External Affairs Department, and the Political Officer, Sikkim, were conducted from the Hall.

After group photographs had been taken with the Viceroy and Her Excellency, the Mission stayed for luncheon at the Viceroy's House.

Lady Louis Mountbatten was among the interested spectators in the Durbar Hall.

The members of the Mission are: Dzasa Chhoden Tendar; Dzasa Khemed Se (Kusangtse); Rimshi Kusangtse I; Lotsawa

(Interpreter) Yeshey Tar-Gay; Le-Tsenpa Chhang-Ngo-Pa II; Khenchung Thupten Zengpo; Tsendron Thupten Tseten; Lotsawa (Interpreter) Champa Ngawang.

One member of the Mission, Dzasa Chhoden Tendar, has lived in Kalimpong and can speak a little English and also Hindi.

The Mission, who, during their stay in Delhi were the guests of the Government of India, witnessed the Victory Celebrations in Delhi. They are expected to visit places of interest in India, including Buddh-Gaya, Benares, Agra, Cawnpore, Tatanagar and Bombay.

At Delhi the members of the Mission Commissioner, to convey through him to called on Mr. George Merrell, American President Truman presents and congratulations on the Allied Victory. Later, they were guests of honour at a reception at Mr. Merrell's residence. They expect to leave by the end of this month for China where they will also call on Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to congratulate him on the victorious termination of China's struggle with Japan.



Tibetan servants carrying some of the presents brought by the Goodwill Mission from Tibet for the King Emperor and the Viceroy.

R.I.N. TO HAVE THREE "FIGHTING SERVICES CLUB" TO BE FORMED IN NEW DELHI

THREE cruisers of the famous "Leander" Class that defeated the pocket battleship *Graf Spee* in the battle of the River Plate in December 1939 are, with the agreement of His Majesty's Government, to be acquired by the Royal Indian Navy.

Plans are rapidly reaching completion for Indian personnel for manning these warships to proceed to the United Kingdom and be trained by the Royal Navy in handling certain technical equipment to which they have not previously been accustomed. British dockyards will, in the meantime, refit these cruisers for service in Eastern waters where they are expected to arrive next year.

With the possession of these cruisers the Royal Indian Navy will have the biggest warships it has ever had, bringing it on a par with other Dominion Navies, some of which already possess cruisers. This is a decisive advance in its development, for it will no longer be a small Navy, concerned essentially with local defence, but will possess a balanced sea-going squadron. At present its largest units consist of 1,200 ton sloops of modern design and formidable armament, anti-submarine and mine-sweeping vessels, motor launches and landing craft, all of which have rendered excellent service in world war II.

A Milestone

"Leander" class cruisers are of 7,000 tons displacement with a speed of more than 32 knots. They carry a magnificent array of armament including eight 6-inch guns, an equal number of 4-inch anti-aircraft guns and torpedo tubes. Warships of this class belong to one of the most successful cruiser designs evolved by the Admiralty, and won worldwide fame for their services in the late war. In action against an Italian naval force in 1939, H.M.S. *Ajax* helped to sink the destroyer *Artigliere* and two torpedo boats. A year later the *Orion* emerged, unscathed from a battle against great odds with the Italian battleship *Vittorio Veneto* and a number of cruisers.

A milestone in the development and growth of India's Navy, the transfer of these cruisers will have a far-reaching effect on the service as a whole, particularly in the training of R.I.N. personnel. Officers and men under training in the Gunnery and Torpedo Schools of the Royal Indian Navy will have fresh opportunities of practical training in the use of advanced technical equipment.

IN response to the wishes of a considerable number of Indian officers of the R.I.N., Army and R.I.A.F. and with the fullest support of the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, it has been decided to establish a "Fighting Services Club" on the lines of the Services Club in Britain.

Primarily a "Men's Club", the projected institution will have a "Ladies' Wing" attached. Tennis and squash courts, a swimming pool, residential quarters and essential public rooms are some of the features proposed for the Club, which will be located in New Delhi. Later, branches will probably be set up in such centres as Lahore, Bombay and Karachi.

Membership

Membership of the Club is open to, among others, Indian officers of the R.I.N., the Army and the R.I.A.F. and to those in the Reserves of the three Services; all retired regular commissioned Indian officers of the three Services; Indian Princes and Chiefs who hold commissions in India's Armed Forces and to Indian officers in the State Forces.

Those wishing to join the Club can obtain further details from: The Secretary, The Indian Fighting Services Club, Room No. 76, "G" Block, G.H.Q., New Delhi.

MEDALS FOR INDIAN SERVICES PERSONNEL

More than 18 million *tolas* (A *tola* is equivalent to the weight of one rupee) of metal and 200 miles of medal ribbon have been ordered by the Government of India to meet the requirements of Services' personnel who have qualified for various campaign medals.

India's Servicemen have won more than 1½ million 1939-45 Stars, more than 1,200,000 Burma Stars and 202,000 Africa Stars, among hundreds of thousands of other Service medals.

The Campaign Stars will be struck by the Mint in India from master actions to be supplied by the Royal Mint in Britain. A departure from practice is that the names of the recipients will not be engraved on the medals.



H.E. the Viceroy declares open the Yadavindra Soldiers Club at Patiala. The Club is claimed to be the finest in the East.

VICEROY'S TRIBUTE TO PATIALA'S WAR EFFORT

OVER 65,000 recruits were enlisted from Patiala State, and the record of the various units, in particular the 1st Patiala Infantry, has been equalled by few in the Indian Army, to have won three out of the seven V.C.s awarded to States' subjects, and in addition a generous proportion of other honours and distinctions is an achievement on which I offer my most sincere congratulations" said H. E. the Viceroy opening the Yadavindra Soldiers Club at Patiala on February 22 in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering.

His Excellency arrived in Patiala in a rainstorm, considered most auspicious. People recall Lord Curzon's visit to the Bombay Presidency, when a famine threatened and the Viceroy's arrival saw the first showers which staved off the threat.

Lord Wavell, accompanied by Lady Wavell, General Sir Richard Wauchope, Miss Wavell, Lady Anne Fitzroy, Mr. G. E. B. Abell, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, and Mrs. Abell,

Captain Mackenzie, Deputy Military Secretary, Captain Lord Euston, A.D.C., and Captain Fitzroy, A.D.C., arrived at Ambala at 11 a.m. on February 22. There was a heavy cloud over the Willingdon airport at the time of the departure, but the weather cleared 50 miles from Ambala. The plane ran into a heavy cloud approaching Patiala. At Ambala Their Excellencies were greeted by the Hon. J. H. Thompson, Resident, the Punjab States, and Sardar Hardit Singh Malik, Prime Minister of Patiala.

The party drove to Patiala through rain, the first showers Patiala had since September.

At Motibagh Palace, Their Excellencies were received by His Highness the Maharaja and Her Highness the Maharani.

In the afternoon, the Viceroy opened the Yadavindra Soldiers Club, claimed to be the finest in the East. His Excellency said: "I thank Your Highness very much for the welcome which you have given to Lady Wavell and myself, and for the kind words which you have used about us. It does indeed give me

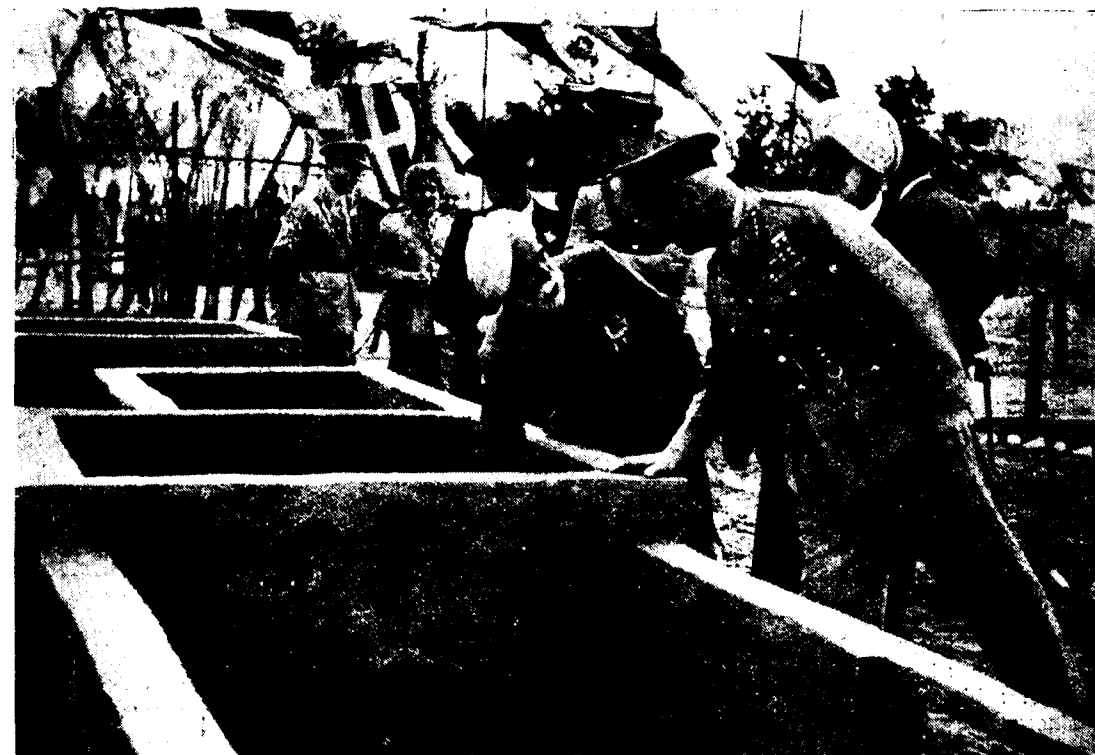


much pleasure to visit this famous State, and I am particularly glad to be able today to perform the opening ceremony of this Club, which will give an opportunity for the comradeship formed in war to continue in the days of peace.

"I have every reason to agree entirely with what Your Highness has said about the glorious share which the Indian Army has played in achieving victory over our enemies; and you may well feel proud for the part which Patiala troops have taken in that victory. It is very right and fitting that Your Highness should have expended so much time and care on schemes for the benefit of your old soldiers.

"I am glad to hear of your proposal to use the training and the new standards which these men have acquired during their service, to benefit village life in your State and to bring about improvement both in agriculture and

Lord Wavell and H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala chat with soldiers disabled in the Burma campaign at the Yadavindra Soldiers Club. (Below) The Viceroy at the Patiala Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. Here His Excellency examines a "rahat", a means by which fields are irrigated.



The Viceroy was keenly interested in this model village home at the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. (Right) The Maharaja of Patiala explains to Lady Wavell the working of an agricultural implement.

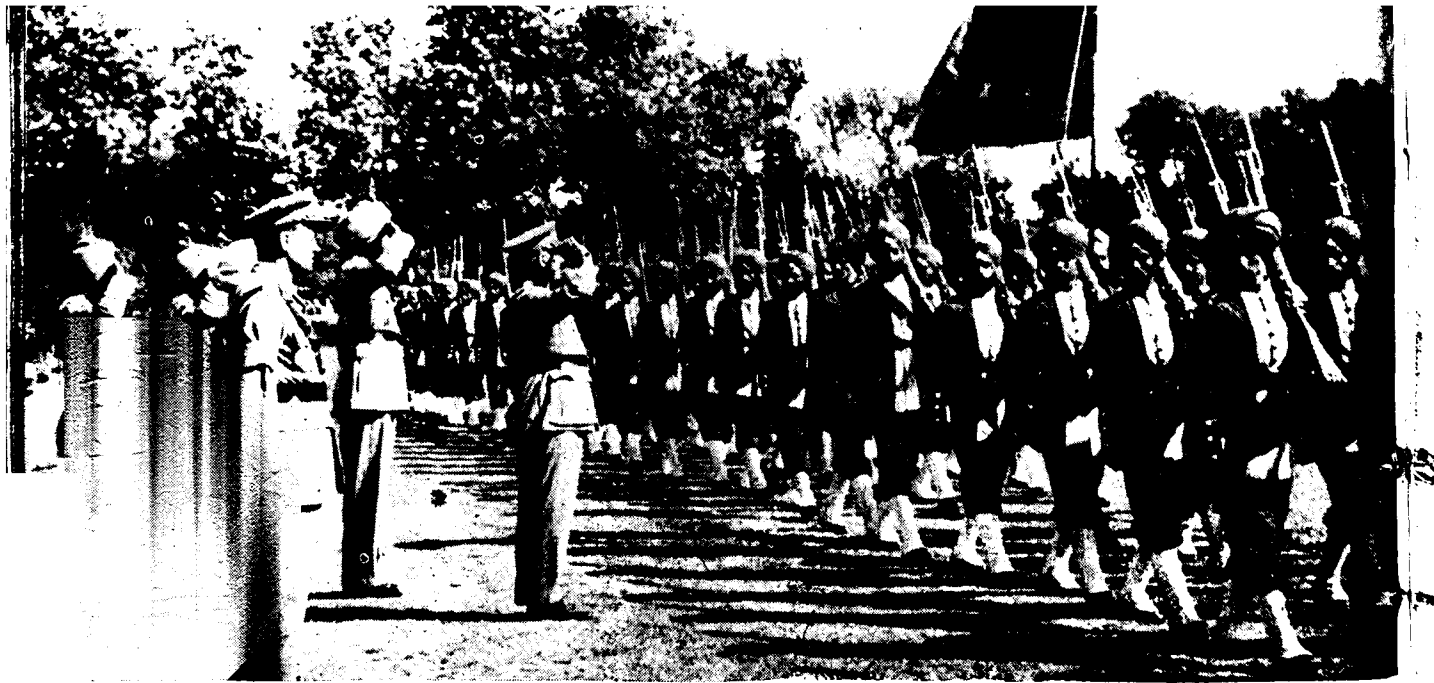
in living conditions. I wish all success to your model villages. I am glad, too, to hear how the disabled will be cared for. They are all too often forgotten after a war.

"Patiala has spared no effort or money to fulfil the declaration which Your Highness made at the beginning of the war when you placed the entire resources of your State at the disposal of the King-Emperor.

"Your Highness' own war record is outstanding even among those many Princes whose efforts have been so notable. By your visits to troops in the Middle East and in Malaya as well as throughout India, you have striven greatly and successfully to maintain the morale and reputation of your men. I thank Your Highness for all you have done.

"Over 65,000 recruits were enlisted from Patiala State, and the record of the various units, in particular the 1st Patiala Infantry, has been equalled by few in the Indian Army;





to have won three out of the seven V.C.s awarded to States' subjects, and in addition a generous proportion of other honours and distinctions is an achievement on which I offer my most sincere congratulations.

"I echo your hope that there may be a constitutional settlement soon in this great country, and I am confident that a great future can be built on the foundations which Patiala, by its achievements in the war, has helped to lay.

"Patiala has already shown since the end of the war that it can distinguish itself no less in peace. I congratulate Your Highness on the victory of your team in the All-India Olympic Sports at Bangalore. I had the pleasure of watching some of their performances when I visited the sports for a short time one evening. I am sure the Yadavindra Soldiers Club will encourage that good fellowship and sportsmanship which Olympic sports are designed to foster.

"I have much pleasure in declaring open the Yadavindra Soldiers Club."

Later, the Viceroy visited the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition.

The Government of India have decided that, in view of the international tea supply and demand position, the existing control over prices and quantities of export teas should continue throughout the year 1946-47.

The Viceroy takes the salute as the 1st Rajindra Sikh Infantry marches past bearing the newly presented Colours.

VICEROY PRESENTS COLOURS TO PATIALA TROOPS

ON February 23, H.E. Lord Wavell, who was accompanied by H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala, Commander-in-Chief of the Patiala State Forces, presented the Colours to the Infantry Training Unit, Patiala State Forces, at the Rajindra Gymkhana Club ground, Patiala.

Her Excellency Lady Wavell, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Thompson, Resident, Punjab States, General Sir Arthur Wauchope, former High Commissioner in Palestine who served with Lord Wavell in the Black Watch at Ambala over 25 years ago, Sardar Hardit Singh Malik, Prime Minister, Patiala, Col. D.H. Currie, Military Secretary to the Viceroy, and Mr. R.W. Parkes, Secretary to the Resident, were among the distinguished spectators.

H.E. the Viceroy and His Highness were received on arrival by Lieut.-General Sardar Bahadur Gurdial Singh Harika, General Officer Commanding, Brig. Jaswant Singh, Command-

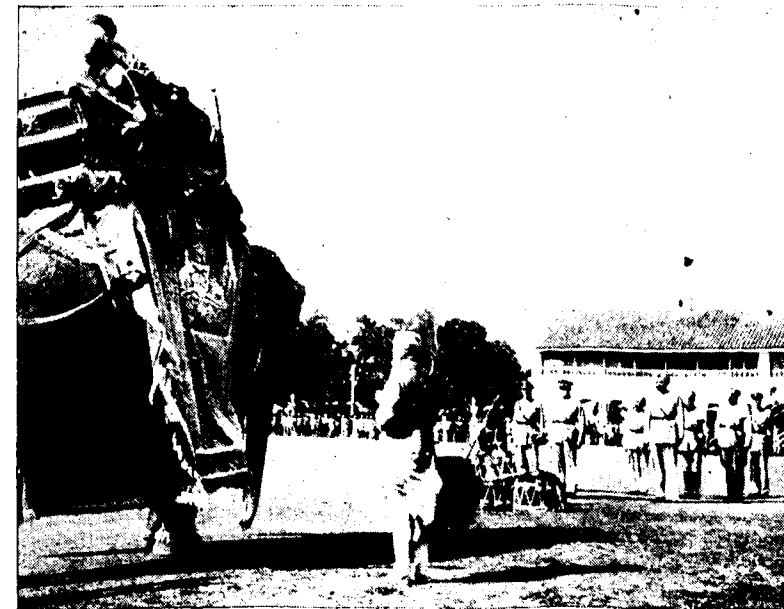
The Granthi (Sikh divine) placing the garlands offered by the Viceroy and the Maharaja on the Guru Granth Sahib (the Holy Scripture of the Sikhs).



ing the Cavalry Brigade and Brig. Balwant Singh, Commanding the Infantry Brigade.

An interesting feature of the ceremony was the blessing of the Colours by a Granthi (Sikh divine) who arrived on an elephant bearing the Guru Granth Sahib (the Holy Scripture of the Sikhs). The Viceroy and His Highness offered garlands to the Granthi, who placed

them on the Holy Scripture and later draped them on the Colours, after reciting prayers. Companies of the 1st. Rajindra Sikh Infantry, dressed in Maroon and white, the 3rd Patiala Sikh Infantry, in scarlet and deep grey, the 2nd Yadavindra Infantry (red and deep green) and the 4th Patiala Infantry (scarlet and dark grey) were on parade.



The Granthi reciting prayers with the garlands placed on the Guru Granth Sahib.

PROGRESS IN POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE he left the Government of India, after 18 months of office, Sir Ardeshir Dalal carried out a review of the progress made by the Central and Provincial Governments in post-war planning and development. An account of the review is now available.

Not only have many of the plans, both of the Central and Provincial Governments, reached the blue-print stage but quite a number of them are being actively pursued and executed. All-India plans and policies in respect of education, agriculture and food, roads, railways and civil aviation have been announced, whereas those regarding such subjects as health, labour, publicity etc., are in an advanced stage of preparation.

Special bodies to deal with certain important aspects of development have been constituted at the Centre, the most important of which are the Central Technical Power Board and the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. These bodies have already taken a prominent part in planning the Damodar Valley schemes and are considering the question of the control and development of the Sone, the Kosi, the Mahanadi, the Teesta and other rivers. The demand for their services at present exceeds their capacity.

An organisation for advising on the layout of factories and factory inspection has been set up. Measures for the health insurance of workers have been prepared and other labour questions, such as hours of work, the recognition of trade unions etc., are under investigation, while a special staff has been built up to deal with roads, civil aviation, agriculture, labour, education etc.

Training Schemes

As a first step towards development, training schemes have been actively pursued. About 600 students were selected for advanced technical training overseas during 1945-46. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulties arising out of the necessity of transporting demobilised troops, the despatch of the students has been considerably hampered. Over a hundred technicians from different industries have also been selected for advanced training in factories in the U.K. and the U.S.A.

A plan for the wide expansion of scientific research activities has been initiated. The first of a series of five national laboratories, namely, the Ceramic and Glass Research Laboratory,

was recently inaugurated in Calcutta. The other laboratories, the plans, for which are going ahead, are the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona, the National Physical Laboratory at Delhi, the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur and the Fuel Research Station near Dhanbad.

Special priority has been given to the Grow More Food Campaign. Though it is difficult to estimate the actual results obtained, an additional outturn of 750,000 tons of foodstuffs has been estimated as the ultimate result of these measures. Seven thousand tube-wells are being sunk and over 3,000 tanks and 4,000 other minor irrigation works are under construction. The cost of the campaign in 1945-46 will approximate Rs. 2 crores in loan and Rs. 1.7 crores in grants; and expenditure on a similar scale is contemplated for 1946-47.

The Institute of Economic Research, which was announced sometime ago, will be inaugurated next year if funds for the purpose are voted in the budget.

Schemes for the employment of demobilised soldiers and their settlement on land and in industry have been given special priority and have made considerable progress in all the Provinces.

Central Plans

The Central Government scheme for the five-year development period includes a five-crore scheme for Delhi Province, a railway programme involving a total expenditure of Rs. 319 crores in seven years, of which about 20 per cent. is hoped to be spent in 1946-47. The civil aviation plan involves an expenditure of Rs. 6 crores, of which Rs. 60 lakhs is proposed to be spent in the coming year. The total cost of the national highways, which it is hoped will be the responsibility of the Centre, comes to about Rs. 70 crores over a period of 10 to 15 years; the amount to be spent in the next year will depend upon the reports of the Provinces.

The posts and telegraph programme is of the order of Rs. 12 crores, of which Rs. 4 crores will be spent in 1946-47, while the long-term programme of the Information and Broadcasting Department is estimated at Rs. 70 crores. The Agricultural Department proposes to set up a Central Agricultural College and an Animal Husbandry College and to establish a central agricultural service. The Forest College at Dehra Dun has been expanded. Facilities for research on different types of crops, fishery, marketing

etc., are being provided and it is proposed to set up a Council for Co-operation and a Soil Conservation Bureau.

The Education Department is proceeding with the development of a number of technical institutes, which include four all-India institutes of technology on the lines of the M.I.T., the first of which, it is hoped, will be started next year. Other proposals include a Central Engineering College, a college for teachers in technology and domestic science and a college for physical education. A high grade military academy on the lines of "West Point" in America to train officers of all the three services is to be set up as a War Memorial. Provincial Governments are similarly expanding their existing training institutions or putting up new ones.

Provincial Plans

The total cost of the Provincial plans, excluding N.-W.F. Province, comes to Rs. 900 crores. The Bengal Plan is of the order of Rs. 160 crores, while the plan of the five provinces, Madras, Bengal, Punjab, U.P. and Bihar, are each over the Rs. 100 crores mark. The proposed expenditure of the provinces under the various major heads is as follows:

P.W.D. Rs. 466 crores (including roads Rs. 246 crores, irrigation Rs. 146 crores and electric power development Rs. 20 crores); education Rs. 104 crores; medical and public health Rs. 90 crores; agriculture Rs. 85 crores and industry (to the extent to which it is financed by Government) Rs. 22 crores. The points from which the Provincial plans will be examined by the Central Government are financial and administrative practicability, balanced development of the various subjects with due regard to the priorities laid down and conformity with the all-India policies and objectives.

During his tenure of office, Sir Ardeshir Dalal toured all the Provinces with the exception of the N.-W.F.P., several of them more than once. These tours have been recognised as of great value in removing difficulties, promoting co-ordination and establishing closer co-operation between the Central and Provincial Governments.

The sudden termination of the war, the early commencement of demobilisation and the contraction of war expenditure are all factors which render it necessary to pay special attention to measures for counteracting deflation and unemployment during the transition period. From that point of view, the Central Government has requested all Provincial Governments to put up urgent interim plans consisting of schemes selected from their five-year plans for immediate

execution. The importance of selecting productive schemes providing a high degree of employment relative to costs such as roads, irrigation, buildings etc., has been emphasised.

The Central Government has promised to advance to the Provinces up to 100 per cent. of the expenditure as well as assistance in raising loans, the advances to be recovered from the Central subventions to be paid to the Provinces during the quinquennium beginning April 1, 1947. Practically all the Provincial plans have been received and are being examined. The total expenditure, including loans, proposed for the interim plans is of the order of Rs. 75 crores, which would go some way towards counteracting deflation.

These schemes have been based on the objectives laid down in the different plans such as for education and agriculture and are not merely a haphazard collection of unco-ordinated projects. The individual provincial schemes still remain to be put into a co-ordinated whole in accordance with all-India targets and objectives, and this work will be undertaken by the Centre in co-operation with the provinces. It would have been quite possible, *a priori*, to have prepared long-term Central and Provincial plans and then split them up into different schemes. Such work, to be of more than theoretical value, would have taken a long time whereas, on the basis adopted by the Government of India, a large number of schemes are ready and are being put into execution particularly with a view to combating deflation. This procedure also enables a clearer appreciation of the targets and objectives to be made than would have been possible under the more theoretical procedure.

Industrial Policy

Among the measures for combating unemployment and deflation, the scheme for promoting building takes an important place. Steps have been taken to make material more freely available for private building and the facilities for financing such activities are being studied. In regard to industrial housing, the Government of India is preparing a scheme with the ultimate object of building two million houses in ten years with the help of subsidies from the Central and Local Governments.

An industrial policy for the country has been framed and was issued in the form of a statement in April 1945. This statement sets out the objectives of the industrial policy, the place of the State in industrial development, the need for planned industrial progress and the necessity on the one hand for controlling industry in the public interest and on the other hand for a wide measure of state encouragement and



Ceramic Industry—A worker in a Travancore Ceramic Factory is filling up a mould with semi-fluid clay.

assistance. The principles and policy enunciated in the statement have received a large measure of support.

It is interesting to note that there is a substantial measure of agreement between the statement and the industrial policy as announced in the blue-print for a free India enunciated by

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Chairman of the National Planning Committee. The statement is being considered in consultation with the Provinces and the States from whom also a large measure of support has been received. When these consultations have been concluded, it will be possible to proceed to legislation for the



Some of the articles manufactured in the Travancore Ceramic Factory.

Central control of certain industries of national importance and the establishment of Licensing and Investment Boards.

While these questions are under consideration, practical problems of planned development that have arisen in the meanwhile, have been dealt with: for example, a detailed plan which has been drawn up for the textile industry on a regional basis has been broken down further and quotas settled for States and Provinces. Likewise the cement plan has now been adopted, quotas fixed for States and Provinces and the allocation is being made. The needs of industrially backward Provinces and States have been particularly taken into account in the allocation of quotas.

Industrial Blue-Print

Having settled a working policy, the next step is to prepare an industrial blue-print for India. With that object, a large number of industrial panels have been established and they have been asked to make recommendations for a detailed phased plan for five years as the first stage of a fifteen-year plan of industrial development. It took some time to form the panels because in the selection of personnel due weight had to be given to specialised industrial experience. Considerable difficulty was also experienced in securing the required staff; but, once started, all the panels, with the exception of two or three, have made satisfactory progress and the reports of a large number of them, including the important panel on the steel industry, are expected within the next two or three months while a few reports have already been received.

In the meantime, industrial progress has not been held up. It has been the object of the Planning Department to encourage private enterprise to go ahead, but, in doing so, care has to be taken to see that the plans of private industry are not likely to be in serious conflict with the ultimate plan of industrial development that may be laid down in consultation with the Provinces and States. That raises the important question of capital issue and other controls.

Government have decided that, in order to provide them with the data for planning and to enable them to assist industry, all applications for import of capital goods must be registered. This scheme has been functioning since December 1944 and Government have now got complete information as regards the plans of the private industries during the next few years as a result both of the registration scheme and the administration of capital issues.

Very closely allied to industrial development is the question of developing the mineral re-

sources of the country. Special attention has been devoted to this object. Sanction has been accorded to the expansion of the Geological Survey to nearly four times its original permanent cadre and in pursuance of this sanction, it has actively been expanded to over twice its old strength. Steps are being taken to recruit foreign experts as well as to train Indian geologists by extending the facilities for geological education in India and sending them for further training overseas. A new all-India mineral policy is being framed and the question of setting up a separate Mines Bureau is under investigation. Committees to deal with the problems of coal and mica have been set up.

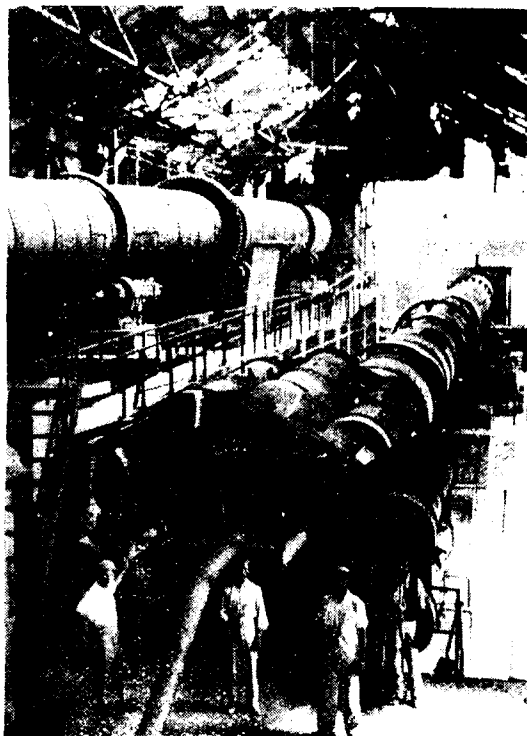
During his recent visit to the U.K. and the U.S.A., Sir Ardeshir Dalal discussed with the various authorities the possibilities of obtaining capital equipment. As a result of his tour, the two countries have taken a more widespread and practical notice of India's desire to industrialise herself and of her need for technical equipment as well as technical assistance. To further this aim and to help Indian industrialists to obtain capital equipment, an India Supply Mission has been set up in the U.K. and a similar Mission in Washington has been strengthened. The task of investigating the possibilities of obtaining capital goods suited to the requirements of India from the large American war surpluses has been assigned to the Mission at Washington.

Surplus Machinery

Pending the large-scale import of capital goods which under present conditions is likely to take two to three years more, the best hope of starting industrialisation in India is in the utilisation of the surplus machinery and equipment available in some of our well-equipped Ordnance Factories. That is being looked into earnestly by Government and some of the factories have already been turned to work for civil purposes.

To help in the financing of private industries a project for the establishment of an Industrial Finance Corporation somewhat on the lines of the similar body in the U.K. has been discussed with the Reserve Bank of India and the Corporation is expected to be set up in the near future. It would also be possible to start similar Corporations to help smaller industries in the Province once the all-India Corporation comes into being.

It would thus be seen that, in spite of serious difficulties, political and administrative, and particularly the difficulty of obtaining suitable personnel, very substantial progress has been made in all fields of development and the lines for further progress have been laid out.



POST-WAR EXPANSION OF CEMENT INDUSTRY

THE Government of India have issued orders approving, on the recommendations of the Provincial Governments concerned, schemes for expansion submitted by the Assam-Bengal Cement Co. Ltd., the Mysore Iron and Steel Works and the Andhra Cement Co. Ltd., and schemes for new units submitted by Messrs. India Cement Ltd., the National Cement, Mines and Industries Ltd. and the Punjab Minerals Co. Ltd.

These schemes have been sanctioned after considering the applications, which were invited by the Government of India in the Planning and Development Department from persons other than the A.C.C. and Dalmia groups, pro-

The use of cement has become increasingly important in building and town planning, and the industry has expanded considerably in India in recent years. (Left) Rotary Kilns which are capable of burning 400 tons of cement clinker a day. (Below) Automatic cement packing machines which can handle 225 tons each a day.



posing to set up cement factories to make up a balance of 1.15 million tons of production per annum to be achieved in the first five-year period after the war.

In addition, the Government of India have agreed to a factory in Southern Bengal with a capacity of one lakh tons per annum and another in the Wardha area of a similar capacity. The Provincial Governments concerned have been requested to forward recommendations for the grant of licences in these two cases.

The Government of India have also allotted a factory each of one lakh tons capacity to the Sirmur, Gangpur, Bhopal and Tehri-Garhwal States in addition to the scheme of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works. The allocation to the Tehri-Garhwal State is subject to a technical examination of the suitability of a cement factory in that State. In the absence of information regarding the availability of raw materials, no scheme for Bombay Presidency has yet been approved.

SECOND COAL-FIELDS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Indian Coal-fields' Committee constituted by the Government of India has followed up the questionnaire which it issued recently to Mining Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Millowners' Associations and other principal bodies interested in the industry with a second one covering the major problems referred to it.

The first series of questions deals with the constitutional position i.e., the present spheres of Central and Provincial control of mineral development and regulation of mines and the changes as regards these that may be necessary. The questionnaire then takes up the economics of the coal industry under the following heads; the structural organisation of the industry; ownership and management with special reference to the State acquisition of mineral rights and the operation of the industry; the question of finance and the action needed by the State to correct any tendency to over or under-capitalisation; production; marketing and distribution, including the setting up of a Central Marketing Agency; transport; prices and profits; taxation of the industry; and national and international commercial policy in relation to coal.

Other sections of the questionnaire relate to the conservation of metallurgical coal and high-grade steam coal and the problems of conservation generally; mining leases and fragmentation of holdings; the opening of new coal-fields; and the administrative changes that may be necessary in relation to the industry.

BIG DEMAND FOR MINING EXPERTS

BIG demands for admission into the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, and for the services of qualified Coal Mine Managers are recorded in the annual report of the working of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for 1944-45. 2,518 candidates sought admission into the School in 1945 as against 2,183 in 1944 and 1,335 in 1943. Of these, 394 were selected for the entrance examination after which 48 were enrolled as students for 1945-46.

The students of the Indian School of Mines, during the 1944-45 session fared well, as usual, in their examinations. Six out of the 10 successful candidates in the examination for the first-class Coal Mine Manager's Certificate were I.S.M. students, and the first three places were also secured by them. Out of 26 who came out successful securing second-class Coal Mine Manager's Certificate 21 were from the I.S.M. and ranks 1 to 14 also went to them.

The I.S.M. got 15 out of 59 passes in the Mine Surveyor's Certificate Examination. Only one failed out of the 23 candidates sent up to the examination for the diploma of Associateship in Mining Engineering and in Geology, while all the 20 candidates who appeared for the examination for certificate in Coal Mining and in Geology passed.

Research work was carried on in the washability and grading of coal. X-ray examination of Indian coals was continued and three original papers on geological subjects were contributed by the staff. The total number of scholarships held by students during this year was 71.

Consequent on the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance 1945 which exempts from income-tax one-tenth of earned income subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,000, the Government of India have, after consultation with the authorities in the U.K., reached the conclusion that the Special Allowance sanctioned in Army Instructions 140/44 and 149 of 1946 to adjust the differing impact of the British and Indian income-tax systems can no longer be justified for British married officers of the rank of Captain and Flight-Lieutenant. It has accordingly been decided that the allowance will be withdrawn from Captains and Flight-Lieutenants with effect from April 1, 1946.

INDIA (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATURE) BILL

Second Reading Passed in House of Lords

THE India (Central Government and Legislature) Bill passed its second reading in the House of Lords on February 15.

With the Proclamation of Emergency in force, the Central Legislature has been competent, by virtue of Section 102 of the Constitution Act, to legislate in respect of matters included in the Provincial Legislative List and, by virtue of Section 126A, to vest powers in respect of such matters in the Central Government and officers and authorities of the Central Government.

It has already been announced in reply to a question in the Legislative Assembly that it is the intention of His Excellency the Governor-General to revoke the Proclamation of Emergency on April 1, 1946, and from that date the Central Legislature would, if Parliament did not intervene, become incompetent to legislate in respect of any matter in the Provincial Legislative List, while legislation in respect of any such matter enacted while the Proclamation of Emergency was in force would cease to have effect six months after the revocation of the Proclamation of the Emergency, that is to say, on October 1, 1946.

One consequence would have been that the Central Government would from October 1 have lost the power to regulate the supply and distribution of foodstuffs, textiles and other essential commodities.

In view of the universal scarcity of these commodities, and particularly of foodstuffs, any sudden withdrawal of Central control is bound to result in economic chaos.

Centre's Powers

India will have to deal with international organisations as a unit in these matters. The continuance of the existing powers of the Centre is therefore necessary to ensure co-ordination of Provincial measures and a planned transition to normal peace-time economy. The Bill accordingly provides that, for a limited period, the Indian Legislature shall have power to make laws for regulating trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of, a few essential commodities including foodstuffs, cotton and woollen textiles, petroleum, coal, iron and steel. In the event of the Bill being enacted, legislation for the continuance

of all-India controls in the relevant fields will be introduced in the Central Legislature in due course.

As a result of the termination of the war, the Government of India are confronted with the problem of the re-absorption into civil life of persons who are being demobilised from the Defence Services. It is essential that the Centre should have the necessary powers to co-ordinate various activities, e.g., the setting up and carrying on of labour exchanges, employment information bureaux and training establishments, for the relief of unemployment among such persons. Powers strictly limited to practical requirements are accordingly provided for the Centre.

Lands and Buildings

Another matter in respect of which powers are proposed to be given to the Centre is as regards lands and buildings requisitioned by the Government of India for various war purposes. The properties, the value of which runs into several crores of rupees, are scattered all over India, and the return of all lands and buildings not required for the permanent use of the Government is bound to take some considerable time. The Bill accordingly gives power to the Centre to extend the period of requisition of, and if necessary to acquire, any immovable property which is under requisition by the Centre at the time the Defence of India Act expires.

It may be mentioned here that the Provincial Governments were consulted in regard to the above proposals, and their agreement obtained; before the Secretary of State was approached with a request to promote Parliamentary legislation.

The period for which the above-mentioned powers will be available to the Centre is laid down in Clause 4 of the Bill. It will, in the first instance, be for one year from the date of the revocation of the Proclamation of Emergency, but power is given to the Governor-General to extend it if necessary for another year. Any further extension will require an annual resolution by both Houses of Parliament and will be subject to an overall maximum limit of five years.

The Secretary of State has taken the opportunity to include in the Bill, provision for the repeal of the provision in the 9th Schedule to the Constitution Act, which prescribes certain service and legal qualifications for four

Members of the Executive Council. This amendment will render it possible to constitute an Executive Council composed entirely of members drawn from political life.

The following is the text of the Bill:

Draft of a Bill to amend the Government of India Act, 1935, with respect to the qualifications of members of the Governor-General's Executive Council, to extend temporarily the powers of the Indian Legislature to make laws, to amend sub-section (4) of section 102 of the said Act as to the effect of laws passed by virtue of a Proclamation of Emergency, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. Sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Government of India Act, as continued in force by the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India, Act, 1935 (being a provision which requires that three members of the Governor-General's Executive Council shall be persons who have been ten years in the service of the Crown in India and that one member thereof shall be a barrister, an advocate or a pleader) is hereby repealed.

2. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the Government of India Act, 1935, the Indian Legislature shall during the period mentioned in section four of this Act have power to make laws with respect to the following matters:

Trade and Commerce

(a) Trade and commerce (whether or not within a Province) and the production, supply and distribution of, cotton and woollen textiles, paper (including newspaper), foodstuffs (including edible oilseeds and oils), petroleum and petroleum products, and parts of mechanically-propelled vehicles, coal, iron, steel, and mica; and

(b) Unemployment among persons who have been serving during the present war in the armed forces of His Majesty or of any Indian State, and so far as relates to the rehabilitation of disabled persons and the setting up and carrying on of labour exchanges, employment information bureaux and training establishments for persons whether disabled or not, unemployment among other persons who have been serving or have been employed in connection with the present war (whether their service or employment was by or under the Crown or not); and

(c) offences against laws with respect of any of the matters mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this sub-section, enquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of those matters, jurisdiction and powers of all Courts, except the Federal Court, with respect to any of those matters, and fees in respect of any of those matters, but not including fees taken in any Court,

but any law made by the Indian Legislature which that Legislature would not, but for the provisions of this section, have been competent to make shall, to the extent of the incompetency, cease to have effect on the expiration of the said period except as respect things done or omitted to be done before the expiration thereof.

(2) Any power of the Indian Legislature to make laws under this section with respect to any matter shall include power to make laws as respects a Province conferring powers and imposing duties, or authorising the conferring of powers and the imposition of duties, upon the Governor-General in Council or Officers and authorities of the Governor-General in Council as respects that matter, notwithstanding that it is one in respect of which the Provincial Legislature also has power to make laws.

Federal And Provincial Laws

(3) No Bill or amendment making any provision which the Indian Legislature would not, but for the provisions of this section, have been competent to make, shall be introduced or moved in either Chamber of the Indian Legislature without the previous sanction of the Governor-General.

(4) Sub-section (2) of section 107 of the Government of India Act, 1935 (which relates to consistency between Federal Laws and Provincial laws) and sub-section (2) of section 126 of that Act (which relates to the giving of directions to a Province as to the carrying into execution of Federal laws relating to matters specified in Part II of the Concurrent Legislative List) shall apply in relation to a law enacted by virtue of this section with respect to any matter, being a matter with respect to which a Province has power to make laws, as if that matter were a matter specified in Part II of the Concurrent Legislative List.

3.—(1) Notwithstanding anything in the Government of India Act, 1935, the powers of the Indian Legislature to make laws shall extend to the making of laws—

(a) authorising the Governor-General in Council, until the end of the period mentioned in

section four of this Act, to retain possession of and use any land in a Province of which, when the Act of the Indian Legislature known as the Defence of India Act, 1939, expires, he is in possession by virtue of any requisition effected under rules made under that Act; and

(b) enabling him compulsorily to acquire, directly and without the interposition of the Province, any land of which he is in possession under any laws made for the purpose specified in paragraph (a) of this sub-section, and any laws made by virtue of this sub-section may contain provisions with respect to offences against the laws, enquiries and statistics for the purposes of the laws, jurisdiction and powers of all Courts, except the Federal Court, with respect to any of the matters dealt with by the laws, and fees in respect of any of those matters, but not including fees taken in any Court.

(2) Nothing in this section shall—

(a) prejudice any power of the Governor-General in Council to acquire land in accordance with section 127 of the Government of India Act, 1935 (which enables land to be acquired by the Governor-General in Council through the intermediacy of a Province); or

(b) affect the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 299 of that Act (which requires any law authorising the compulsory acquisition of land to make provision for the payment of compensation).

(3) In this section, the expression "land" includes immovable property of every kind.

Duration of Powers

(4) The period mentioned in the two last preceding sections is the period of one year beginning with the date on which the Proclamation of Emergency in force at the passing of this Act ceases to operate or, if the Governor-General by public notification so directs, the period of two years beginning with that date:

Provided that if and so often as a resolution approving the extension of the said period is passed by both Houses of Parliament, the said period shall be extended for a further period of 12 months from the date on which it would otherwise expire so, however, that it does not in any case continue for more than five years from the date on which the Proclamation of Emergency ceases to operate.

5. A law made by the Indian Legislature, whether before or after the passing of this Act, during the continuance in force of the Proclamation of Emergency, being a law which that Legislature would not, but for the issue of such a Proclamation, have been competent to make,

shall not cease to have effect as required by sub-section (4) of section 102 of the Government of India Act, 1935, except to the extent to which the said Legislature would not, but for the issue of that Proclamation, have been competent to make it, and accordingly, in the said sub-section (4) for the words "shall, to the extent of the incompetency, cease to have effect."

6.—(1) The functions of the Governor-General under this Act shall be deemed for the purposes of the Government of India Act, 1935, to be included among the functions which he is, by or under that Act, required to exercise in his discretion, and so much of section 18 A of the Interpretation Act, 1889, as provides that the expression "Governor-General in relation to the period between the commencement of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935, and the establishment of the Federation of India means the Governor-General in Council, shall not apply to this Act.

(2) A copy of the Government of India Act, 1935, giving effect to—

(a) the amendments mentioned in section three of the India (Proclamation of Emergency) Act, 1946; and

(b) the amendments made by sections one and five of this Act,

shall be prepared and certified by the Clerk of the Parliaments and deposited with the Rolls of Parliament, and His Majesty's printer shall print in accordance with the copy so certified all copies of the Government of India Act, 1935, which are printed after the said copy has been so prepared, certified and deposited.

7. This Act may be cited as the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946:

In the months of January and February, 1942, immediately before the fall of Singapore, a large number of ships left the island for destinations in the Netherlands East Indies and elsewhere. Most of these ships were carrying refugees and many were sunk by Japanese bombing and shelling after leaving harbour with considerable loss of life.

In order to ascertain the fate of some 1,000 missing persons information is urgently required from any survivor, or any person having first-hand knowledge of any of the sunken ships. Any details, such as names, physical descriptions of dress of passengers or crew will be of the utmost value.

Anybody with useful information of this type is urgently requested to communicate with: No. 1 Searcher Organisation Clearing House, Goodwood Park Hotel, Singapore, South-East Asia.



Members of the British Parliamentary Delegation, after touring South India, visited Calcutta where they went through a busy programme meeting prominent leaders of the various Indian political parties and visiting labour areas and villages. (Left) Prof. Robert Richards, leader of the Delegation, with Dr. Foss Westcott, former Metropolitan of India.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN BENGAL



Mr. Reginald Sorensen visited a jute mill area where he made inquiries about the living conditions of the workers. (Right) Mr. Sorensen and Lord Chorley talking to a school girl on her way home in Debipur village near Calcutta.



At Jamshedpur which was later visited by the M.P's Mr. A. G. Bottomly addressed a labour rally. On his left is Mr. Sorensen.



The Tata Steel Works at Jamshedpur was among the places visited by the M.P's. The various technical processes in the manufacture of steel were explained to the Delegation.



On February 8, the last day of their stay in Delhi, the M.P's invited Pressmen to tea and later addressed a Press conference. These pictures show (above) some of the journalists with Prof. Richards (fourth from right) and Mrs. Muriel Nichol, (right) Prof. Richards addressing the Press conference and (below) Sir Usha Nath Sen, President of the Delhi Press Association, speaking at the conference.

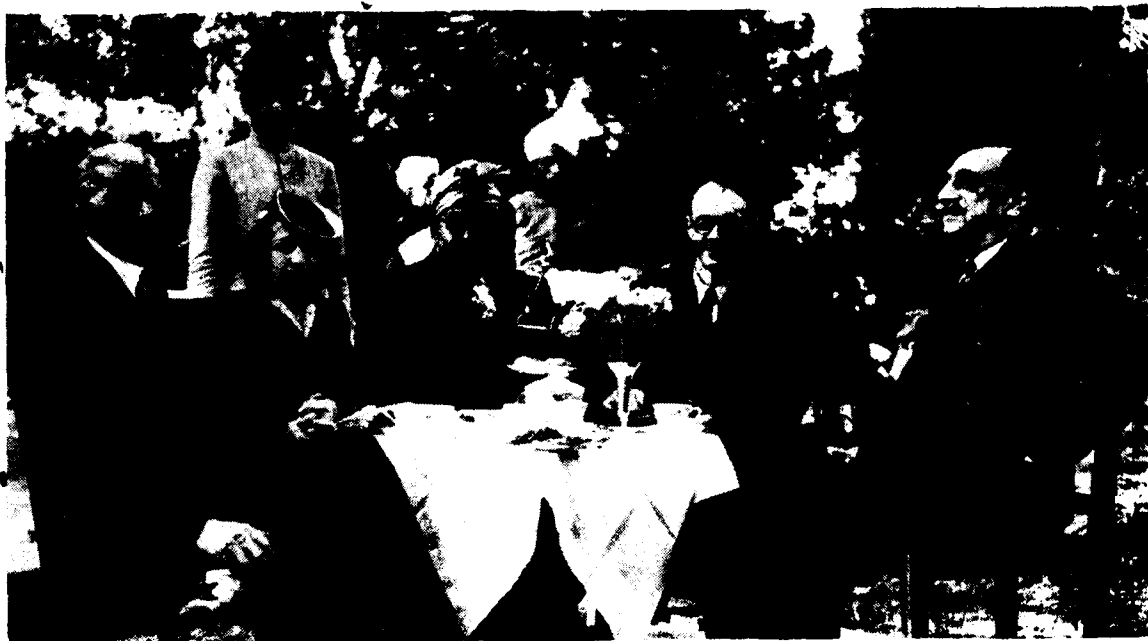


Prof. Richards in Santal village near Jamshedpur.



At Lucknow, some of the members of the Parliamentary Delegation met the Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.





Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Muslim League President, invited the M.P's to an "At Home" at his New Delhi residence on February 8 to meet the Khan of Kalat (a State occupying the greater part of Baluchistan). Picture shows Mr. Jinnah (left) the Khan of Kalat (third from left) and Lord Chorley (next to the Khan of Kalat), a member of the Delegation.

From Delhi the Delegation flew to Karachi on their way back to England. At Karachi Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah (centre) Premier of Sind, entertained the M.P's to tea.



SIR CYRIL JONES ON THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

"I would seriously suggest that it would be far better to await the sterling balances discussions, which are now only a few months ahead. Should those discussions take place while the present Hon'ble the Finance Member is in office, he has given an assurance that he intends to take as strong and representative a team as he can including, he hopes, representatives of the major political parties. It will then be for India's delegation to make their demand, say for example, for the immediate release from our balances of either India's net contribution to the Dollar Pool during the war, or the estimated requirements of India for the first five years up to 1951, whichever is greater."

So stated the Hon'ble Sir Cyril Jones, Secretary, Finance Department, in the Council of State on February 19, on the Hon'ble Mr. G.S. Motilal's resolution that "this Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council to take steps for (1) restoration to India of her contribution to the Empire Dollar Pool and (2) dissociation henceforth from it."

Sir Cyril Jones said: I think it is all to the good that an opportunity should be given in this House for ventilating a matter of this sort, which is of considerable importance to the country but which is a very technical subject in itself and rather apt to give rise to a certain amount of misunderstanding of the real position. The Resolution itself is in two parts, and with your permission, Sir, I would like to take the second part first, the part which requests the immediate withdrawal of India from the Empire Dollar Pool.

Sterling Area Arrangement

My impression is that there is a general misapprehension in the first place as to what the Empire Dollar Pool is. For instance, the Hon'ble Mover of this Resolution said that the Pool began with the requisitioning of dollar securities held by residents in India. I can assure him that that is not a fact. The "Empire Dollar Pool" is only the name given to the Sterling area arrangement (which had already been in existence for something like a century) when it came up against peculiar difficulties during the course of the war.

The Sterling area arrangement was an arrangement by which Empire countries and certain other countries arranged their international trade and their external financial business through London as a method both con-

venient and economical. Sterling before the war was freely convertible into any currency in the world, and by maintaining a sterling reserve the amounts of any world currencies required for payment were obtainable at any time and individual countries were saved the trouble, expense and wastefulness of maintaining their own balances in the various capitals of the world. That was the Sterling area arrangement.

Effect of the War

As the war progressed, the foreign balances held in London on behalf of the Sterling area group of countries in some cases—those that we call hard currency countries—began to be progressively exhausted. I do not think I need go into the reasons for that progressive exhaustion. They must be known to Hon'ble Members. There was the dual effect of increased payments on account of war requirements and of reduced supply, the latter partly on account of reduced exporting capacity of countries like the United Kingdom and partly because certain Empire countries which had contributed to the Exchange resources in London before the war, such as Malaya, were overrun by the enemy.

Malaya, of all the Sterling area countries, was the biggest Dollar Earner, for instance, and their surplus Dollars accumulated in London and became available for expenditure by any other Sterling area country which required them. When Dollars and certain other currencies became scarce, it was a matter of commonsense, as has been publicly admitted by the United States Administration itself, that there should be a sort of pooling arrangement, or rationing via exchange control, in respect of these hard currencies, so as to utilise them to the best advantage for the dual purpose, firstly, of meeting war requirements which naturally were given first priority, and secondly, of meeting the essential civil requirements necessary for maintaining the civil economies of the various Sterling area countries.

That was undoubtedly an appropriate arrangement. I do not think anybody would question its wisdom, and it undoubtedly contributed materially to the winning of this war which was of fundamental importance to each of the various countries participating in this co-operative arrangement. The principle of the pooling system was that all participating countries contributed what they could according to their ability and each country drew from

to the Dollar Pool now, it could only result in a corresponding diminution of the portion of India's balances to be initially released in multilaterally convertible form in the Sterling balances negotiations which will have to be embarked on now in a matter of months.

Meanwhile, as I have already mentioned, in this short interim period we have the Dollar Pool to cater for our essential current requirements. We have our post-war Dollar fund to draw on for our capital, goods requirements, and we have the possibility of obtaining a Dollar credit either from the International Monetary Fund or from the International Bank. I would therefore seriously suggest, Sir, that it would be far better to await the Sterling balances discussions, which are now only a few months ahead. Should those discussions take place while the present Hon'ble the Finance Member is in office, he has given an assurance that he intends to take as strong and representative a team as he can including, he hopes, representatives of the major political parties. It will then be for India's delegation to make their opening demand, say for example for the immediate release from our balances of either India's net contribution to the Dollar Pool during the war, or the estimated requirements of India for the first five years up to 1951, whichever is greater.

If then the United Kingdom were to plead inability to meet that demand, the onus of proving inability would be placed fairly and squarely upon His Majesty's Government. One cannot anticipate the trend of these discussions but I suggest, Sir, that the least we can reasonably do is to embark on the discussions which now shortly must take place, make our initial opening demand and then hear what His Majesty's Government have to say about it, and thrash the whole business out round the table.

The total approximate gross earnings of the Budget lines for the period (10 days) ending February 10, 1946 (31st Period) amount to Rs. 568 lakhs, says a Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board). This is (a) Rs. 775 lakhs less than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year, and (b) Rs. 20 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1943-44.

The total approximate gross earnings from April 1, 1945, to February 10, 1946, amount to Rs. 188.37 crores. This is (a) Rs. 6.94 crores more than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year, and (b) Rs. 35.35 crores more than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1943-44.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

WITH a view to improving the educational and economic condition of the Scheduled Castes, the Government of India have decided to give scholarships for the year 1946-47 to students belonging to these classes in British India who wish to pursue their studies in scientific and technological subjects beyond the Matriculation stage. These scholarships are tenable in India only. No scholarships for studies abroad will be awarded by the Board this year.

The amounts awarded will cover the entire cost of education including the tuition fee and other maintenance charges. In the case of Short-hand and Typewriting, short period stipends of the value of Rs. 20 p.m. only will be awarded.

The courses for which awards will be available are:

(1) Intermediate with Science (2) B.Sc. (Pass or Honours) (3) M.Sc. (4) Engineering (5) Technology (6) Medical (7) Agriculture (8) Teacher's Training and (9) Short-hand and Typewriting.

Women students offering Arts subjects in the Intermediate and Graduate courses will be eligible for the award of scholarships provided they give an undertaking that they will pursue the Teacher's Training course at the end of their approved courses of study. If they do not fulfil this condition they will be required to refund the amount of their scholarships.

To make recommendations on the post-war pay, allowances and pensions of the three Defence Services, the Government of India have constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. B. Irwin, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., I.C.S., Additional Secretary, War Department.

The R.I.N. will be represented on the Committee by the Chief of Personnel at N.H.Q., the Army by Maj.-Gen. J. B. Dalison, O.B.E., and the R.I.A.F. by the Deputy Air Officer Administration of Air Headquarters. Mr. J. Dayal, M.B.E. of the Finance Department is the fifth member. The Secretary to the Committee will be Col. W. Byrne, M.B.E.

The terms of reference of the Committee are to review the rates and the rules for the grant of pay and allowances, pensions and gratuities of the Indian Armed Forces, and personnel of the British Armed Forces serving in India; and to make recommendations on these matters to the Government of India.

CIVIL AVIATION—OVERSEAS TRADE—FERTILISERS

New Proposals Approved by Standing Finance Committee

IMPORTING chemical fertilisers at a cost of Rs. 4.5 crores in 1946-47, continuing certain major activities of the Information and Broadcasting Department evolved during the war, the planned development of civil aviation at a cost of Rs. 17.48 crores, strengthening the Trade Commissioners' organisation, and Rs. 3.69 crores a year for the activities of the Resettlement Directorate—these were the main proposals approved by the newly constituted Standing Finance Committee at its meetings in New Delhi on February 9 and 16, the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, presiding.

The Agricultural Department had a proposal, which was approved, for purchasing from abroad in the next financial year the bulk of the country's requirements of chemical fertilisers, estimated at 1,79,000 tons at a cost of Rs. 4.5 crores. The meeting was informed that the purchase and distribution of fertilisers were directly controlled by the Government which sold them to various recipients at pool prices fixed by the Government. As the world's resources of fertilisers had been pooled under the control of the Combined Food Board at Washington, India was allotted supplies by that Board from 1943-44 onwards 39,076 tons in 1943-44, 70,100 tons in 1944-45 and 1,54,155 tons in 1945-46, exclusive of 7,430 short tons of ammonium phosphate in the last mentioned year. These quantities were exclusive of Indian production, estimated at 20,000 tons. It was pointed out that the Government Fertiliser Factory in Bihar, when in full production, would be capable of producing 3,50,000 tons of ammonium sulphate annually.

Information Department's Proposals

The Information and Broadcasting Department had four important proposals to continue certain types of major activities evolved during the war. They related to the work of (1) the Research and Reference Division, (2) production and distribution of publicity films, (3) the Publications Division and (4) the Field Publicity Organisation. The annual recurrent cost of these sections would be Rs. 4,49,000, Rs. 28,45,000, Rs. 15,50,000 and Rs. 48,88,000 respectively.

The Research and Reference Division would act as a planning organisation, principally for external publicity, and also as a body which would do basic research, both on foreign countries and also on India, on which an informed publicity organisation could be built. It would also build up a departmental reference library, to make available to the whole Government useful information in a convenient form on trends, opinions and developments in the world.

The scheme for the production and distribution of publicity films was intended to spread knowledge of the essential facts concerning India's social and economic problems and the reconstruction and development schemes of the Government. From the operation of the scheme, recoveries were expected to the tune of Rs. 13,50,000 a year on account of rentals from the supply of films. Films would be produced for exhibition in India's cinemas, both in English and Indian languages, and give publicity to subjects in which the Central Government Departments were interested. Films for foreign publicity would constitute an important aspect of the scheme, designed to promote commercial and cultural relationship between India and other countries. Films would also be supplied to the mobile vans operating under the Field Publicity Organisation for exhibition in rural areas.

Field Publicity Organisation

The Publications Division, it was pointed out now conducted, on the external side, long-term publicity of India in overseas countries with a view to increasing India's prestige in the world and her commercial opportunities in potential markets and improving the status of Indians in foreign countries.

As regards the Field Publicity Organisation, it was primarily concerned with publicity in rural areas, through the work of small but mobile and efficient publicity units based on districts. With the cessation of the war, its publicity emphasis had shifted to Government's post-war development schemes and in general to explain plans for the general improvement of the social and material condition of the people as a whole—rural development plans such as improved methods of cultivation, better livestock, organised marketing, financing of agriculture, relief of indebtedness, anti-erosion, irrigation, reclamation measures, etc. The media of publicity would be, making full use of modern methods of transport, radio, cinema, loud speaker, poster and the spoken word. The annual cost of Rs. 48,80,000, it was

pointed out, would be mainly spent in the form of grants to the Provinces at two-thirds of their total expenditure on this count.

All the four proposals were generally approved.

Two important proposals approved by the Committee in respect of the Commerce Department related to the expansion of the Indian Trade Commissioners' service through appointing new Trade Commissioners in Iraq, Ceylon and Burma and the setting up of an Administrative Intelligence Room as a part of the Central Statistical Organisation under the control of the Economic Adviser.

As regards the proposal relating to the Trade Commissioners' service, it was explained that, in order to take advantage of the expanded markets for the export of Indian goods available now and in the future, the Commerce Department proposed to reorganise and expand the service of the Indian Trade Commissioners abroad. As there was a great unsatisfied demand for various consumer goods in the Middle East countries, which held out prospects of markets for Indian manufactures, it was proposed, in addition to offices at Alexandria and Teheran, to open an office at Basra to look after Indian trade interests in Iraq, the Persian Gulf States and Saudi Arabia. **Burma and Ceylon**

To rehabilitate India's trade with Burma, it was also considered essential to have a Trade Commissioner in that country. As India's trade with Ceylon was important and growing, it was necessary to have a Trade Commissioner in Ceylon too. These three posts would be for two years from March next. It was also proposed to extend the term of the Trade Commissioner at Buenos Aires for a further period of three years, as the trade with the South American countries was expanding and held out prospects of further expansion.

The aggregate recurrent expenditure of the above proposal would amount to Rs. 3,45,000 a year.

The proposal relating to the setting up of the Administrative Intelligence Room stated that the organisation would collect, co-ordinate and display statistical information bearing on vital administrative problems which would allow quick decisions to be taken on matters of policy. Since its inception in February 1945, it had already prepared 250 maps, charts and graphs relating to trade and finance, food and agriculture, supplies, distribution of raw materials, civilian consumption, etc. In the coming years, it was expected that the importance of the organisation would increase as it would be called upon to work on important and complicated economic and financial problems of the transition period. It was proposed to retain the organisation for five

years at a recurrent cost of Rs. 1,06,000 in 1944-45 and 1945-46 and Rs. 1,50,000 per year in the subsequent years.

The Posts and Air Department's post-war plans for the development of civil aviation in India and the extension of civil air services, which were approved in principle, aimed at the operation of an efficient and up-to-date system of internal air lines and air services to countries outside India and entailed a capital expenditure of Rs. 17.48 crores, spread over a period of ten years, and a recurrent expenditure of Rs. 4.66 crores per annum. The initial capital and recurring expenditure in 1946-47 would amount to Rs. 2.85 crores. The initial revenue from the operation of the scheme was expected to be Rs. 30 lakhs and after ten years Rs. 94 lakhs. In addition, it was expected that revenue would accrue to the Central Government from the excise duty on petrol consumed by the air services under the plans, estimated at Rs. 66 lakhs initially and Rs. 166 lakhs after ten years.

The plans would comprise: (1) the Internal Air Transport Plan for developing air transport within India, (2) the External Air Transport Plan for the operation by India of air services from this country to countries abroad, (3) programmes for aerodrome and air route construction and organisation, (4) plans for aeronautical training and organisation, aeronautical radio service and aeronautical inspection and organisation, and (5) plan for the post-war Headquarters Organisation of the Civil Aviation Department.

Resettlement Directorate

Explaining the scope and activities of the Resettlement Directorate, which received general approval, it was stated that from March 1945 the responsibility for the resettlement and employment in civil life of demobilised Services personnel and discharged war workers had been assigned to the Labour Department. A scheme had been prepared to set up a co-ordinated Resettlement and Employment Organisation, as well as for the further training of demobilised technicians. In view of the earlier termination of the war than anticipated, it was found necessary to set up a Resettlement Advice Service, which would continue until demobilisation was completed. The scheme also covered the rehabilitation of disabled Services personnel.

The annual expenditure involved in the proposal (excluding the cost of Employment Information Bureaux which would be borne entirely by Provincial Governments) was estimated at about Rs. 3,69,00,000, of which more than two-thirds would relate to the technical training of personnel.



Prof. Sundaram (fifth from right) Educational Liaison Officer with the Agent-General to the Government of India in Washington, with a group of older Indian residents and American volunteers who help him in receiving Indian newcomers to the U.S.

INDIAN STUDENTS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN U.S.A.

Help to New Arrivals

ONE hundred and seventy-five students selected by the Government of India for studies and training abroad have so far reached America in batches. Every one of these students has a place reserved for him at the best available University for his studies.

Arrangements had been made at the Universities to enable the students to begin their studies as early as September last, but, owing to lack of transportation from India, they could not arrive in time in the beginning of the academic year.

The problem of securing hotel accommodation these days is extremely difficult particularly at port towns like New York. Tens of thousands of American soldiers are being brought back from abroad and nearly all hotels are sold solidly in advance. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the Educational Liaison Officer with the Agent General and his staff make arrangements for receiving the students, accommodating them at the port and arranging for further transportation.

At the end of about a month's somewhat trying voyage in a troopship, which does not provide any of the amenities afforded on ocean liners in peacetime, the students disembark. American Red Cross women who meet every one of the troopship with coffee, milk etc., greet these students who are provided with refreshment. Their luggage is collected by the Railway Agencies and transhipped to the rail-road stations. The students leave for hotel where accommodation has been reserved for them. A volunteer group of American and Indian students welcome the new arrivals in the hotel lobby and help them to settle down. A programme for their stay in New York is drawn up which includes visits to places like the Rockefeller Centre, the Empire State Buildings, the Radio City Music Hall, the New York Public Library, Planetarium, Columbia University and the Times Square.

By special arrangement with the Director, Mr. Sundaram, Educational Liaison Officer, holds his meetings with the new students in the spacious hall of International House, the biggest

In the hotel lobby each student fills in a formal application to his chosen University, admissions to which have already been secured by the Educational Liaison Officer.



student centre in New York, where students of forty-eight nationalities make their home.

On the first day of their arrival, representatives of the State Department and local educational institutions and voluntary organisations welcome the students at a small gathering. Each student has to be interviewed separately and in-

struction is given to each group going to the same centre regarding the facilities available for them at the centre to which they have been assigned. Every student is given a letter of introduction to the Dean of the University and he receives also his rail-road ticket from the Travel Agency with details of the itinerary. Bank representatives



Students have lunch at an Indian restaurant in New York, the first Indian meal they have had for several days.



Having spent two or three days in New York after their arrival, the students leave for their respective Universities. Picture shows some of the students at the Grand Central Station about to board their train. They are seen off by Mr. Peter O'Neill.

are present to deliver to each student an advance of \$300,000 as the first instalment of his scholarship amount for immediate expenses on arrival at the University.

To many of the students the most enjoyable of all functions in New York is the Indian luncheon at the only Indian restaurant, the Ceylon India Inn. A good many Americans also participate in the luncheon. To many of the students from India who go into the interior of the country this meal is perhaps the last Indian food they will have unless, of course, they are good cooks and can improvise an Indian meal in their own centre.

After this function the students disperse in different directions—some as far as the West Coast to the Universities in California, Washington and Oregon, some to the mid-western centres like Illinois, Michigan Wistonsin and Minnesota, and some to centres on the Atlantic seaboard.

Thus begins their career of studies in the U.S.A. where they are to study for the next two years or so.

Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, left Delhi by air on March 11 for the U.K. to attend the C.I.G.S.'s Conference of Commanders-in-Chief at Camberley. He expects to return by the end of the month. In the C-in-C's absence, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr will act as Deputy Commander-in-Chief.

SCIENCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Royal Commissioners for the London Exhibition of 1851 have offered to award annually two Science Research Scholarships of the value of £350 per annum for students from Indian Universities or institutions having post-graduate departments of science. The scholarships are post-graduate and are intended to enable the selected students, who have already completed a full University course and whose record indicates a high promise of capacity for advancing science, to devote themselves to research work for two years.

Provincial Governments and Local Administrations have been asked to invite recommendations from Universities and institutions for the scholarships to be awarded in 1946 and to forward them to the Government of India by March 31, 1946.

Candidates must be British subjects, or British protected persons, being subjects of Indian States, and should be below the age of 28 years on May 1, 1946. Applications of candidates above the prescribed age will be considered only under very special circumstances. A period of war service will be regarded as "special circumstances."

No application from a student residing in India or abroad will be considered unless it is recommended by the authorities of a University or institution in India.

METEOROLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS IN INDIA

FOR the first time experiments are to be undertaken in India for determining the distribution of temperature in the stratosphere at levels beyond the reach of hydrogen balloons. Important and interesting results are expected from these experiments for which the Central Provinces has been chosen as the venue.

The exact knowledge of the distribution of temperature in the upper atmosphere is a material aid to the study of atmospheric conditions and to the study of conditions for high level flying, particularly rocket plane flying. It is quite possible that this type of knowledge was utilised by the Germans in determining the trajectory of their rockets.

The sun's spots, as is well known, cause magnetic and electrical disturbances on the surface of the earth. This is due to a disturbance in the radiation emanating from the sun. Differences in temperature in the tropo and strato spheres are correlated with the amount of ozone in the upper air which in its turn is governed by the ultra-violet radiation from the sun. A connection between them undoubtedly exists and the study of these phenomena may be expected to throw light on the internal mechanism of weather.

Army authorities in India are actively assisting in the experiments by supplying the required ammunition, arranging for the explosions and making available precision electrical apparatus which will be set up at a number of stations for the accurate recording of the sound waves caused by the explosions.

Experimental Stations

The proposed plan is to arrange for a series of experimental explosions from three stations in the Central Provinces, Jubbulpore, Amla and Phulgaon; the stations will be in the corners of a triangle so that, by using the averages of observed sound speeds in the different directions, the effect of wind in the upper atmosphere can be largely eliminated. Accurately rated watches to be checked against time-signals broadcast shortly before and after the explosions, will be provided for about 100 observers, who will record sound waves at various stations suitably distributed around the sites of the explosions. The army Department is to loan about a dozen autographic sound recording instruments which will be worked in co-operation with different Physics Institutes. These explosions will be arranged in four different months in the

year to study seasonal variations. In each of these months there will be twenty-four explosions on two consecutive days from the stations.

Abnormalities have been observed in the propagation of sound waves from loud explosions and these serve to give valuable information about the distribution of temperature in the upper atmosphere at levels beyond the range of direct instrumental observation. Professor Piccard, who went up in his famous balloon, reached a height of about 15 km. Sounding balloons are able to reach a height of about 30 km. Instruments cannot therefore be sent up beyond this height and, for the exploration of the region above, other methods have to be adopted. Temperature, which becomes less as we go upwards for a few miles from the earth's crust, tends to increase as we proceed further from the surface, till at 40 km. it is the same as at the earth's surface. Beyond the troposphere at about 100 km. from the earth's surface occurs what is known as the Heaviside layer and still higher at 230-300 km. occurs the Appleton layer. The temperature at the Appleton layer has been estimated from radio observation to be approximately 1,200° F.

Explosion Sound Waves

In the propagation of sound waves there is first an area extending for about 60 miles round the centre of the explosion in which the sound is audible with decreasing intensity. Beyond this region there is a belt extending to about 125 miles from the centre, called the zone of silence in which the sound is completely inaudible. But further away, there is another belt where the sound becomes again audible, until for a second time it vanishes. In some cases there may be a second zone of silence and a third zone of audibility; that is, around an explosion, there may be one area of normal audibility and one or more belts of abnormal audibility, separated by zones of silence.

This phenomenon is anomalous to "skip distance" in radio waves which is due to the reflection of these waves from various levels at high altitudes. The atmosphere which similarly reflects sound waves has various strata. The lowest stratum is called the troposphere and it extends to about 16 km. The temperature decreases with elevation in this strata and at 16 km. the temperature is actually about 125° F below freezing point. In the next layer,

called the stratosphere, the temperature is very nearly up to 25 km. and thereafter slowly increases with height. Observations in 1922 of luminosity of meteors showed the existence of high temperature between 40 to 80 km. It is from the lower boundary of this layer called the ozonosphere—the shell which contains the ozone in the atmosphere—that sound waves are reflected. Beyond this sound waves do not travel.

The importance of the study of loud sound waves centres round this high temperature strata which reflects sound waves. The distribution of temperature over India has till now been studied by means of sounding balloons. Interesting results have been obtained up to about 30 km. reached by hydrogen balloons carrying self-recording instruments. It has been found for instance that the tropopause or upper limit of the troposphere is about 17 km. above sea level while in temperature latitudes it is at a height of 10 to 12 km. only. Curiously the tropopause over India is also colder. The India Meteorological Department was the first to discover that the coldest air in the stratosphere lies not over the poles but over the equator in the form of a ring (like the Saturn's ring).

TWELFTH ARMY'S REHABILITATION WORK IN BURMA

Equally impressive as its record in the liberation of Burma is the Twelfth Army's achievements in the rehabilitation of the country. The Twelfth Army, which stood down on January 1, had seven months' existence and during that time, maintained 3,000 miles of roads of all types which will continue to be kept in good order by the newly-formed Burma Command.

The 150 Bailey bridges which were erected include the famous 320-feet suspension bridge at Pegu, the first of its kind in the country. Two hundred more have been repaired and strengthened, writes an Army Observer.

Despite the shortage of rolling stocks, the through line from Rangoon to Mandalay is now in working order and the whole railway system has been overhauled.

The original tanks of the Syrian oil project with a nine million gallon capacity have been restored and two new ones with a two million gallon capacity have been set up. In addition to the two six-inch submarine cables under the Pegu river, 80 miles of pipe line have been laid.

The old pre-war water system has been restored in Rangoon, Moulmein, Pegu, Melktila and Maymyo. Electricity supplies have been laid on far Rangoon, Moulmein and Maymyo.

Scholarships Abroad For Service Personnel

SERVICES candidates may now apply for a number of Government scholarships for advanced studies abroad during 1946-47. These scholarships are for technical and scientific subjects.

The duration of the courses will be approximately two years and the training will be at Government expense. Details regarding qualifications and procedure for applications are given in a special Indian Army Order issued recently.

British Indian subjects as well as Indian States subjects are eligible to apply provided they possess at least a good graduate's degree in the subject or in the basic science concerned. Preference will be given to candidates who have already shown special aptitude for advanced training or research and hence likely to make the best use of their opportunities overseas.

Judging from the selections for 1945-46, it is unlikely that candidates will succeed in obtaining an award who do not possess at least a first-class graduate's degree or equivalent qualifications.

Employment

Candidates should not be more than 30 or less than 19 years of age on July 1, 1946, but in special cases this age limit may be waived by the Government of India. A certificate of physical fitness is also required with particular reference to the applicant's ability to bear the climate of the country to which he proposes to go.

Selected students will be required to undertake to serve the Government of India, after completion of their course of instruction, for a period of five years, if required to do so in a gazetted post, or to take up for a similar period other comparable employment, if so directed by the Government.

Every endeavour will be made to find for all students, who satisfactorily complete the approved courses of studies, gazetted appointments under the Government of India or other comparable employment. It should, however, be understood clearly that selection for an approved course of study does not carry with it any guarantee of employment and that the selection for appointment in any Central Service will depend on the rules and regulations in force at the time.

DEVELOPMENT OF SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

THE Government of India have placed Rs. 1 crore and 25 lakhs at the disposal of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee for the development of the sugarcane industry.

To utilise this fund, various agricultural and technological research schemes were considered by the Committee at its fourth meeting held in New Delhi on February 8, under the chairmanship of Sir H.R. Stewart, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and President of the Committee.

The development work will comprise the establishment of seed nurseries and the provision of (a) manures of the right type (b) qualified technical personnel to carry the results of research to sugarcane growers (c) an efficient Watch and Ward Service for the protection of crop against pests and diseases, and (d) a soil extension service to advise sugarcane growers.

Five-Year Scheme

The Committee decided to finance a five-year scheme dealing with an expedition to collect wild forms of *Saccharum Spontaneum*. The discovery that cultivated canes could be crossed with this wild grass, and the subsequent production from that grass of the well-known Coimbatore varieties, have revolutionised sugarcane growing and the manufacturing industry in the country during the last quarter of a century. The Committee felt that the possibilities in this connection had not yet been exhausted and the potentialities of the fresh material



Sugarcane being planted.

which this expedition would provide would be determined at the Central Sugarcane Breeding Station at Coimbatore.

A crop Weather Scheme was also financed to take up long-term research on the correlation between climatic factors and sugarcane



A sugarcane field.

growth and yield. The Committee also recommended that the Sugar Controller for India be requested to accept a basic grade standard for Khandsari sugar and to fix a suitable price, allowing a discount for the qualities which were lower than the basic standard.

At its last meeting, the Committee had decided to set up its own Technological Institute linked and located with its Central Agricultural Research Station. The selection of a site for the twin institutes was left to a Sub-Committee which is expected to make its recommendations shortly when a final decision will be taken.

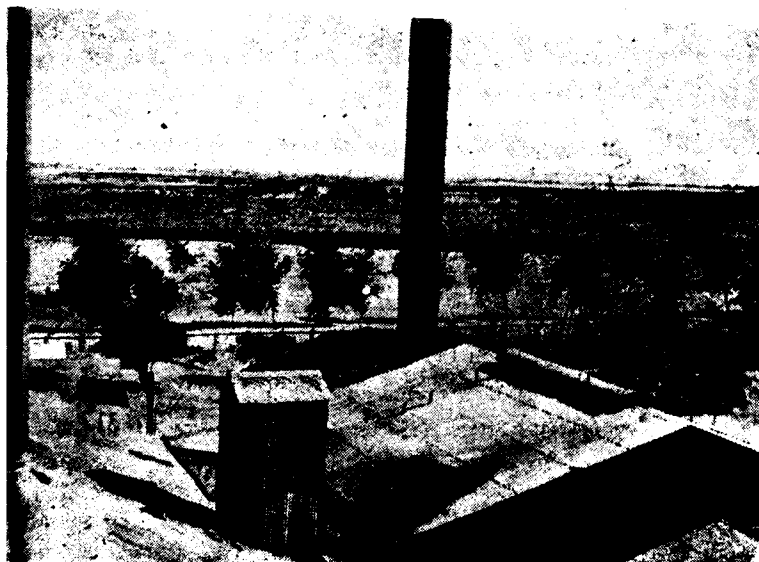
The Committee adopted a resolution recommending that an Agricultural Officer with experience in sugarcane be appointed on the permanent staff of the Committee to advise on technical matters.

Trolleys loaded with sugarcane

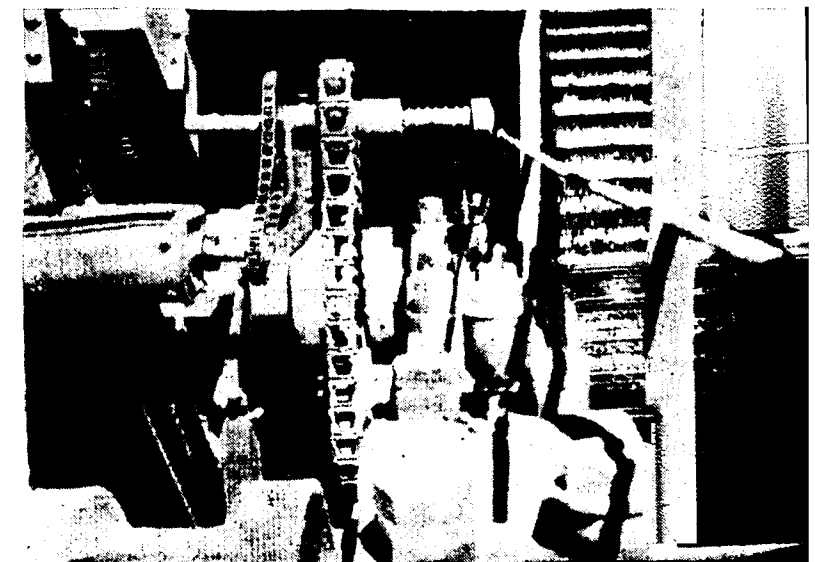
arrive at the factory.



A sugar mill.



A cane crusher in an Indian sugar factory.



NO EXPORTS OF FOODGRAINS FROM INDIA

Mr. B.R. Sen's Statement

MR. B. R. Sen, Food Secretary to the Government of India, has issued the following statement:

My attention has been drawn to two statements attributed to Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti of Madras and Mr. Khemka, President of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, which have appeared in certain newspapers alleging that exports of foodgrains from India were allowed last year in spite of Government statements to the contrary. This criticism is based on a misapprehension of facts. The Government of India stopped all exports of foodgrains from the country in 1943. The embargo on export is effective and is strictly and scrupulously observed. The figures appearing in the Sea-Borne Trade Accounts as export of rice from India from April to November 1945, are easily explained. The following are the figures:—

Ceylon		42,302 tons
Arabia		468 tons
U. K.		23 tons
Bahrain Island		5 tons
Others		62 tons
Total		42,860 tons

Supplies Replaced

The main item is that regarding Ceylon. As the programme of shipment of rice to Ceylon from Brazil and Egypt broke down from time to time, we came to the rescue of Ceylon at the special request of His Majesty's Government who undertook to replace these quantities as soon as we needed them. The bulk of these movements took place in May and August last. The entire quantity has since been made good by H. M. G. by imports.

The figures shown against Arabia represent rice sent to the Trucial Coast. This was red and joshi Sind rice, damaged by rain, which was offered to all deficit areas in the country and refused as unacceptable to their people. Had this rice not been disposed of in the manner it was done, it would have become a total loss.

The quantity shown against the U. K. consisted of gift parcels sent through the post

not exceeding in each case 8 lbs. Steps are being taken to stop this practice even though the quantity involved is nominal.

The quantities shown against Bahrain Islands and others, namely 67 tons, were permitted to go out for Indian seamen of the Merchant Navy in Indian Ocean ports and for Indian personnel along the air line routes.

It is not the intention of Government to relax the prohibition against export of foodgrains. On the contrary, all necessary steps are being, and will be taken, to prevent any leakage of foodgrains or other foodstuffs from the country.

INDIA'S RICE PRODUCTION

"The estimates of rice production in India attributed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture which have recently appeared in the Press are likely to give a completely erroneous picture of the situation and are based on a misunderstanding", stated a representative of the Food Department when his attention was drawn to the figure of 25,890,000 tons which was stated to be India's production of rice in 1945-46 and above the pre-war figures by about 1,116,000 tons. It was not known how these figures had been arrived at, but possibly the production in 1945-46 had been compared with that of a single pre-war year 1938-39, when India's rice production was extremely low.

As compared to the average pre-war production, which was about 26,500,000 tons, the figure for 1945-46 actually shows a decline of about 1,500,000 tons. In addition it was pointed out that, according to the Famine Inquiry Commission, Bengal's pre-war figures were underestimates, and, if this was taken into account, the average pre-war production would be higher and the deficiency would be even greater. After taking into account the damage caused by the cyclone in Madras, India's rice crop in 1945-46 is estimated to be between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 tons less than the average of the immediate pre-war years.

It is emphasised that in making comparisons of pre-war and present production, due consideration must be given to the absence of carryovers from previous harvests. Formerly India could rely on substantial reserves and large imports of Burma rice to carry her through lean years.

INDIA CANNOT FACE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER FAMINE



Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar's
Appeal to the United Nations

"It is a matter of infinite privilege to me that I should have to come and stand on this platform, not indeed to assure you that my country will do whatever it can to relieve suffering humanity, but rather to plead that the eyes of all the nations which have surpluses and who can spare surpluses should be turned on my unfortunate country at the present time," said Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar speaking on the United Nations resolution on the food situation and the means of averting famine at the General Assembly on February 14.

"The resolution has been sponsored by the five permanent members of the Security Council and it is an indication that, not only is this a great humanitarian problem with which this Assembly is faced today, but that it is also equally a problem which goes to the whole root of security and peace itself. But this afternoon, if you will pardon me, I should like to em-

phasize and to speak of the humanitarian aspect of this problem and to give a very brief review of the position of my country in this regard at the present time. I do not propose to put statistics before the Assembly, but I wish to review the general position of the country during the last three or four years.

"The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom has told you that, apart from countries which have suffered ravages owing to the occupation of the enemy, there are countries today which are in an equally unfortunate position because of the ravages of nature itself. In my own country cyclones, storms and droughts have all combined during the last three months to wreck the hopes that we had entertained that we might be able, in a reasonable measure, to be self-sufficient in the matter of food. But we are now faced with the problem that the importation of the very necessary cereals upon which the whole life of India is based may be at the very minimum possible.

"We realise that the countries of Europe needed to be fed by imports from abroad, we were hoping, therefore, that our own claims, our own appeals (I shall not, and dare not, call them demand) would be at the minimum possible. It was because we had heard of the oppression of the whole of humanity that we hoped and prayed that our own demands would be at the minimum possible, but alas nature has played a trick on us which is of a very sorry kind. We find ourselves at the present time faced with a calamitous prospect for the future and faced with deficiencies for which we could not possibly in any way provide, whatever the measures of rationing we introduced into our country. It is estimated that if each individual were to restrict himself to only eight ounces of cereal, then it is only just possible to carry on. You will easily realize what eight ounces of cereal means when I say further that the people of India cannot possibly take the other foodstuffs that can be taken by other countries. We do not want frozen meat, and we do not want and cannot eat ham and beef and things like that. Most of the people live purely on cereal—wheat, rice, maize and barley and things of that kind—therefore, the problem has become a very serious problem indeed.

"But you will pardon me if I take you back to the last two or three years and give you a picture of India in 1942 and 1943, because I believe it has a very vital bearing on the present situation. I need not tell this audience of the

efforts that India has made by its armies for the successful termination of the war, but I shall tell you what India did in another direction, a story which has not been told. India went into rationing, more than two or three years ago, of many of its foodstuffs, clothing, shoes and other commodities, and in the year 1942-43 there occurred that famine about which practically every member of this audience is aware—a dreadful famine in which according to official accounts, a million and a half people died of food starvation, not in concentration camps, not in occupied countries, not through the cruelty and torture of the enemy, but merely because they could not have enough to sustain body and soul—1,500,000 according to official accounts, three or four million according to non-official accounts.

"In the streets of Calcutta, the second largest city in British Commonwealth, it was a common sight to get up in the morning and see on the pavement women, children and men dead just because they could not have enough to eat. That is a terrible experience and an experience which has seared our brain and burned itself into our hearts and we cannot, dare not, face the prospect of a similar starvation in our country again, and that is why I emphasise that the resolution which the five great Powers have sponsored has as much a political and security bearing as a humanitarian bearing.

Aid To Russia

"But what did we do even when we were suffering like that? when our people were dying by the millions of starvation? We tried to help, not merely in the armed conflicts but in every other way, the fighting and needy people in other countries in directions in which we could help them. We did not steel our hearts in bitterness with what was happening—in bitterness because we could not get imports of grain; in bitterness because the shipping we needed was unavailable and had to be turned to the needs of the armed force and the successful termination of the war, in bitterness because to whomsoever we applied we got little encouragement and less of the grain we needed so badly.

"In spite of that position, we tried to do what we could. We decreased our ration and sent to Russia and other places the food which their army and civilians needed so badly in the tormenting cruel winters in the fight they waged around Stalingrad so heroically and in other places against the German enemy. We sent sugar and other things to the Middle East and we rationed our clothing supplies and supplied

to the armed forces in the Middle East and other places the khaki uniforms they needed, and to the civilian populations in the Middle East and the Middle West we sent to the extent that we could spare from our surplus with a minimum ration for ourselves, all the clothes that it was possible to send.

"And while a million and a half people officially were dying of starvation, and three millions as I have said unofficially were estimated to have died, there was not one foreign person in my country, man, woman or child, prisoner of war from Italy and Germany, refugees from Poland by the thousands, not one foreign person was allowed to starve or suffer in any way during all that terrible period. It may be a very fantastic way of exercising that traditional hospitality for which our country is known, but it was done and it is a fact. And now when we dare not, and cannot, face another alternative like that, we turn to the countries which we tried to help even when we were in sore need. We turn to Russia and say: "Would you not help us? Would you not tell us what surplus you have got?"

Freedom from Want

"I heard the other day in the electioneering speech that the great General Stalin made on the eve of that wonderful election which returned him by a hundred per cent vote, I heard the other day Marshal Stalin say, that he was removing rationing from Russia. I was happy, really happy, to know that the stage had arrived in that country where rationing could be removed and I appeal to my colleagues from Russia, colleagues in this United Nations, colleagues in humanitarian activities, colleagues who know what it is to take care of the working man, who have established in their own country a tradition of helpfulness to the working man and want to see established in all parts of the world the same tradition, I turn to them humbly and respectfully and make an appeal: Shall we not have from Russia, when we are in sore need, that which will keep our bodies and souls together, the bare foodgrains you can spare us, even as we have sent you what we could spare, help for the people in the cold of Northern India, which you will surely understand. I turn also to other countries alike and I tell them this is the opportunity you all have to make the United Nations Organisation a living reality to the common man from all the countries of the world, tell them to prove to them that the United Nations objectives of taking care of the fundamental freedoms are realities and, after all, the foremost and most important of them all is freedom from want.

"I am certain that India does not appeal in vain. I was glad and I was overcome with appreciation to hear the delegate from America speak of the sacrifices they proposed to make, the cuts they proposed, the restrictions they propose to adopt, so as to get a greater surplus and to send it to suffering humanity in the West and in the East. The American people have proved what a great heart they have. During all this time they have proved by their wonderful contributions in the form of Lease-Lend to various countries how they could sustain the war and the lives of the people. It is no wonder that the delegate for the United States should have made a similar gesture at present.

"Yes, people all over the world have the measure of goodwill to help those who cannot help themselves in this one critical period, when starvation endangers not only the few but many and can be stopped only by the generous help of many other countries. One has only to make an appeal to the people of the various countries, the Government may be a little conservative, a little afraid; Governments may feel that their position may be a little shaky, but I tell them to take courage in their hands, put the position as they see it and realise it to the people of their countries and there will be no question of any Government being refused that help which comes from the common man in every country in the world for the prevention of the suffering of humanity.

"I told you that I was fully aware of the conditions in Europe and let there be no mistake, no misunderstanding whatsoever, that there is no competition between the West and the East in this matter, that while we are acutely aware of the needs of Europe we have come here; we have need to present our own case to see that some little attention may be directed to the affairs in the East also, and particularly to my country, India.

Testing Time

"The Prime Minister of a great country some years back deprecated any undue interest being taken by his country and his people in the affairs of a nation which was far off and in her people, of whom little was known. What a tragedy that attitude led to history knows, and the delegates who are assembled here in this hall know. No, there is no country too far off from your hearts; there is no people about whom you do not know as common beings, as common humanity, whose affairs you dare disinterest yourself in. Therefore, I venture to make an appeal to all those countries who are

fortunately in the position of the haves at this moment to do their little bit, to do a little bit of the tightening of the belt, if I may use that common phrase, to see that the harrowing sufferings which are in the offing for millions of people in most parts of the country are avoided in some measure and to some extent. "Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long." How true, how tragically true, that is, particularly of the people of the East, and it is that little of those few grains from the rich table of those who have that now is asked for by the countries so unfortunately placed.

"The United Nations is here gathered; it is the testing time of the United Nations; it is that touch of common humanity which this United Nations has proved it has which will prove the work of this United Nations Organisation and bring home to the people as nothing else will that this organisation is concerned with the welfare of the common man and that the common man must stand solidly behind this organisation. What is the peace that one can offer, what is the security that one can offer to men and women and to the babies who are dying of starvation? Is it the peace of the grave, the security of six feet of untrodden earth? That is not what we are going to offer to them, we must offer the consolation that a common feeling of humanity moves us all, that in the interests of that common humanity all of us are willing to make fairly equal sacrifices as we did during the war and as we shall do in times of peace.

Abundant Sympathy

"I have had assurances from that large-hearted gentleman, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, on behalf of that large-hearted country, that they will do what they can to alleviate the miseries of the people who are suffering from pure want. I have had assurances from my colleague of Canada that he will ask his Government to do what it can. My friend from Australia has just repeated a similar assurance. Whatever differences we may have had among the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations on the platform and in the ballot box, in common service to humanity we stand four-square. That is the message that I want to take back to my people from the members of the Commonwealth and may I not extend that area of common humanity? I am sure that I can, from the speeches that I have heard from my colleague from the Soviet Union, from my colleague from the United States, from my colleague from Norway who said that out of the little they can spare they will do what they can to help humanity. That abundant human sym-

(Continued on page 335)

THE PROBLEM OF MILK SUPPLY IN INDIA

Government Take Action on Pepperall Report

GOVERNMENT have taken action on the Pepperall Report on the dairy industry in India. Mr. R.A. Pepperall, Chief Executive Officer of the British Milk Marketing Board, toured India last year as Milk Marketing Adviser to Government. His terms of reference were to make a rapid survey of the problems involved in the supply of milk to Indian cities, particularly procurement, transport, processing (if any), quality and price control; to make recommendations for both short-term and long-term policies and to prepare, if possible, a detailed scheme for the organised marketing of milk to a large town, particularly in relation to Bombay and Delhi.

The Report does not deal with the latter item in any detail, but the restatement of many of the unsatisfactory features of the existing conditions of supply in large cities call for urgent action. The problem, the Report states, is one of "unparalleled dimensions" compared with most countries and involves more than 22,800,000 individual producers all over the country. It adds that India is by no means the only country where the standard of integrity is low nor is the dairy industry alone in affording opportunities for fraud. But it is nevertheless a fact that a very large sum of money and other considerations are forthcoming as a reward for their various malpractices by many of those engaged in it.

Inefficiency of Industry

The Report describes the present degree of efficiency of the dairy industry throughout India as "probably the lowest in the whole world." It observes, however, that a point which immediately impresses an investigator accustomed to the elaborate organisation of producers, distributors and manufacturers which exists elsewhere is "the entire lack of any recognised channel through which matters affecting the industry can be represented to those in authority; similarly to find that official appreciation of its importance has been on such a low level as to admit of the destinies of the dairy industry being entrusted as a part-time occupation to the veterinary services." At the same time the Report attributes to the general public "almost total apathy in a matter which affects their health and incidentally their pockets."

The Report contains a strongly worded indictment of the conditions of milking stables in

Bombay, Calcutta and many other cities and quotes from a test of 247 samples of milk made at Calcutta. In one case the fat content was 0.9 per cent; in another added water to the extent of 87 per cent was disclosed and the general average of added water for all the samples exceeded 25 per cent. "The practice of adding water or other substances to milk is so common," continues the Report, "as to cause little comment; the main interest lies not in the adulteration itself but to the extent thereof."

On the subject of feeding of dairy animals, the Report says this should consist of roughage such as hay, a sufficiency of green fodder and suitable concentrates. "The state of semi-starvation to which they are exposed is the main reason for the very low milk yields in India, and the quickest way to increase them can be found in the adequate feeding of the animal whereby an immediate reward of 100 per cent. or more in milk yield can be assured." In regard to adulteration of milk, the Report points out that "the poverty of the producer compels him to accept an advance from his buyer which is offset against the quantity of milk supplied." The remedy suggested is that there should be a fixed price for the producer and a low price for the consumer.

Other Recommendations

The Report has suggested that in every Province a Milk Commission should be set up with a Commissioner, a paid Director and Advisory Board nominated by Government, and at the Centre co-ordinated milk policy as part of an all-India food policy should be adopted and implemented through a Central Milk Director. He urges that Directors of Milk should be recruited from overseas and given salaries of not less than £3,000 per annum as it is hard for Indians to take the drastic and unpopular action necessary.

Other recommendations are: (1) The cow should be developed for dual purposes of milk and draught (2) cattle from city stables should be dislodged and colonised in more natural environments (3) Berseem should be grown more extensively than at present in irrigated areas (4) village areas should be utilised for cultivating and feeding green fodder in preference to grazing (5) a total ban should be imposed on the export overseas of oilseeds and cakes from India (6) dairy appliances and utensils of uniform standards should be manufactured in India (7) the existing legal standards for pure milk should be re-examined (8) the activities of the Military Dairy Farms should

be restricted with regard to the manufacture of milk products and their export (9) manufacture of milk products should be confined to remote rural areas (10) the export of cattle from the Punjab to Bombay and Calcutta for milk production should be replaced by the export of evaporated milk manufactured in the Punjab (11) manufacture of butter in India should be discouraged; instead it should be imported from New Zealand and other Dominions (12) cheap milk should be provided for priority consumers (13) producers should be organised into Co-operative societies (14) the manufacture of dairy products should be controlled by licensing (15) modern dairies should be established in cities and (16) dairy farms should be established.

Measures To Improve Milk Supply

The Government of India have invited the attention of Provincial Governments to these recommendations and have stressed the need for expediting action on such measures as have not received adequate attention so far. Schemes have already been drawn up in some Provinces for the setting up of a Milk Control Board and appointing Dairy Development Officers. But the suggestion for the importation of Dairy Directors has not been endorsed.

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute at the Centre and the various Provincial Governments have already taken measures to tackle the problem of milk supply and further action is being taken to achieve the desired results. Several Provinces have started separate departments for dairy development. The technique of artificial insemination under Indian conditions is being perfected at the I.V.R.I. and work on a full scale has been started at a few centres both on farms and in city cattle stables.

The policy of developing the cow for the dual purposes of milk and draught has been followed by the provinces wherever possible. The dislodging of cattle from city stables and colonising them in more natural environments is the accepted policy of Government and specific steps are being taken by some of the large cities like Bombay, Madras and Calcutta to give effect to it. Berseem is grown wherever irrigation facilities and soil and climatic conditions permit. Green fodder is cultivated wherever there are irrigation facilities but most of the areas kept for grazing are unfit for fodder cultivation.

Manufacture of simple types of utensils like dairy pails, milk cans, strainers, etc., to meet the demand of local dairymen at com-

paratively low prices has been fairly well established during the war and encouragement is provided for the manufacture of high grade equipment. The I.C.A.R. and the Food Standards Committee are considering the re-examination of the existing legal standards for pure milk. The manufacture of milk products in the rural areas is the accepted policy of Government. The suggestion in the Report that butter should not be manufactured in India, is being further examined as it is feared that such a course might adversely affect the development of the Dairy Industry.

Schemes for the supply of cheap milk to priority consumers have been in operation in several large towns since the outbreak of the war under the guidance of the Food Department. Concrete schemes for organising producers into co-operative societies are being taken up by the Provinces. The establishment of modern dairies in cities forms part of the Provincial schemes. Mr. Pepperall has suggested that experiment should be conducted on the feeding of fish to cattle for supplementing the existing available cattle feeds. The fish produced in India is required for human consumption and cannot be available for cattle feed.

NEW CHIEF ENGINEER, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Mr. N.F. Frome, formerly Chief Additional Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs Department, has been appointed Chief Engineer in succession to Sir Percy Enmunds who retired recently.

Mr. Frome, who came out to India in 1923, has been in turn Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Posts and Telegraphs, Post Master-General, Central Circle, and Deputy Director-General, Telegraphs. As Additional Chief Engineer in charge of the Construction Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Frome has been responsible for the execution of the Rs. 16-crore Telecommunications Development Scheme.

He earned the D.F.C. in the last war while on active service, and his work for the T.D. Scheme earned him the award of a C.I.E. last year. An M.Sc. from Bristol and a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, he has kept his academic interest in engineering alive by contributing a large number of technical papers on tele-communications, the practical side of which he has handled in India during the last six years. Born in 1899 Mr. Frome is the youngest officer to have been appointed to the post of a Chief Engineer in the Post and Telegraphs.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

Report of Commonwealth Relations

Department for 1944-45

N EARLY 1,00,000 evacuees and "dependents" in India of British subjects detained in enemy-occupied territories were in receipt of relief, and the amount disbursed was about Rs. 195 lakhs, according to the Commonwealth Relations Department's review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1944-45.

Financial assistance to evacuee university students from the enemy-occupied countries to enable them to resume their interrupted courses of study in Indian Universities was continued during the year. The total grants sanctioned in three academic years amounted to just over Rs. 3,85,000.

The Central Government formulated during the year a scheme for the long-term maintenance of refugee orphans in India of British Indian parentage. The scheme, which will be administered by the provincial authorities, makes provision for the maintenance, care and education of refugee orphans till they attain majority and for safeguarding their interests.

Emigration

In order to deal directly with all emigration problems in the post-war period on a uniform all-India basis, the Government of India resumed, in October 1944, the administration of their functions under the Indian Emigration Act, which had been delegated to the Provincial Governments. A Controller General of Emigration was appointed for this purpose.

Giving an outline of the developments leading to the enforcement of the Reciprocity Act against South Africa, the review says: "Public opinion in India was also shocked by the passing of the Natal Residential Property Regulation Ordinance. The Government of India represented to the Union Government that the new measure was unwarranted and likely to provoke serious repercussions in India, but their representations went unheeded. The Government of India were then constrained to have recourse counter-measures, which they had so far assiduously avoided, despite the pressure brought to bear on them by the Indian public, in the hope that the Union Government would after all find some satisfactory solution of the Indian problem. On November 3, 1944, the Reciprocity Act was brought into force against

South Africa. In the Central Legislature the Union Government were almost unanimously accused of an anti-Indian policy and bad faith. The House urged the Government to enforce economic sanctions against South Africa and to recall their High Commissioner immediately."

Kenya Land Control Ordinances

The Kenya Land Control Ordinance 1944 and the Crown Lands (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944, were both very strongly opposed by the Indians in Kenya.

The Government of India made representations to His Majesty's Government, requesting that the Royal assent to them be withheld. Both the Bills, however, received Royal assent in December, 1944. Under these Ordinances, the Land Control Board would be in a position effectively to prevent the acquisition of land by an Indian in the Kenya Highlands even if the Governor should be willing to permit such acquisition. The Ordinances also provide that inter-racial transfer of shares, etc. of companies holding land situated in the Kenya Highlands cannot be effected without the prior written sanction of the Governor.

The Review points out that for some time there have been indications of a growing move among certain sections of Europeans in Africa for a Pan-African Federation which stands for "closer relationship, better co-operation and larger collaboration" between South, East and Central African territories. The apprehension of Indians, as voiced by the Indian members of the Kenya legislature, is that any affiliations with the Union of South Africa would lead to the spread of the anti-Asiatic policy of the Union Government to other territories as well.

Labour Conditions in Mauritius

The Commission, which was appointed to enquire into the disturbances on sugar plantations in Mauritius said to have been caused by unsatisfactory economic conditions and low wages on the estates, has made far-reaching recommendations for the improvement of labour conditions, general welfare and health services, and the general administrative machinery. The Government of Mauritius have taken action on certain recommendations in regard to the improvement of labour conditions.

As the result of representations made by the Government of India, the language test for franchise in Trinidad has been abolished.

Indians form about one-third of the total population of Trinidad and the language test, which laid down that a voter should be able to understand the English language when spoken, would have affected them adversely. Trinidad will thus have universal adult franchise.

Labour Conditions In Ceylon

Both the tea and rubber industries in Ceylon continued to be prosperous during the year, and there was plenty of work for the labourers. In July 1944, the Ceylon Estates Employers' Federation was inaugurated. In future, the Federation will be the body responsible for negotiations between the planting employers and employee unions.

The Government of Ceylon did not take action in pursuance of the discussion which the Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon had with the Minister of Labour to provide for compensation in the dearness allowance rates for estate labourers to liquidate the disparity between the controlled prices and the prices at which the articles are actually available to the labourers, and the present practice of computing the cost of living index continues to affect the labour adversely.

A Royal Commission under the chairmanship of Lord Soulbury visited Ceylon to examine and discuss proposals for constitutional reforms in Ceylon and the case of the Indians in Ceylon was presented to them by local Indian organisations.

NEW CONCESSION TO DAILY NEWSPAPERS

At its last meeting in New Delhi, the Newspaper Advisory Committee urged the Government of India to cancel the provision in the Newspaper Control Order, 1944, which prohibited the publication of more than one edition of a daily newspaper in a single day in any one locality. Government have accepted this recommendation and the ban has been lifted with effect from to-day, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, on February 8.

It added: A revised Order, entitled the Newspaper Control Order, 1946, has been issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies and comes into effect immediately, superseding the Order of 1944. The new Order incorporates all the provisions of the old one excepting clause 3, which prohibited the publication on the same day of more than one edition of any daily newspaper in the same locality.

CIVILIAN PASSAGES TO FAR EAST AND BURMA

IN order to meet the urgent desire of evacuees now in India who wish to return to their homes, and of others who wish to rejoin their families in the Far East and also of business men who wish to proceed to the Far East, it is necessary, till such time as shipping conditions return to normal, that all passages to the Far East should be controlled by the Government of India.

The Government of India have approached ALFSEA and it is hoped that very shortly a certain number of ships will be made available for this purpose. In the meantime, persons wishing to proceed to the Far East should, if they have not already done so, apply as follows in order to be brought on one central list.

Evacuees from the Far Eastern British possessions, Malaya, Hongkong etc. should register themselves for repatriation with C.D. Ahearne, Esq., C.M.G., Malayan Representative's Office, Menkwa Building, Outram Road, Bombay. Evacuees from the Far Eastern countries other than the British possessions should apply to the Secretary to the Government of India, External Affairs Department, New Delhi.

Registration of Evacuees

Persons other than evacuees, wishing to proceed to British possessions in the Far East for business or other valid reasons, should apply to the Controller of Priority Passages for the Far East, Government of India, Commonwealth Relations Department, New Delhi. Again, persons other than evacuees, desiring to proceed to non-British possessions in the Far East, should apply to the Secretary to the Government of India, External Affairs Department, New Delhi.

Registration of evacuees wishing to return to Burma is now proceeding and the registered persons will, in due course, be called up when shipping and other conditions permit. Persons other than evacuees, who wish to proceed to Burma, should apply in the first instance to the Secretary to the Government of India, Commonwealth Relations Department (Burma Repatriation Section), New Delhi.

The Bureau of Public Information will in future be known as the Press Information Bureau.

HIDES, SKINS AND LEATHER

Export Problems Discussed



IS it more profitable, from the point of view of national economy, to export raw material or process it and then export? This question loomed large with reference to hides and skins, problems connected with the export of which were discussed in New Delhi on February 9, at a conference on hides, skins and leather convened by the Commerce Department.

The Hon'ble Sir Azizul Huque, Commerce Member, presided, and about 50 representatives of trades associations interested in hides and skins and manufactures thereof from the different producing or trading centres of the country like Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Karachi, Cawnpore, Agra, Amritsar, etc., attended the conference. There were also official representatives from the Departments concerned such as Commerce, Industries and Supplies and Agriculture.

Welcoming the members of the conference, the Hon'ble Sir Azizul Huque said that, during the last few months, conflicting opinions had been expressed by various concerned interests regarding the position and export needs of raw hides and skins, tanned hides and leather and leather manufactures. It was therefore considered desirable that a conference of all the interests should be convened as early as possible so that, through discussions across the table, these divergent views could be reconciled and Government enabled thereby to evolve a harmonious export policy regarding the raw material, the processed goods and the manufactures thereof. He therefore looked to the conference for proper guidance to enable Government to come to correct conclusions in the matter.

The present position of the exports of different varieties of hides, skins and leather goods was explained to the conference. It then discussed the export problems relating

Leather making is a big Indian industry and is concentrated particularly in the South. Here, leather is being "scudded", an operation by which small hairs, dirt, etc. are removed from untanned hides with blunt knives.

thereto under the major heads of raw hides, tanned hides and leather, raw and tanned goat and sheep skins and leather manufactures.

The general opinion was that it was more desirable to export processed goods than the materials in their raw state. There was substantial support to the view that it was lop-sided economy to export a raw material and import in return finished goods manufactured therefrom, while it could be processed or converted into manufactured goods within the country itself. It was considered desirable, generally speaking, in the interests of increased employment and a higher standard of life in the country that, as far as possible, its raw material resources should be utilised for local industrial development.

It was also, however, suggested that exports should be permitted—because without exports India could not import the necessary capital and other goods which she might require for her well-being and economic progress—of the surpluses beyond the absorbing capacity of the country. It was also considered desirable that India should be permitted to take advantage of the favourable opportunity at present available in several markets, particularly in the Middle East countries, which were hungering for the country's products, both raw materials and finished goods.

There was considerable discussion at the Conference regarding the application of the above general principles in respect of the export of raw hides and skins, tanned hides and

(Above) Hides are put into tanning drums which, by their slow movement, ensure the complete penetration of the tan liquor and speed up the tanning process. (Right) Harness leather being prepared for the final process of currying. (Below) Bark tanned leather being rolled so as to produce a firm, compressed and hard-wearing leather.



skins and manufactures of leather. Divergent views were expressed regarding the supply position and export needs of the different categories; but the following broad indications emerged from the discussions.

As a result of the war, the leather economy of the country had undergone a radical transformation. India's tanning capacity and the capacity to manufacture leather goods had considerably increased, in consequence of which she was able to absorb in her tanneries and factories much more raw hides and skins than was possible before the war. Consequently, from the point of view of the needs of her present internal economy, it might not be possible for her to export as much raw hides and skins, unless increased supplies were forthcoming.

There was not much demand locally for heavy hides.

As the export demand for raw hides and skins, tanned hides and skins and leather manufactures was considerable at present, every encouragement should be given to their exports, consistent with the needs of the internal economy of the country.

Tanning as a Cottage Industry

India's leather industry was on a cent per cent basis, as part of the war effort, during the war. Its expanded capacity to produce should be fully utilised, consolidated and developed, both to meet internal needs and export demand. It was pointed out at the Conference that Indian leather goods compared very favourably in quality and finish with the best products of the West.

In addition to the development of an organised tanning industry, tanning as a cottage industry expanded considerably during the war, thus giving remunerative employment to thousands of workers. It was necessary, in order to ensure continued employment in the future, to foster this industry, the product of which, it was claimed, was of a superior type, by making available to it the raw material adequately.

Mr. Amin-ud-Din, Chief Controller of Exports, who presided at the concluding stages of the conference, thanked the members for their valuable suggestions which, he said, would receive proper and sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government when they formulated shortly the export policy regarding hides, skins and leather goods.

BURMA TO ENCOURAGE IMPORTS

Opportunity for India

ACCORDING to official information received from Rangoon, the Government of Burma, with a view to meeting the acute need in that country for all kinds of imports, have adopted an active policy "to do everything in their power to stimulate the potential flow of goods to Burma".

In order to give effect to this policy, a simplified import licensing procedure will be adopted, while the importers' licence referred to in that Government's notice to importers dated September 12, 1945, will no longer be required. So far as the British Empire countries in the sterling area are concerned, it is understood that an Open General Licence will be issued on the widest scale to cover imports into Burma of goods from all Empire countries with the exception of Canada and Newfoundland. This will permit the imports into Burma, subject to controls, if any, in the exporting countries of all classes of goods with the exception of foodstuffs on the Reserved Commodity List of the Combined Food Board.

Individual licences will not be necessary over the wide field covered by the proposed Open General Licence. Burma importers are therefore being encouraged to place their orders for their requirements of such goods forthwith. Subject to existing Indian export regulations, Indian exporters will thus be able, as a result of this policy, to export to Burma most classes of goods produced or manufactured in this country.

Business Facilities in Burma

The Government of Burma are making representations to secure the maximum possible shipping space for Burma, for purpose of imports and also for the return to that country of the personnel of importing firms. In consultation with the shipping companies and the army, they are stated to be working out "the simplest and most effective procedure to ensure that the best use is made" of such shipping space.

There are a number of difficulties at present in the way of establishing import businesses in Burma. They relate to housing, office accommodation, sanitation, lighting, port facilities.

(Continued on page 339)

EXPORT OF INDIAN GOODS TO EAST AFRICA

Trade Commissioner's Report

"EAST Africa already possesses an economically sound Indian commercial community with long established traditions in the country. India has the advantage for marketing in East Africa through the very large number of Indian retailers who have direct day-to-day contact with African shopkeepers and consumers. In view of these, and having regard to the purchasing power of the African population as the potential buyers of Indian manufactures, India should be able to enjoy a good share of the trade, provided her manufacturers made efforts to supply the exact type of goods suitable to these markets at competitive prices."

So observes the latest report from the Government of India Trade Commissioner, Mombasa, on the trade prospects between India and the East African territories.

East Africa, the report observes, has always been a natural market for India owing to its proximity to this country and the character and economic life of its people. With the elimination of Japan and Germany as potential competitors for Indian manufactures in the East African market, "the day has dawned for India," the report says, "to come in possession of her natural inheritance. . . . Very few countries can perhaps provide a more stable market for Indian manufactures than the African territories, particularly East Africa."

A Competitive Market

Although Japan and Germany have been eliminated, the East African market, according to the report, is none the less a competitive market. Besides the U.K. and the U.S.A. making a bid for the market, China would be, in its opinion, a potential competitor in the long run because, under Japanese occupation during the war, Manchukuo and Occupied China had been highly industrialised. In Shanghai, the Japanese had trained the Chinese in cotton textiles, while in Hongkong and Canton quite a number of secondary industries, like hosiery, embroidered children's frocks, linen goods, electric torches, etc. are understood to have come up just prior to their fall into Japanese hands.

The possibilities of competition from local industries are however reported to be negligible. The East African Governments, are, of course, taking considerable interest in creating and developing secondary industries in East Africa,

but as these industries, which had sprung up under the stress of the war, are yet in a state of infancy, it will take a long time before they are able to compete with imported goods both in quantity and quality.

But in order to capture and retain the market, it is necessary, according to the report, that India should study the exact requirements of that market and effect improvements in its business method. It observes that the wartime export trade of India to the East African market "was not handled in a manner compatible with business integrity and decorum or with a view to building up and consolidating an export market." Lack of standard qualities, short weights and measures, high prices by "snow-balling" and other means were some of the malpractices which were resorted to by some exporters. It notes however a marked difference for the better at present which, if pursued zealously, should restore confidence in Indian exporters.

Export Possibilities

The report then discusses the export possibilities of different kinds of manufactures. Speaking of cotton piecegoods, it says that the East African market promises a bright future to Indian cotton textiles of all grades and that India can safely hope to retain a fair share of this market which she has been able to capture almost exclusively under the abnormal circumstances created by the war. The report adds that, apart from textiles, there is a very good market in East Africa for ready-made clothes, such as shirts, shirt collars, suits, coats, trousers, etc. which were supplied to that market by Japan before the war.

With the possible elimination of Japan as a supplier of silk goods to the world markets, the chance for India to develop her silk industry in these markets is stated to be very great. According to the report, India could supply the East African market better than any other producing country; but to do so, it suggests that Indian manufacturers should specialise in the production of dress fabrics of various designs and qualities which are in demand in the East African territories.

The report refers to attempts made during the war to use locally grown alternative fibres to jute, but, in its opinion, these experiments have not met with any substantial success commercially and therefore Indian jute goods would continue to enjoy their market in the East African territories.

The market is considerable and growing regarding soaps and other toilet requisites and perfumeries. The report suggests that Indian soaps should be more attractively packed.

The report observes that Indian patent medicines have not so far received that encouragement which they should in the East African market. Provided they are properly packet and bottled, there is, in its opinion, a good market for them in these territories.

For leather manufactures such as shoes of all kinds, bedroom slippers, attache and suit cases, satchels, money purses, belts, chappals, etc., India can be assured of an expanding market in East Africa as the standard of living of the indigenous population rises. For capturing these competitive markets, the report suggests that, in addition to cheapness, quality should be ensured.

Japan and Germany were the chief suppliers of enamelware to East Africa before the war, with the U.K., Sweden and Czechoslovakia also in the market. At present the U.K. is the only supplier, but as U.K. prices can appeal only to the higher classes, there is, according to the report, a good market for a wide range of lower priced enamelware from India like basins, rice plates, bowls, jugs, mugs, etc.

There is a good market also for building hardware and household fittings. As East Africa and the neighbouring territories are making rapid progress, the demand for these materials will be growing and therefore a vast field is visualised in these lines, as also in sanitary wares which is a complementary line.

Cutlery And Crockery

In respect of cutlery, India will have to face competition from the U.K. which has established a reputation for herself in the East African market in respect of this article. India has, according to the report, reasonable prospects of building up a steady market in this line provided the articles produced are of good quality and cheap enough to be within the earning capacity of the indigenous population.

Japan was the chief supplier of crockery before the war. The U.K. will now be able to supply this product to that market; but so long as the standard of living of the indigenous population is low, they will not be in a position to purchase the high-priced and high class crockery coming from that country. Therefore, in the opinion of the report, there is a good market for Indian crockery such as cups, saucers, tea pots, etc., provided the price is cheap and quality good.

In glassware, too, the field is very extensive as Japan was the supplier of these commodities

in the market before the war. The report says that competition in the future will be severe since the Indian product is not even up to the quality of the Japanese product. Glass tumblers, wine glasses, vinegar bottles, water bottles, water jugs, jars, icecream, glasses, medical bottles and sodawater bottles would, in the opinion of the report, be readily saleable provided the quality is good and prices are cheap.

There is a good demand for biscuits and confectionary provided their quality, technique of production, preservation and packing are improved.

Matches, toys, hosiery, stationery articles, knitting wool, cotton thread, acids, batteries for motor cars and cells for torches, brooms and brushes, paints, colours and varnishes are some of the other products that will find, according to the report, a ready market in the East African territories.

PROTECTION FOR "CONTRACT" LABOUR

The Central Public Works Department, which employs nearly 7,000 "contract" labourers, will enforce from April 1, 1946, a new Fair Wage Clause in their standard form of agreement with contractors.

Other Departments of the Central and Provincial Governments are expected to follow this lead by taking similar action soon. This step, it is hoped, will eventually safeguard against sweating more than a million workers who are employed by contractors on Government works. The employment under suitable conditions of demobilised personnel will also be facilitated by this measure.

The new clause defines "fair wages" as rates of wages not less than those paid for similar work in a particular locality and insists that the contractor or sub-contractor must pay his labour notified wages or the wages prescribed by the Central Public Works Department for the district. He must comply with all the regulations in regard to payment of wages, wage periods, deductions, maintenance of wage-registers, publication of scales of wages and terms of employment, inspection and submission of periodical returns.

The non-observance of these regulations will be penalised by recoveries from the contractors' bills. Labour Welfare Officers will be authorised to inspect and enforce proper observance of the Fair Wage Clause and the regulations concerning it.

INDIAN SEAMEN AND I.L.O. Mr. S. R. Zaman's Radio Talk

"THE Copenhagen Conference marks a very important step forward in the history of seamen and it may be expected that the forthcoming conference at Seattle next June will complete the good work already done. With industry and commerce growing apace, it is certain that India's national merchant navy, at present very small, will also grow in stature commensurate with her status. Only then can India be sure of enforcing without the risk of unemployment conditions of living and wages, etc. which are considered desirable for Indian seamen."

Thus said Mr. S.R. Zaman, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department, Government of India, who attended the Copenhagen Conference as Government of India delegate, in a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on "Indian Seaman and I. L. O." He pointed out that the Copenhagen Conference was preparatory to the main conference to be held at Seattle (U.S.A.).

Equal Pay for Equal Work

The highlight of the Copenhagen Conference, he said, was the subject of wages, hours of work, and manning, in the discussion of which the Indian Government delegation took a leading part. At the instance of the Government of India, supported by most Governments, the principle of equal pay for equal work was accepted by substantial majority.

Mr. Zaman was naturally anxious to ensure that Indian seamen should not be thrown out of employment, and, in formulating the principle of equal pay for equal work, made it quite clear that, should an international minimum wage be fixed, it should be applied to Asiatic seamen after taking into account the comparative manning ratio as between European and Indian seamen. This meant, stated Mr. Zaman, that if an Indian seaman did half the work of a European seaman, he should get half the international minimum wage.

As regards the minimum wage, he explained that, although £18 per month for a deck-hand was accepted in the Conference as the international minimum wage, this decision was arrived at by a narrow majority of one. All the Governments excepting the U.S.A. abstained from voting on this issue, as they considered that the fixation of the minimum wage was a matter for negotiation between the

two parties concerned, namely, shipowners and seafarers.

Continuing, Mr. Zaman said that the principle of eight hours work a day was accepted by the Conference after a great deal of controversy. How this eight-hour day should be calculated, whether it should be an average of 14 days or a week, how and in what cases overtime should be paid, and what categories of seamen should be excluded from the scope of the eight hour day—these were some of the difficulties which cropped up and on which although decisions were arrived at by snap votes, no general agreement was found. He confidently hoped, however, that matters would be smoothed before the next conference.

Social Insurance

As regards social insurance, the Conference accepted the draft of a Convention providing for pension, insurance against sickness, accident, and death, unemployment and old age. The Government of India had under consideration a scheme of insurance for Indian seamen, and he hoped that a liberal insurance scheme would be brought into being at no distant date.

Listing the other achievements of the Conference, he said that accommodation on board ships for Indian seamen was greatly liberalised and it was laid down in a draft convention that ships over a certain tonnage must have separate mess rooms. A draft convention allowing annual holidays with pay at the rate of one working day for each month was also adopted. In the matter of entry, promotion, and training of seamen, a recommendation was made that certain minima of health should be prescribed, the minimum age for entry should be 15, and that the question of vocational training should be taken up.

Lastly, the Conference adopted a resolution proclaiming the right of shipowners and seafarers to set up organisations that would not be subject to any external influence or constraint. The Conference also laid stress on the importance of collective bargaining.

Concluding Mr. Zaman pointed out that except on the question of wages, hours of work and manning which provoked controversy in the Conference there was general agreement on the other subjects. Even on this question of wages, hours of work and manning, he was confident that some kind of agreement would be arrived at.

Telegraphic money orders can now be sent to the Port Blair head post office only in the Andaman and Nicobar islands at the rates and under the conditions applicable to Indian inland telegraphic money orders.

SHORTER HOURS FOR FACTORY WORKERS

Labour Member's Speech in Central Assembly

THE hours of work in a country like India ought to be much less than those prevalent in other countries, if for no other reason than the climatic conditions. This was emphasised by the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, Government of India, while moving in the Central Legislative Assembly on February 21, that the Bill to amend the Factories Act, 1934, be taken into consideration.

Explaining the other reasons why the Government regarded this measure as somewhat emergent, the Labour Member mentioned the fact that, during wartime, the Provincial Governments were permitted to allow many exemptions from the provisions of the Factories Act, which had the effect of increasing the hours of work for factory labour. The Government now feel, he observed, that the strain arising from the extension of the hours of work during the period of the war had been so great that it was necessary, in the interests of the health of the workers, that they should be granted substantial relief. The Government also think that this measure would have some salutary effect in relieving unemployment which was likely to arise as a result of retrenchment. If the present measure were to be of universal operation, Dr. Ambedkar argued, more people would be employed than are employed now and that would be of some relief to our post-war difficulties.

No Radical Change

Stressing that the present measure was not very radical, the Labour Member stated that there were already a great number of factories, both perennial and seasonal, which had practically adopted the maxima which are now fixed for the Bill and gave the following figures in support of his statement:—

PERENNIAL FACTORIES

Year	Total No. of factories	Factories Working 48 hours a week	Percentage
1938	8,644	2,315	27
1940	9,115	2,525	28
1941	10,261	2,921	29
1942	10,483	2,687	26
1943	11,239	2,761	25
1944	11,835	3,191	27

The figures for seasonal factories are:—

Year	Total No. of factories	Factories Working 54 hours a week	Percentage
1939	6,252	2,409	39
1940	6,239	2,440	39
1941	6,265	2,439	39
1942	5,920	2,358	40
1943	6,255	2,398	40
1944	5,950	2,368	40

The latest figures for the year 1945 were, according to Dr. Ambedkar, as follows: total factory hands both in seasonal and non-seasonal factories: 25,20,291. Those that were employed in factories working at 48 or 54 hours a week according as they were perennial or seasonal: 9,47,000, which is 27 per cent. of the total.

Textile Production

Dealing with the point raised by the cotton textile interests that the reduction of hours may affect production, while there is a great deal of shortage of cloth in the country, the Labour Member contended that any such fear was unfounded. He pointed out that Clause 5 in the Bill gives power to the Provincial Government to extend the operation of the Order for longer hours for a period of six months at a time if it was proved that public interest, as distinguished from emergency, required such action.

Proceeding, the Labour Member said that Clauses 3, 4 and 6 were purely consequential, reducing the daily maximum from 10 to 9 for perennial factories, and from 11 to 10 for seasonal factories and reducing the spread-over from 13 hours to 12.

The existing Factories Act, Dr. Ambedkar told the House, did not have a uniform rule with regard to payment of overtime. The rates were different for perennial and seasonal factories. As the Government think that this distinction is unjustifiable, an amendment has been incorporated in the present Bill proposing that the rate for overtime should be the same irrespective of the nature of the factory, i.e. 1½ times the ordinary rate of pay.

Concluding, Dr. Ambedkar hoped that the House would realise that this was a simple measure, long overdue, and that it would give its support to this 'belated' step to bring Indian legislation in accord with the standards laid down by the International Convention.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MARCH 15, 1946.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR WORKERS HOUSES

MINIMUM standards for housing Industrial workers were considered by the Industrial Housing Sub-Committee which met in New Delhi on February 12, 13 and 14 under the chairmanship of Mr. Gordon Peace, Chief Adviser (Factories), Labour Department.

The Sub-Committee was appointed by a resolution passed at the seventh meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held on August 28, 1945. It is composed of two representatives of the Central Government, two from the Provinces, two from the Indian States and three representatives each of employers and employees, including municipalities and municipal workers.

The Sub-Committee will draft its report to the Standing Labour Committee. In its three-day session it reached tentative conclusions on the manner in which an Industrial Building Fund should be created for implementing the housing schemes in which the State, local authorities and employers will participate. The Committee also considered the question of assessing the basis on which low-paid workers can be required to pay a fair rent.

Besides the chairman, the following attended the meeting: Mr. H. I. Mathews, Director of Ordnance Factories, Calcutta; Sir Edward Souter, Chairman, Cawnpore Development Board; Mr. N.A. Mehraban, Labour Officer to the Government of Bombay; Mr. K.S. Srikantan, Director of Industries, Indore; Sir Shri Ram, New Delhi; Mr. W.H. Prosser, Chief Engineer, Calcutta Improvement Trust, and Mr. V. V. Giri, Madras.



THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB

A wide range of candidates possessing qualifications in such different fields as accounts and architecture, law and engineering, tea planting and textiles, is offered to all employers, in the fortnightly lists of Services personnel issued by the Director-General of Resettlement and Employment. They are expected to assist employers in finding the right man for the right job.

These lists cover more than 100 trades and give the names, Service addresses, age, nationality, province domiciled, desired appointments and qualifications of Service personnel who are due for release within the next few months. Prospective employers can pick candidates with the required qualifications and communicate direct to the individuals concerned the terms and conditions of service to be offered. The only obligation expected of the employers is to inform the Central Employment Exchange, Labour Department, whenever any individual is selected from the lists and appointed. These lists are prepared by a special section at the Central Employment Exchange and are distributed to Employers' Associations, Chambers of Commerce, etc.

SIR RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 323)

pathy has now to be translated into action, to be put before the people of these countries in terms as real as common human suffering can make it.

"I am certain that, though the position looks grave, almost desperate, the solution of this problem is not beyond the capacity of the goodwill of the United Nations. Pardon me, I feel this problem so acutely; the administrators of India who have administered the affairs of 400 million people have gone through the racket. During the late years there have been restless days and sleepless nights over this problem. Believe me, the torture and the agony of the soul through which they have gone cannot be described by me and we have come at long last to this Assembly, to this world platform of humanity, to plead our cause to better situated people. I trust my plea will not be in vain. Thank you." (Applause)

One-room tenements of coal-miners called "dhawras". It is unhealthy houses such as these that the Government are planning to improve.

U. S. GENERAL'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN LABOUR UNITS

In a letter to H.E. the Viceroy, Major-General T.A. Terry, Commanding General, U.S. Forces, India-Burma Theatre, has expressed appreciation of "the invaluable assistance rendered by Indian Labour Units in support of the Mission of the India-Burma Theatre."

Major-General Terry writes: "The mobility, military training, and excellent discipline of these Units permitted their use in every conceivable type of work. Often, in close support of the front, they manned air-drop stations and handled air freight and advance supply depots, duties in which they sustained a number of casualties. They assisted in the construction and maintenance of the Stilwell Road, cut the right of way for Signal communications, maintained pole lines, and helped to lay and maintain the pipe-lines in Burma."

"Individually and collectively, the members of Indian Labour Units are to be highly commended for devoting themselves unselfishly to duty, and for rendering invaluable assistance to the American forces in this Theatre."

H.E. the Viceroy, in conveying this appreciation to the officers and men concerned, has expressed his great satisfaction at the excellent work performed by these Units which has earned them such high praise.

Airfield and Road Construction

The Units whose work has been praised by Major-General Terry were Indian State Labour Units raised in Cochin, Travancore and Pudukottai, the Assam Civil Porter Corps, consisting of Nepalese and men from the Garo and Khasi Hills, a battalion of Civil Pioneers from Orissa, an Auxiliary Pioneer Battalion from Nepal, a Civil Labour Unit from the Eastern States and the Tea Garden labour.

Between 1942 and the conclusion of the war, Travancore State raised 93 Units, each consisting of 850 men, Cochin 75 and Pudukottai two Units. During 1944-45 these three States between them, maintained continuously in the field an average of 39 units, or approximately 33,000 men. The Assam Civil Porter Corps had a total of 14,000 men at work, while the Indian Tea Association, during the vital period of 1943-1944, when airfield and road construction was of paramount importance reached the total of 90,000 men actually at work at one time.

These members were not, however, sufficient to meet the needs of the situation, which required that units of the Indian Pioneer Corps work-

ing in back areas should be released to accompany the Army on its advance to the re-conquest of Burma and in 1944 the Labour Department of the Government of India was asked to raise more labour units to take their place. For this purpose, a Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply was set up and a further 29 Units, each 1,050 strong, were raised in various Provinces and States and sent into Assam and North-East Bengal in relief of Indian Military Pioneer Units, while a further 64 Units, enlisted for Home Service, took over work at Army depots and installations in India and Ceylon. Besides these, one Unit from Pudukottai State, 36 from Cochin, each 850 strong and three Units from Cochin and 22 from Madras each consisting of 1,050 men were sent to Ceylon on Field Service terms. Over and above these Units a Gardening Unit of 200 men was sent to Ceylon and 10 Mali Units each 217 strong were raised for gardening work in Assam.

Additional Labour

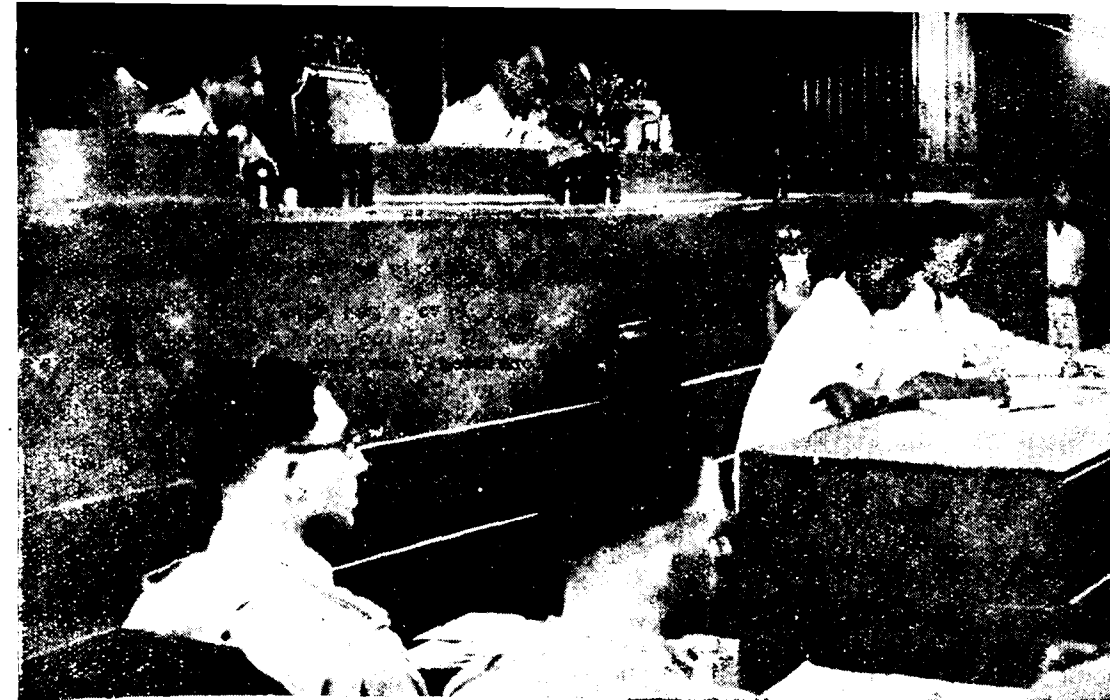
In addition to this, the Directorate assumed responsibility for the provision of additional labour in the Bengal and Bihar coal-fields where 30,000 men from the United Provinces have been employed; 5,000 worked in the coal-mines in Hyderabad State, 8,000 in Ordnance Factories, and a further 10,000 on miscellaneous jobs, connected with the war effort.

Many of the men from these Units had never before left their villages. They had to be initiated into camp life and conditions, and placed on work, which was in most cases entirely new to them. With army rations and regular work, they improved in physique and general condition. They were taught the rudiments of discipline and sanitation, and have returned to their homes with, in some instances, considerable sums of money saved during the 12 months of their employment. They worked on air-field and road construction, rail and river transshipment, in supply depots of every description, loading aeroplanes for supply-dropping to the troops in Burma, and on dozens of other tasks vital to the success of the Allied Forces.

"MATCHLESS" MOTOR CYCLES

The Central Government have fixed the maximum retail prices of 'Matchless' motor cycles. The price of the G-3L Model, 350 c.c., is fixed at Rs. 2,135 and of the G-80 Model, 500 c.c., at 2,235.

These prices obtain at ports only and for inland prices transportation charges from ports as also the transit insurance charges will be in addition to these prices.



JAP WAR CRIMINALS ON TRIAL

Japanese war criminals charged with war crimes, including beheading and beating of prisoners, recently appeared before the Singapore Supreme Court. These pictures show (above L. to R.) Capt. Kohli, 2nd Punjab Regiment, Lt.-Col. L. G. Coleman, R.A.O.C. (President), and Major Gray, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, in the Court, (below) Jap prisoners in the dock, and (right) prisoners being led to their cells.



C.-IN-C. EXPLAINS POLICY REGARDING I.N.A. TRIALS

SPEAKING on a Resolution moved by Mr. V.V. Kalikar in the Council of State on February 19, the War Member, H.E., Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, said:

This Resolution seeks to recommend that the pending trials of those who joined the so-called I.N.A. (Indian National Army) should be withdrawn and the officers and men unconditionally released.

I do not wish to enter into a detailed discussion of this very controversial question which has been fully discussed in another place. I propose to confine myself strictly to the terms of the Resolution.

The first point is the suggestion that the pending trials should be withdrawn. Now I would ask the House to consider what this really means and why we are trying these men. What we announced on November 30 was, that we would try only those men who were guilty of brutality. We spoke in the communiqué then issued of "acts of gross brutality" and "acts offending against the canons of civilised behaviour". It is acts of this kind which we are now trying. This is very clear and definite evidence that during one period in particular, systematic brutality of a very shocking kind was used against those who did not wish to join the so-called I.N.A. We are trying only those who are alleged to be guilty of such brutality.

Motive And Crime

I wonder what the Hon'ble Mover of the Motion had in his mind when he put forward his Resolution. Does he think that the crimes were actually not committed, or does he think that the motive excuses the crime? I do not think either view can be upheld for one moment. If the evidence is not sufficient for conviction, of course the accused will get off. A Court Martial under our Rules is probably the fairest form of trial that any man can have. The accused is given the fullest benefit of any doubt where the evidence is concerned. It is a form of trial under which a guilty man may sometimes escape punishment, but an innocent man is practically never punished. If on the other hand it is suggested that the motives of these men justified their behaving as they did, it seems to me that this is a very dangerous argument. It would justify any crime committed with a political motive. It would mean that every jailer or policeman would have a free hand to ill-treat

his prisoners. I cannot believe it is an argument the Hon'ble Mover would seriously put forward. It is certainly not one to which I can subscribe.

I have given this matter very careful thought and the more I think of it the more convinced I am that it would be quite wrong and unfair to those who suffered while in their charge, that those who committed acts of brutality should be treated by any standards different from those we should apply, had they behaved in this way while serving in the Indian Army. There is no provision in the Indian Army Act for whipping a combatant soldier, and if we found that any officer had beaten a soldier we should punish him very severely. Can it be argued that because these men have thrown off their allegiance they should be treated more leniently than they would be while serving in the Indian Army?

Shah Nawaz's Case

It has been said that cases of these men are similar to that of Shah Nawaz who was convicted of abetment of murder as well as waging war against the King. But Shah Nawaz's case was very different. He had joined the I.N.A. and was doing his best to help the enemy, but we had decided for reasons which I need not repeat that we would extend clemency to those, proved guilty of this offence and no other. It is clear that if clemency is to be extended to those who joined the I.N.A., it must follow that anything done in consequence of having joined the I.N.A., and which would have been legal had the I.N.A. been an international and recognised body, must be included in the act of clemency. If you are not going to give severe sentence for waging war, then you must extend your clemency to cover war-like acts committed as members of the I.N.A. In Shah Nawaz's particular case, he received general directions that deserters were to be treated severely and death sentences inflicted. Although during the recent war we did not inflict death sentences for desertion in the British Army nor in the Indian Army, except in one aggravated case, this is in accordance with the practice of civilised nations. The death sentences passed by Shah Nawaz could not therefore in these particular circumstances be described either as an act of personal brutality or as offending against the canons of civilised behaviour.

But the case of Rashid was very different. He was guilty of personal brutality on proved

occasions, sometimes to his fellow Muslims, and the punishments he inflicted went far beyond anything that could be regarded as civilised, and far beyond the provision of the Act drawn up by the I.N.A. themselves and by which they professed to regulate their conduct. I might add that this Act itself was much more severe than the Indian Army Act. The persons to whom he behaved in this way were not members of the so-called I.N.A. and had not even subjected themselves to the "Act" by which he professed, I suppose, to be authorised.

I hope I have said enough to make clear the difference between the offences for which we are now prosecuting a very small number of I.N.A. and those who were accused in the first trial and were not given sentences of imprisonment.

I turn now to the second part of the Resolution which suggests that all officers and men who joined the I.N.A. should be unconditionally released.

Releases

Except for those charged with brutality, it is our policy to release them, and all releases are unconditional, that is to say, there is no condition attached that they should behave in any particular way. But we are making a distinction between those who seemed merely to be misled and those who actively helped the enemy. The former are discharged, which carries no stigma with it, and are given leave with pay. The latter are dismissed and are also subjected to forfeiture of pay.

It would be impossible to let everyone go immediately (which is perhaps the intention of the Resolution) without abandoning this distinction, which seems to me a very important one. If we are to make the distinction in a fair and just manner, we must examine each case, and we are doing this as quickly as we can.

It has been announced elsewhere that of the total of about 20,000 Indian Army men who joined the I.N.A., about 11,000 have already been released. There are some 5,000 undergoing interrogation, about 3,000 expected from overseas and a number still untraced. We hoped to complete the examination and release of the remainder during the next six weeks. For various reasons, one of which is the obstinate attitude of some of the prisoners, it will probably now take more than six weeks, and instead of having released them all by April 1 as we had hoped the most I can say is that we think there will be very few and I hope none, by May 1. I think this further delay must be

accepted in the interests of justice and fair play.

As I have said before, I do not want to enter into a general discussion of this subject. But I would repeat the warning which has been given elsewhere regarding the future of the Army, that it is discipline that makes the difference between an army and a mob. Discipline has been the backbone of every army which has fought well in the past and no changes in methods of warfare or scientific developments have yet made any difference to this truth. Our policy has been to prove the principle that it is not open to a soldier to change his allegiance on account of his political views. But having proved that principle Government decided in view of the circumstances, to extend mercy to those convicted of this offence and of no other, and to limit their punishment to cashiering or dismissal, with forfeiture of certain pay and allowances. To go further and condone acts of gross brutality would, in my opinion, be utterly wrong in itself and would besides be most unfair to those men who have suffered so cruelly at the hands of those who are to be tried.

I would ask the House to remember that a Commander-in-Chief is responsible for the welfare and contentment of the whole Army including those who remained steadfast to their allegiance under great provocation and pressure. No commander can carry out these duties efficiently unless he has the full confidence and trust of those under his command. He cannot hope to retain this confidence or to ensure the maintenance of discipline unless he is prepared to protect them against wrong. I hope that in view of what I have said, the Hon'ble Mover will agree on reconsideration to withdraw his Resolution.

BURMA TO ENCOURAGE IMPORTS

(Continued from page 330)

and transport. The Government of Burma are making every effort to restore normal conditions as soon as possible. As these facilities become available, they will be shared by importers in common with other firms essential for the rehabilitation of Burma.

The services of Mr. D.H. Elwin, Joint Chief Controller of Imports, have been placed at the disposal of the Government of Burma for a short period. He has already proceeded to Rangoon and will help the Government of Burma in introducing trade controls and such licensing arrangements as will be required in terms of the new policy, recently announced by that Government.

Indian Troops Relieve Australians

Troops of the 20th Indian Division recently landed in the island of Labuan, British Borneo, to take over duties from the 9th Australian Division who retook the Island from the Japs. The 20th Indian Division has seen action in Burma for two years and also in French Indo-China.



Australian troops greet their Indian comrades on arrival in Labuan. (Below) A Gurkha displays his kukri to the Australians.



Australian and Indian troops enjoy a game together.



A GREAT FIGHTING DIVISION Gen. Sir N. Beresford-Peirse's Tribute to Red Eagles

"THE Red Eagles of the Fourth Indian Division are flying home at last. From to-day their famous flash, familiar all over North Africa and Italy and Greece, will be seen again in India," said Lieut.-Gen. Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, Welfare General in India, in a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on February 6. "No one who has ever had the honour of wearing it will see it unmoved.

"They have had a long flight, the Red Eagles. The leading units of the Division reached the Middle East before the outbreak of the war. In the years that followed they made history—killed many thousands of the enemy, captured more than 100,000 prisoners, among them the Supreme Commander of the Axis forces in Africa, suffered over 25,000 casualties, won four V.C.s, two George Crosses and innumerable other decorations, travelled the hard way, over 15,000 miles in nine campaigns. They became one of the best-known Divisions, not only of the Indian Army or of the forces of the British Empire, but of the world.

"They won their reputation by hard and continuous fighting. In the ebb and flow of war, they knew both victory and defeat. But no battles however bloody, no casualties, however severe, ever broke their spirit. The order of battle changed, units joined the Division and disappeared. But "4 Ind. Div." remained and ended, as it began, a great fighting division.

Sidi Barrani

"I have no time to tell you the whole story of the Red Eagles—which is the story of the war in North Africa and Italy. But some of you, I believe, have not yet forgotten the brilliant and audacious attack which Lord Wavell, then General Wavell, launched against a greatly superior enemy in December 1940 and the resulting victory which put new heart and hope into the free nations of the world.

"Sidi Barrani was largely 4 Ind. Div.'s battle. In bold and skilful assaults the Division stormed the entrenched camps of Nibeiwa, Tummar and Sidi Barrani itself, destroyed four enemy divisions, took over 20,000 prisoners and broke the power of Graziani in North Africa.



Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse.

"While the battle was in progress, news arrived that the Italians had invaded the Sudan. General Wavell was compelled to divide his sparse forces and 4 Ind. Div. was hurried to Kassala, 250 miles east of Khartoum. Without waiting for the main body to arrive, the advance guard, the 2nd Camerons, the 1/11 Sikhs and the 1/6th Rajputana Rifles, went straight ahead and cleared the road to Keren, the gateway of Eritrea.

"The Battle of Keren was one of the bitterest battles of the War. Entrenched on towering heights which they believed impregnable, the Italians never fought better. Again and again in desperate assaults, the men of 4 and 5 Indian Divisions reached the summits, only to be hurled down again by fierce counter-attacks with terrible losses. Again and again, by night and day, for nearly two months the assaults were renewed. Handfuls of men held on to the ground they had gained until on March 26, 5 Ind. Div. seized the fort Dolodorogoc and burst through the defences. Next morning, March 27, 1941, Keren surrendered.

"From there, for 5 Bde. of 4 Ind. Div. the scene changes to Syria. The night attack by which the 3/1 Punjab Regt. captured the formidable position of Kissoué from its strong Vichy French garrison was a classic feat of arms. Not less daring was the night attack by the same battalion and the 4/6 Rajputana Rifles on the village of Mezze, just outside Damascus. It ended in temporary failure and a gallant last stand, but it opened the doorway to Damascus.



During World War II when the fighting in the Middle East was most severe the 4th Indian Division was to be found in action. In the deserts of Libya and Syria, in the hills of Cyrenaica and on the mountains of Eritrea the Division made its mark. (Below) Troops of the 4th Indian Division who took part in the last attack on Tunis, the attack in which thousands of German and Italian troops surrendered.

"Meanwhile, 11 Bde. was fighting an equally desperate battle for Halfaya Pass, on the boundary between Egypt and Libya.

"In the battles of November and December 1941, when Rommel came so near to destruction, 4 Ind. Div. again played a leading part and the capture of Sidi Omar by the Royal Sussex of 7

Bde. and of Libyan Omar by the 31st and 116th Punjabis paved the way for the advance to Ben-ghazi.

"The tide of war turned and retreat followed, but 4 Ind. Div. extricated itself with skill and coolness and lived to fight again.

"In the summer of 1942, when what was



once more so nearly a victory turned into defeat, the Division suffered heavily. But again it recovered in time to take part in the battle of El Alamein and the advance to Tunisia and to win two of its greatest victories at Wadi Akarit and Djebel Garci. With the British 1st Division it opened the way through the last mountain barriers for the armour to sweep through to the attack on Tunis. The 4th Ind. Div. was in at the kill and saw the end of the war in Africa—a war which it had done perhaps more than any other single division to win. The Division will not forget the tribute paid to them by Mr. Winston Churchill or the fact that the King Emperor travelled to Tripoli to thank them in person.

Hard Slogging

"There followed much hard slogging and desperate fighting in Italy, but I have not the time to tell you of Point 593 and Monastery Hill, where isolated, frozen, battered by night and day, handfuls of indomitable men clung to positions which they had clawed from the grip of a determined enemy. Nor can I tell you how the 119 Gurkhas won imperishable fame in one of the greatest exploits of the war when they stormed Hangman's Hill and for seven days and nights held on to it.

"From the blood-bath of Cassino, which saw the last of the Western Desert veterans, the Division was moved to the Adriatic coast and was the first to break into the Gothic Line. After breaking the Rimini Line also it was pulled out to rest in Greece.

"Once again there was no rest for it and it found itself involved in the thankless task of suppressing civil war. Once again it did its duty with courage, patience and restraint. It is from Greek territory that the Division now return and high amongst its honours must count the fact that it has won, by its behaviour, the admiration and affection of the Greeks themselves. A great division, 4 Ind. Div. and one, of which India may well be proud. As one of its former commanders I am glad to be able to welcome the Red Eagles home."

Lt.-Col. W. R. P. Ridgway has relinquished the appointment of Private Secretary to H.E. the C-in-C. in India and returned to the U.K. for demobilisation. Lt.-Col. Ridgway is in private life a master at Winchester College. He is succeeded by Lt.-Col. Shahid Hamid, R.I.A.S.C. Lt.-Col. Shahid Hamid, who is the first Indian officer to hold the appointment, passed out of Sandhurst in 1933 and the Staff College at Quetta in 1942. He was retained as an instructor at the Staff College for the next three years and was C.R.I.A.S.C. of the 39th Division until he was selected for his present post.

MADRAS CO-OPERATIVE SCHEME TO EMPLOY EX-SERVICEMEN

THOUSANDS of ex-Servicemen will find employment as labourers, masons, carpenters, fitters and painters, among other occupations, under the Madras "Construction" Contract Co-operative Society Scheme which has been sanctioned by the Government of Madras.

In the first instance, ten societies are being formed on a co-operative basis, five of them being for buildings, two for irrigation and three for road works. The majority of the members of these societies will be ex-Servicemen but limited numbers of civilians will be admitted where necessary to fulfil contracts by specified dates.

Each member is expected to take up at least one share to the value of Rs. 50, but not more than 20 shares, his liability being limited to the value of the shares held by him. The share capital must be paid in one instalment on admission.

Management of Societies

A society will usually consist of not more than 500 members but units of 1,000 may be manageable in the case of very large-scale construction works. Details of the types and proportion of skilled and semi-skilled men required for each society will be decided before its actual formation.

Small tools and implements will be purchased by each society but larger and more durable items of machinery and equipment, such as road rollers, will be provided by the Public Works Department. Societies may borrow from local financing banks to pay wages and purchase material, the Madras Government being responsible for initial capital equipment.

Societies will be managed by representatives of its members and by officers of the Government and other public bodies. A gazetted officer of the rank of Assistant Engineer, P.W.D., will be appointed as the Executive Officer of each society, the necessary administrative staff having been sanctioned by the Government.

Apart from wages, which will be dependent on the cost of living from time to time, members will also be entitled to their share of profits. It is proposed that 25 per cent. of net profits will go to a reserve fund, an equal percentage to the Government towards the cost of

(Continued on page 350)



The first contingent of three Battalions of the famous 4th Indian Division (Red Eagles) arrived in Karachi on February 7 after six years' service abroad and winning a great name in the Western Desert and Italy. (Left) A happy crowd of Indian troops waiting to embark for India on the quayside at Salonika. (Right) Men going up the gangway.



VICEROY WELCOMES 4TH INDIAN DIVISION

On the return to India of the 4th Indian Division, H.E. the Viceroy sent the following telegram to Maj.-Gen. T.W. Rees who now commands the division.

"I welcome back to India the 4th Indian Division which gave me such gallant and invaluable service in the Middle East in the early part of the war, and enabled such victories as Sidi Barrani and Keren to be won.

"I have followed with pride the magnificent record of the Division throughout the war, which has been excelled by no formation. I wish you all good fortune on your return to India, which your gallantry kept secure".



The Band of the returning 3rd Battalion, Frontier Force Rifles, playing on board the 'Carthage' before disembarking.

The first officers of the Red Eagle Division to land in India.



A ram, brought all the way from Egypt, follows

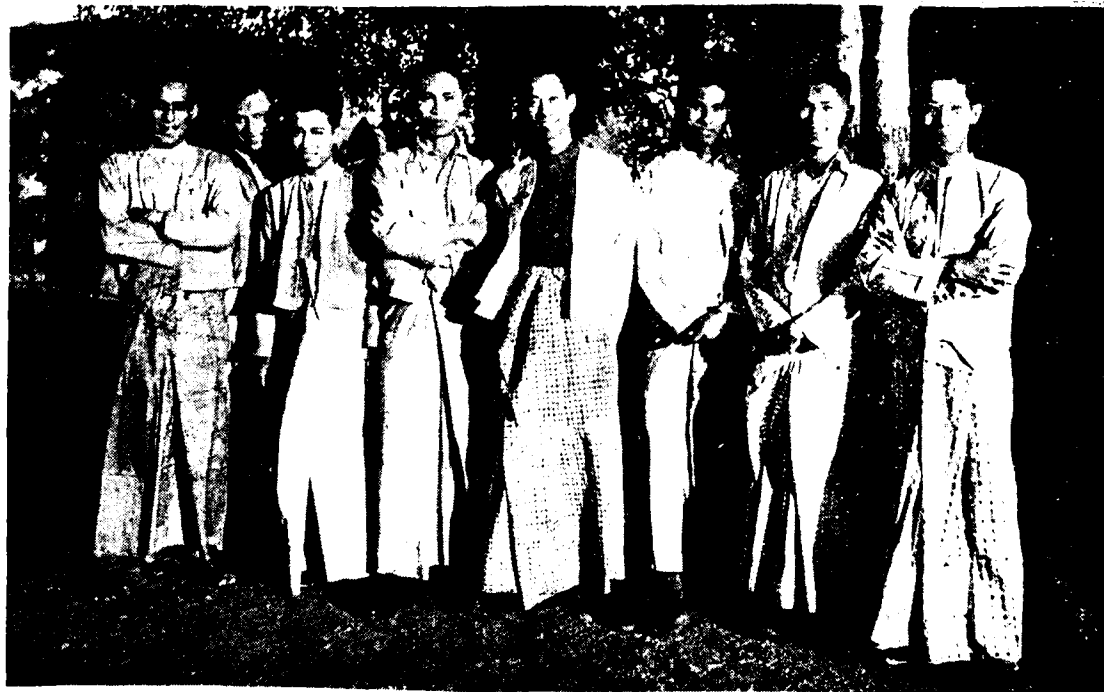


advance landing party of the Red Eagles.



The ex-Mayor of Karachi chats with a V.C.O. of the returning 211 Sikh Regiment. (Below) W.V.S. workers supply refreshments to returning troops.





Eight officers of the Burma Government who have been sent for training in Employment Exchange work at the Staff Training Centre, Delhi. The training course given at this centre has been favourably commented upon by international labour authorities and has evoked considerable interest in other Eastern countries.

TRAINING STAFF FOR RESETTLEMENT SERVICES

SEVENTY-NINE officers including eight from Burma have commenced their training at the Staff Training Centre, Delhi, which will fit them for managerial posts in Employment Exchanges. This is the last batch of Managers and Assistant Managers required for staffing 36 more Exchanges to be set up in addition to the 35 already opened. Another batch of 74 officers for the Resettlement Advice Service to be established at Release Centres are at present undergoing a short intensive training in the same Centre.

Welcoming the trainees from Burma and India for managerial posts, Nawab M.A. Gurmani, Director-General of Resettlement and Employment, Labour Department observed: "To-day, our Training Centre, which was started only a few months ago, is rendering service not only to people in India but to our neighbouring country, Burma". He expressed his confidence that India would retain her proud and privileged position in the future as a leader of the East. Referring to the demobilised soldier he stated: "He came from the village and he will go back to it with greater experience, greater skill, wider outlook and better training in team spirit."

The organisation of the Employment Exchanges, he said, has already been well received by all sections of the population. The vacancies registered at the Exchanges by employers and the training of nominees of Trade Union organisations in the Staff Training Centre show how both employers and workers appreciate the venture. Concluding he stressed that the task of the organisation was one of nation-building and they should all contribute to it for the benefit of the people.

Nawab Gurmani also addressed the Resettlement Advice Officers who are under training.

After a six-week course at the Staff Training Centre, the trainees for the managerial staff will undergo practical training in Employment Exchanges after which they will be posted to the additional Exchanges that will be opened shortly. The Resettlement Advice Officers, after conclusion of their training, will be posted to Release Centres for explaining to demobilised Services personnel the vocational and technical training facilities provided for them and for advising them regarding employment opportunities.

MR. P. MASON ON R.I.N. STRIKES IN BOMBAY AND KARACHI

IN the Central Legislative Assembly on February 22, replying to short notice question on the R.I.N. strikes at Bombay and Karachi, Mr. P. Mason, Joint Secretary, War Department, said:

Sir, I have three questions on this subject and two of them are of some length. If you give me permission, Sir, I propose to reply by a lengthy statement in which I will state the information that we have up to date on the whole subject.

On Monday, February 18, at 12.00 hours, that is, mid-day, serious trouble broke out in H.M.I.S. *Talwar*, the R.I.N. Signal School in Bombay. All ratings, except Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers, refused duty and refused to listen to their officers. The establishment includes about 1,100 ratings. The Flag Officer, Bombay, at once took over charge of this establishment himself and visited it, but he was unable to find out that day what the men's grievances were. The Flag Officer, Bombay, came to the conclusion however that the Commanding Officer of H.M.I.S. *Talwar* should be replaced and he was replaced by a senior and very experienced officer.

On Tuesday, February 19, the trouble spread to the R.I.N. Depot and Castle Barracks, Bombay, and the ships in Bombay Harbour. There was considerable rowdiness in the streets and the civil police made some arrests of ratings involved in acts of violence.

Strikers' Demands

During the course of this day, the Flag Officer, Bombay, visited H.M.I.S. *Talwar* and he met 14 ratings who came forward as leaders or spokesmen, and then for the first time he found out what the demands of the men were. They were as follows:

- (1) No victimisation of the so-called strikers.
- (2) The release of R.K. Singh, telegraphist, from Arthur Road prison immediately.
- (3) Speedy demobilisation according to age and service groups with reasonable peacetime employment.
- (4) Immediate disciplinary action against Commander King for his behaviour and insulting language used by him to the personnel of H.M.I.S. *Talwar*.

(5) The best class of Indian food.

(6) Royal Navy scales of pay, family allowances and travelling facilities and the use of Navy, Army and Air Force Institute Stores.

(7) No kit to be taken back from R.I.N. personnel at the time of release.

(8) Immediate grant of war gratuity and Treasury pay on men being released.

(9) Good behaviour of officers towards the lower deck men.

(10) Quicker regular promotion of the lower deck men to officers and all new officers coming from abroad to be stopped.

(11) A new Commanding Officer for the Signal School, Commander Cole, who had been the previous Commander to be reappointed.

(12) All demands were to be decided by the authorities concerned through a national leader whose name would be given.

Refused to Obey Orders

The fourteen ratings also wished to make a protest to the Government of India regarding (a) I.N.A. policy (b) firing on the public in various places and (c) the use of Indian troops in the Middle East and Near East.

On February 19 some 120 ratings in Calcutta staged what was described as a sit-down mutiny with somewhat similar demands. During the night 150 ratings led by an officer proceeded from Marve to Bombay and tried to break into the Central Communications office. They were not successful and were locked up.

On their return to Marve on Wednesday, February 20, there were no serious riotings during the morning although the streets were crowded with ratings who refused to do their duty or obey the orders. The Flag Officer, Bombay, issued a message in the afternoon, which was read verbally to all establishments and ships' companies by their Commanding Officers and announced in the harbour by loud hailer. This ordered all ratings to be in their ships or establishment by 15-30 after which any found outside would be liable to be arrested.

By this time the mutiny had spread to other establishments in the neighbourhood of Bombay, but in these establishments the ratings were not, and still are not, using violence. It is notable also that the dockyard workmen have refused to join in the trouble.

On February 21, at 21-40 hours, ratings who in accordance with the arrangements of

February 20, were confined to their barracks, began to try to break out of their barracks and a guard from the Mahratta Light Infantry who had been posted on the barracks were compelled to open fire which they did with single shot. The guard was stoned by the ratings who then obtained rifles and ammunition and returned their fire.

Shortly afterwards a report was received that ships in the harbour were raising steam in order to hoist the ammunition for the four-inch guns. Rifle fire from the ships to the shore continued during the morning and a few rounds of light shell fire, I think from two guns which fire small shell were fired towards the town. One small shell caused injuries to several civilians.

At 14-30 hours, the Flag Officer, Bombay, proceeded to the dockyard and met the leaders of the mutineers to whom he gave a very serious warning telling them that no conditions other than unconditional surrender would be accepted, that the troops would in no circumstances be withdrawn and that overwhelming force would be brought to bear if the mutineers proceeded in their present attitude. The Flag Officer Commanding broadcast about the same time a message, which probably all Members have seen in the newspapers this morning.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): A threat.

MR. M. R. MASANI (Congress): Disgraceful.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Congress): Offering to blow up the Navy.

Cease Fire Order

MR. P. MASON: After that the cease fire order was hoisted and there was no more firing from the ships during the afternoon, but later in the day there was sporadic outbursts of firing in the Castle Barracks area. There are, however, indications that the situation is still very serious. An outbreak of indiscipline of this kind cannot be regarded in the same way as a trade dispute and must be dealt with firmly although not vindictively.

Of the demands of the men, that for improvement in the quality of food was met as soon as it was made known, although the standard of rations in this service is already considerably above the Army.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Wretched quality.

MR. P. MASON: I have seen the food itself.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Did you take that food?

MR. PRESIDENT: Order, order, let the Hon'ble Member finish.

MR. P. MASON: Of the other demands, those relating to individual officers and men are being enquired into. No one has yet heard what it is that Commander King is supposed to have said. He himself is quite definite that he used no insulting language. The question is, however, being enquired into. Nor is it known in Delhi what was the charge against R.K. Singh. Telegraphist Dutt was dismissed from service for writing slogans on H.M.I.S. *Talwar*. This is a simple disciplinary action and no service can proceed if the acts of Commanding Officers are to be called in question by ratings.

Rates of Pay

Of the remaining demands, those which appear to be the most important relate to rates of pay and gratuity. As I have already explained in connection with the R.I.A.F., the rates of pay in this service, as in the Air Force are considerably higher than those in the Indian Army. If you raise the pay of the Navy you would certainly have to raise the pay of the Army with inevitable repercussions on the wage level throughout the country. I put it to the House that it is at present impossible with India's finances for her to accept the proposal that the wages of Indian servicemen should be raised to the level of the British service which are related to the wage levels in the United Kingdom. If such a demand were to be accepted it would mean that the size of the Armed Forces would have to be very considerably reduced.

In the light of this general statement, I turn to the detailed question.

Before that I would like to give some more recent news which come in this morning.

SETH YUSUF ABDOOLA HAROON (Muslim League): The Honourable Member has not referred to Karachi.

MR. P. MASON: I am going to do that.

Here is a report from Karachi received this morning. *Himalaya*, that is the Gunnery School, *Chamak*, that is the Radar School, and *Bahadur*, which is one of the two Boys' Training Establishments, and all three of which are on Manora Island, are quiet although they are affected. It remains to be seen if they return to their duties this morning. They were addressed last night and received the address of their Commanding Officers in a reasonable spirit.

The sloop *Hindustan* is in the hands of the mutineers. It has a personnel of about 300 ratings. The position regarding this ship was that yesterday a number of ratings from the shore establishments tried to reach the ship. They reached the ship and my information, which is slightly different from that of the Press—but I am not quite sure which is right as I have not had my information confirmed—my information, which is different from the Press, is that military police went to the ship to arrest those who had left the shore establishment to go to the ship and they were fired on from the ship. They then returned the fire of the ship and thereupon the *Hindustan* opened fire with all her guns. The firing lasted about ten minutes.

This morning the *Hindustan* is berthed alongside and Commodore Curtis, who is the naval Officer-in-Charge, is going to the ship this morning in a final attempt to make them see reason. If they do not, force will have to be used.

The shore establishment, *Dilawar*, another boys' training establishment at Karachi, which is on the mainland is unaffected. Another shore establishment *Valsura*, the Torpedo School, is also unaffected. All small arms and ammunition have been removed from the Manora establishments and it is expected that these establishments would return to duty today. Commodore Curtis spoke to them last night and he received what is described as an ovation. That is the position in Karachi.

Position in Bombay

The latest news from Bombay is that by 8 o'clock last night all available small arms and ammunition at Castle Barracks were surrendered to the naval officers who entered the barracks. The ratings in the dockyard and ships still have arms.

There was much talk between the ships by signal during the night. This is a point to which I would draw the particular attention of the House. It appeared from these radio signals between ships that there are two parties among them. The majority of the mutineers were impressed by the warning given to them by the Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy and by the Flag Officer, Bombay, and would like today to come to terms. There is, however, a small party who advocate continued violence. They say that the support of all political parties is behind them: therefore they should proceed in their attempt. They say that the case is going to be discussed today

in what they refer to as Parliament, which I think may mean the Assembly.

There was a little rioting in the city during the night, which I do not think arose out of these disturbances as it does not appear that the ratings were taking part in it. I think *goondas* of the city were taking part in it. One sub-lieutenant of the R.N.V.R. was killed by a bullet. There was no widespread disturbance at Bombay and the ships were flying the 'Cease Fire' flag. In all the shore establishments the situation is that the majority of the men are in the establishments and are quiet but are refusing work.

Position in Madras

Karachi: I have given you the position. At Jamnagar: Valsura, torpedo School unaffected. Cochin is unaffected. Madras: 80 ratings marched through the streets in sympathy with the Bombay men but returned quietly to their barracks on the advice of their officer. Vizagapatam: The position is the same as in Madras. 150 ratings demonstrated but returned quietly. Calcutta: Four hundred ratings still refuse to work. In Delhi, about which my friend asked, 39 men yesterday refused duty and were arrested. That is the news I have.

Perhaps it would help the House if I read out the whole question part by part and repeat the answer.

Question No. 72. (a) When did the strike start? This has been answered. (b) Whether Government made any enquiry and (c) whether Government contemplate appointing any enquiry committee. Answer to (b) and (c): The first thing is for the men to return to duty. When this has been done a full enquiry will be held. (d) whether it is a fact that the strike was due to some of the ratings being arrested: (e) whether it is a fact that these arrests followed because of the trainees shouting political slogans and the I.N.A. slogans. Answer: One of the causes alleged by the men, though I should say I do not believe it, is the punishment of two men, R. K. Singh and R. C. Datta: but this does not appear to be the main cause. (f) Whether it is a fact that they were harshly treated and given severe punishment (g) and the action Government contemplate taking, (h) whether the strike was due because of rigorous punishment awarded to some of the ratings, (i) whether it is a fact that the officer-in-charge was unduly and unjustly rude to them and (j) what action Government contemplate taking against the officers in question. The answer to all these

points is that the information is not available at present but the matter will be enquired into fully as soon as the ratings return to work.

Question No. 74 (a) the date on which the ratings struck work, (b) whether the cause of their action was the insulting and abusive language used by Commander King: (c) whether on and after the 18th instant the ratings in the other units and establishments ceased work. I have answered that. (d) whether ratings of ships at sea have also joined in the strikes. Answer: No, Sir. As far as is known, none. (e) whether the number of strikers now exceeds 15,000. Answer: It is rather less than 12,000. (f) whether all the strikers have jointly set up a Central Naval Strike Committee. Answer: Yes, Sir. (g) and (h) refer to grievances which I have explained at length. (h) asks what measures Government have taken. To that the answer is that a full enquiry will be made as soon as the men have returned to work.

MR. M. R. MASANI (Congress): Will the Hon'ble Member kindly state if it is a fact that, as reported in the *Free Press Journal* of Bombay, of February 19, the language used by Commander King to his ratings included phrases like "sons of coolies" and "sons of bitches"?

MR. P. MASON: I have not seen that report but as I said, the question of what he said will be inquired into and is being inquired into and he himself is quite positive that he used no insulting language.

MADRAS SCHEME TO EMPLOY EX-SERVICEMEN

(Continued from page 343)

staff, the remainder to be divided as a bonus among the members in proportion to their shares and length of membership.

Programmes of work have already been laid down for these societies. Building work estimated to cost more than Rs. 14 lakhs, irrigation works totalling Rs. 15 lakhs and road works estimated at more than Rs. 3 lakhs has been planned.

The formation of these societies is experimental but if they are successful similar societies will be set up later to undertake other reconstruction projects.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND ARTS

THE Government of India have decided to create an Arts Section in the Department of Information and Broadcasting. Its function will be to encourage the Arts in India including sculpture, painting, music, drama, dancing, etc. and to preserve national art treasures.

At a time when considerable thought is being given both by Government and the public to development schemes concerned with India's industries, education and trade, it is considered appropriate that some attention should also be given to the advancement of the arts in India which are at present in urgent need of assistance.

The Department in future will be known as the Department of Information and Arts.

The intention is not that Government should itself attempt to direct the course of Indian artistic activities in the direction favoured by any particular school, but rather to assist artists to help themselves by the adoption of high standards and to gain a proper place for themselves in the national life. It will not be the function of the Arts Section to educate individual artists; it will concern itself more with the adoption of recognised standards among artists, possibly through the formation of an Indian Academy of Arts.

As part of its work, the Section will arrange exhibitions in India and abroad with the object of drawing attention to Indian culture, past and present. It will also devote itself to the care of national art treasures and their accessibility to the public.

SHIPBUILDING DIRECTORATE CLOSES DOWN

Owing to the curtailment of orders for new construction and ship repair work consequent on the cessation of hostilities the Directorate-General of Shipbuilding and Repairs, Bombay, has been closed down with effect from January 31.

A skeleton staff is, however, being kept in being under Engineer Captain J. E. Moloney, R.I.N. (Retired), as Director, Shipbuilding and Repairs, to complete the new construction programme now in hand, to deal with reconversion and other work on Royal Navy ships and complete outstanding accounts.

REPATRIATES HAVE THEIR FIRST CUP OF TEA IN THREE YEARS

PRISONERS of war and civilian internees repatriated from the Far East had their first cup of tea in three years when they arrived by plane recently in Calcutta. This they owed to the Nursing Divisions of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas who met them in the city and served them with tea, biscuits, sweets, lemonade, cigarettes, etc. The children were not forgotten and to their delight found toys and books waiting for them.

It was soon found that the repatriated needed much help, as it was their first contact with the outside world after regaining their freedom. They appeared quite lost at times and needed, amongst other things, advice for the journey they were undertaking. Food cartons and drinking water were provided for their railway journey.

With the end of the war in Europe, members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas looked forward to a relief from their self-imposed duties, but it was soon realised at headquarters that, with the end of hostilities in the East other duties were in store. The urgent need for attending to the various needs of the sick and wounded, repatriated prisoners of war and civil internees who would have to pass through ports, transit camps and hospitals in India in fairly large numbers before returning to their homes in India or the United Kingdom was fully realised.

Arrangements for Repatriates

While continuing nursing duty at the Military Hospitals, members of the Nursing Divisions in Madras greeted released prisoners and civilian internees who arrived at the harbour almost every day during September-November. The majority were ill and in poor condition and they were conveyed by ambulances to trains and to hospitals. Those in better condition were transported to camps or to private houses in the city.

The Nursing Divisions of the Bombay District also met naval ships with R.A.P.W.I. aboard and assisted those who wished to spend a few hours ashore. Arrangements were made for looking after the children for the duration of the ships' stay in port so that their parents could be free for a little outing. Many such parents said that this was the first time in four years that they had been free from their children and were thus very grateful for this

brief respite during which children were cared for, taken to the zoo, given a swim at the beach etc., given a complete outfit of clothes and sent back to the ship before she was due to sail.

The Bombay Transport Unit has sent ambulances to meet all ships bringing repatriated prisoners and internees, transferring serious cases to the hospitals and loading the less serious ones to the hospital trains. As each railway coach is filled with its quota of patients, members distribute papers, magazines, cigarettes, watches, sweets, etc.

DAILY SKETCH CLUB AT KALYAN

One of the largest and most up-to-date clubs in the country—the Daily Sketch Club—has been opened at Kalyan by the Welfare General in India, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, writes an Army Observer.

The Club has come into being through the generosity of the Daily Sketch War Relief Fund under the chairmanship of Lady Kemsley, wife of the chairman of the Kemsley Press. A band of W.V.S. helpers is giving its full time service to the Club and is already organising an information bureau to assist British troops using the Club.

Declaring the Club open, the Welfare General said: "We owe a great debt to the women of India for all they have done for British troops. Welfare in this country is not easy. Yet organisations like the W.V.S., the W.A.S. (B) and the Red Cross and St. John—as well as many individuals who opened their homes to Servicemen—have done great work."

Gen. Beresford-Peirse went on to advise newly-arrived Servicemen to adapt themselves to conditions in India and to find new interests: "It is not possible to construct a western world for your amusement", he said. "In the history, life and sights of this country you will find much to occupy the mind".

The Club is completely air-conditioned and boasts a fine main hall, an attractive bar and billiard room. Its outdoor facilities will include tennis courts, a golf-course and a swimming pool now nearing completion.

The Welfare General also paid a tribute to the generosity of the Daily Sketch War Relief Fund for "that bit more which makes the difference". To incoming troops Kalyan was the first glimpse of India, and therefore amenities on a big scale were necessary.



The Shish Mahal at Lahore.

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The British Cabinet Mission consisting of Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, and Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, arrived in Delhi by air from the U.K. on March 24. They were received at the Palam aerodrome by H.E. the Viceroy. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mr. Alexander, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Lord Wavell and Sir Stafford Cripps.



The Health organisation, says the Bhore Committee, is based mainly on a system of hospitals and health centres which will play the dual part of providing medical relief and of taking an active part in preventive campaigns. Picture shows a ward of a modern hospital in Bombay, a doctor examines a paralysed boy while the nurse makes an entry in the patient's temperature chart. Three medical students are in attendance.

Vol. 18, No. 181. INDIAN INFORMATION April 1, 1946.

MAIN CONTENTS

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

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

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

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

	Page
Sir Joseph Bhore on Public Health in India	365
Information and Arts Department: Sir Akbar Hydari's Speech in Central Assembly	372
Delhi Victory Week	379
India's Deficit Food Balance-sheet	388
Finance Member's Reply to Budget Criticisms in Central Assembly	398
India and Bretton Woods Agreements: Central Assembly Committee Report	401
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Government's Rehabilitation Plans	409
Sir Gurunath Bewoor on Civil Aviation Forces' Discipline and Well-being: C-in-C's Radio Talk	417
Dr. N. B. Khare on Anti-Indian Legislation in South Africa	430
	433

COVER PICTURE: A Kashmiri girl.

IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN INDIA

"NO individual should fail to secure adequate medical care because of inability to pay for it." This, says the report of the Health Survey and Development Committee, is one of the main principles underlying the Committee's proposals for future health development in the country. The Committee, which was appointed in October, 1943, was presided over by Sir Joseph Bhore and consisted of 24 members (eight officials and 16 non-officials) of whom 19 were Indians and five Europeans.

The Committee has drawn up its health plan in two parts, one a comprehensive programme for the somewhat distant future and the other a short-term scheme covering a ten-year period. "We have taken the countryside

as the focal point of our main recommendations, for the debt which India owes to the tiller of the soil is immense. When pestilence and famine sweep through the land, it is he who pays the heaviest toll and yet receives only the scantiest medical assistance. Further, nearly 90 per cent. of the people in India live in the rural areas and the basic problem before the country is the provision of adequate health protection to the preponderatingly larger section of the community. We have therefore made the villager the chief beneficiary under the proposals."

On the administrative side the Committee proposes: ministries of health at the centre and in the Provinces, and health administrations in local areas. The Committee feels that the wide measure of autonomy that has been granted to

the Provinces should be respected to the utmost possible extent. "In order to minimise friction and to promote mutual consultations between the Centre and the Provinces in the formulation of health policies and its implementation, there should be established a Central Statutory Board of Health, consisting of the Central and Provincial Ministers of Health. The Centre, with its larger resources in money and technical personnel, should help the Provinces with grants-in-aid for the development of the health programme and with such technical assistance as may be required."

Councils of Experts

The Committee considers that the Ministries of Health, Central and Provincial, should have the advice and guidance of technical experts in the planning and maintenance of the health services and, therefore, recommends the creation of Standing Councils of Experts at the three levels of Central, Provincial and local area administrations. These Councils will consist of representatives of the medical, dental, nursing and other professions.

The Committee has also recommended the establishment in provinces of Provincial Health Boards and of Provincial Health Councils with composition and functions similar to those of the Central Board and Central Councils.

"The Ministry of Health, Central or Provincial," says the Committee, "should be the ultimate authority responsible for all health services operating within its jurisdiction and should have power to lay down and enforce minimum standards of health administration for those services which are within the immediate control of other departments."

The Committee points out that, as in the U.S.A., where the Federal Health Service controls sanitation and inter-state traffic, including supervision of sanitary facilities of all inter-state vehicles, the Central Government should be responsible for the enforcement of all measures necessary to prevent inter-provincial spread of infectious diseases. Enforcement of standards regarding food and drugs in the inter-provincial commerce should also be the function of the Central Government. In certain exceptional circumstances, the Central Government should have power to take direct action in a province in the interests of the country as a whole, but normally action should only be taken after consultation with the proposed Central Board of Health.

It is proposed that the principal technical adviser to the Minister of Health should be the Director-General of Health Services at the

Centre and the Director of Health Services in a province, who should function in each case as the single administrative officer for the curative and preventive departments of health. The Committee considers that there should be separate Central and Provincial Health services. These services should normally be recruited in India but, for a few posts in teaching and research institutions, it may be necessary to recruit suitable persons from abroad on short-term contracts. One-third of the posts in the general health services should be filled on merit; in filling the remainder, consideration may be given to representation of the different communities.

The Committee recommends that a proportion of the posts in the provincial cadres should have the same salary and status as their counterparts in the Central service to facilitate exchange of officers between the Centre and provinces. The Central and Provincial Services should be maintained as purely civil organisations and all members should have opportunities of gaining experience of both urban and rural health work. There should be no reservation of posts under the Central or Provincial Councils for the civil branch of the Indian Medical Service.

An *ad hoc* All-India Committee, including medical men, should be appointed to examine the question of establishing some measure of parity between the various provinces in the matter of salaries of their public health staff and the competitive attraction provided by non-state employers in the matter of scales of pay.

Health Administration

The Committee envisages a comprehensive health service with recruitment, staff and conditions of service on similar lines throughout the province and continuous and effective supervision by the higher technical staff over the work of the health personnel even in remote villages. Certain large municipalities such as Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Karachi which are governed by their own Acts as well as other municipalities with a population of at least 200,000, which may be considered as being in a position to maintain an independent health service, may be excluded from the jurisdiction of the District Health Board. All these large municipalities should develop and maintain health organisations on the lines suggested by the Committee.

Following the lines laid down in the Madras Public Health Act of 1939, every municipality included in that area under the scheme should be required by statute to contribute to the District Health Board not less than 50 per cent. of its income from all sources other than Gov-

ernment grants and that every district board or *panchayat* should similarly contribute not less than 12½ per cent. of its income. Such contributions and any grants sanctioned by the Provincial Governments will constitute the funds to be administered by the Board. While the Board will enjoy a large measure of autonomy in order to ensure that local opinion in the district is permitted to influence health policy, it is essential, says the Committee, that the Provincial Minister of Health should have the power of ensuring compliance by the Board with the general policy laid down by him.

The District Health Organisation will be in the charge of an officer to be designated the Officer-in-Charge of Health Services, who will be Secretary of the District Health Board and the Chairman of the District Health Council, District Health Services should be provincialised.

Three-Million Plan

It has been considered advantageous that, as far as possible, the administrative district should be chosen as the area for the development of the scheme. An arbitrary figure of three million as the population for a district has been chosen and this is referred to as the three-million plan.

The district health organisation will have a small unit of administration, the primary unit, which will normally serve an area with a population of about 10,000 to 20,000. A number of such primary units (15 to 25) will together form the secondary unit, a varying number of the latter (about 3 to 5) will form the District Health Unit, the designation by which the District Health organisation will be known. At each of the headquarters of the District, Secondary and Primary units will be established a health centre as the focal point from which the different types of health activity will be carried out into the territory covered by each unit.

Social Medicine

The health organisation is based mainly on a system of hospitals and health centres of varying sizes of different technical efficiency. These institutions will play the dual part of providing medical relief and of taking an active part in the preventive campaign. Work in connection with maternity and child welfare, tuberculosis, leprosy, etc., will be carried out into the homes of the people from the health centres, at which social workers are to be employed in an honorary capacity.

The Committee emphasizes that the treatment of disease has been approached not merely from the standpoint of offering the patient immediate relief but also from the point of view of social medicine, by attempting to remove the causes

which are responsible for his or her condition. Suitable housing, sanitary surroundings and safe drinking water supply are pre-requisites of a healthy life, states the Committee, which points out that the improvement of nutritional standards, qualitatively and quantitatively, elimination of unemployment and provision of a living wage for all workers and improvement in agricultural and industrial production and in means of communication, particularly in the rural areas, are all facets of a single problem and call for urgent attention.

"Nor can man live by bread alone. A vigorous and healthy community life in its many aspects must be suitably catered for. Recreation, mental and physical, plays a large part in building up conditions favourable to sound individual and community life and must receive serious consideration. Further, no lasting improvement of the public health can be achieved without arousing living interest and enlisting the practical co-operation of the people themselves.

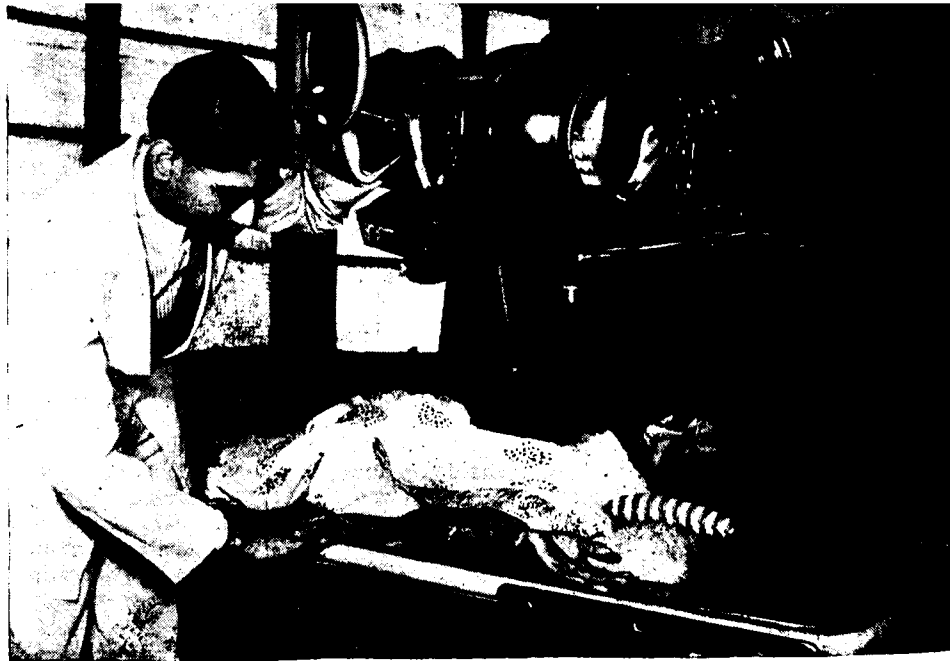
"The idea must be inculcated that, ultimately, the health of the individual is his own responsibility and the most effective means seems to be to stimulate health consciousness by providing health education on the widest possible basis as well as opportunities for his active participation in the local health programme.

Short-Term Programme

"We consider it essential for the success of the scheme that its development should be entrusted to Ministers of Health who enjoy the confidence of the people and are able to secure their co-operation. Both in respect of legislation and of administration it is likely that some of the measures to be undertaken may offend social and religious practices while others may involve control over the day-to-day life of the citizen. We therefore feel that it is only a minister enjoying the confidence of the people who can carry such enactments through the legislature and ensure their practical application in the country."

Under the short-term programme, while the outline of the general plan of the district health organisation will follow those indicated for the long-term programme, the plan will be less elaborate. It is suggested that, in view of the insufficiency of funds and trained personnel, each primary unit should cater, during the first ten years, for a population of 40,000 (as against 10 to 20,000 under the long-term programme) and that the establishment of the District Health Centre be postponed till after the tenth year. The staffing and equipment of

Roentgen Therapy at the Tata Cancer Research Hospital, Bombay. A patient is being treated for cancer of the oesophagus with a 220,000-volt radiation. The doctor is canalising the X-ray beam by means of an oblong lead-lined cone. (Below) The shape of the instrument used by the doctor permits of its insertion in the patient's oral cavity. Here, it is being used for superficial treatment.



the health centres at the headquarters of the primary and secondary units will be on a reduced scale. It is proposed that the new organisation should be extended to cover half the population of each district at the end of the tenth year. There will be one hospital bed for every 1,000 population at the end of ten years.

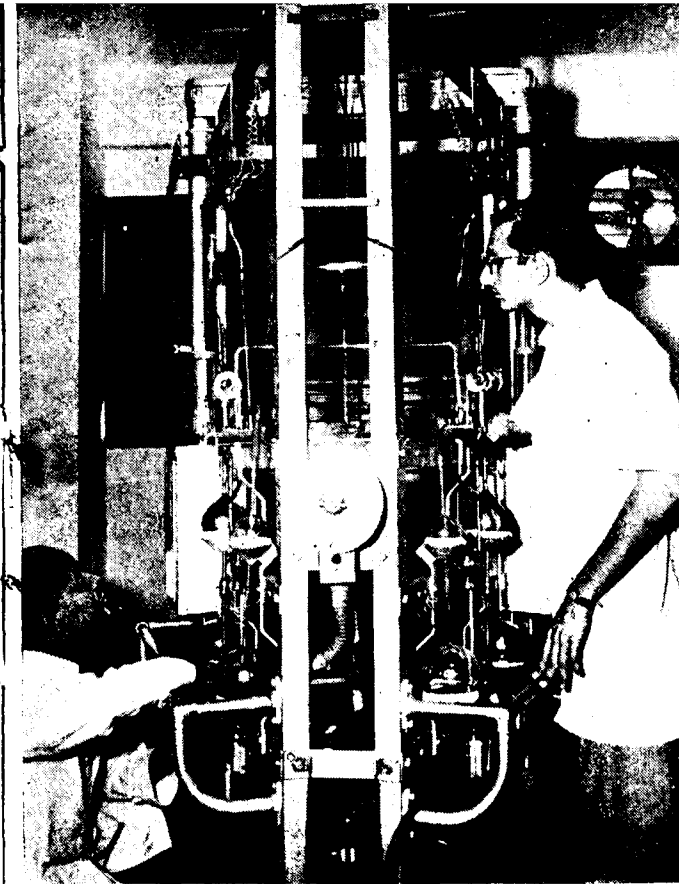
The Committee recommends that there should be in each province a Ministry of Housing and Town and Rural Planning, with wide powers to deal with the housing of the industrial population and with the zoning and location of industries. Before the establishment of any new industry or factory is agreed to, the Provincial Minister should satisfy himself that in the layout adequate provision is made for the housing of workers (on certain scales laid down), for their transport to and from the factory and for adequate environmental amenities.

Improvement Trusts

New industries should be dispersed in rural areas so that local inhabitants may derive the fullest benefit from industries being brought within their immediate circle, while the health problem of workers in such industries will be greatly simplified. The present system of establishing factories near or in big towns, where the workers are forced to live in crowded tenements and under artificial and insanitary conditions, is harmful alike to town-dwellers and workers.

Improvement trusts should be established in all larger cities of the country to deal with slum clearance and re-housing problems.

Every trust should be required to employ a town-planner on its staff. The Committee does not suggest the creation of a Ministry at the Centre because direct responsibility for planning and execution will rest with Provincial Governments, but states that there should be at the Centre an Expert in Town Planning who,



for the purpose of administration, may be attached to the establishment of the Director-General of Health Services under the Ministry of Health.

Provincial Governments should consider the establishment of a statutory body, under the direction and control of the Ministry of Housing, of town and village planning with financial resources and power to plan and execute province-wide house construction and a town and village development programme on a 20-30-year plan, in five yearly stages. The Provincial Ministry of Health is vitally concerned in the proper execution of any housing scheme and should be responsible for the control and enforcement of minimum standards in the design and construction, not only of houses, but of environmental amenities, such as water supply, sanitation and recreation.

Housing Programme

An India-wide housing programme should give first priority to the needs of the lower income groups of the population. Governments should be prepared, both in rural and urban areas, to finance or assist in financing any approved schemes for new housing or housing improvement, whether sponsored by the Government themselves, by local authorities, by co-operative societies or by private interest. Governments must, however, exercise control over the planning and execution of such schemes and, in particular, over the rents to be charged for new houses and any increase in the existing rents in the case of housing improvement. Type designs for new houses, and suggestions for the improvement of existing ones should be available to villagers through the Health and any other Departments.

Only 253 out of 1,471 towns possess protected water supplies. A vigorous policy should be adopted for the development of a water supply programme which should aim at providing the entire population with safe water for



(Above) Radon plant of the Cancer Research Hospital. (Left) The man on extreme right suffered from a cancerous larynx, which was removed at the hospital, and was rehabilitated by an artificial larynx mounted with a reed which does duty for the excised vocal cords. He is here seen conversing with other patients who have come for treatment.



A patient being taken for radium treatment. The radium carrier which the doctor is wheeling has a two-inch lead shield for the protection of the staff.

drinking and domestic purposes within 35 years. The establishment of Central and Provincial Water and Drainage Boards is recommended. A programme for the provision of sewerage in all towns with a population of 50,000 and over in ten years is recommended.

The Committee suggests an output of 4,000 to 4,500 doctors a year as the target to be aimed at in the first ten years, or roughly double the present output. They recommend that there should be one standard of medical training, that of the medical graduate, and that the training of licentiates should be discontinued within ten years. A reorganisation of the medical curriculum and the establishment in every medical college of a Department of Preventive and Social Medicine are proposed. Economic barriers should not prevent suitable students from entering the medical profession and students willing to enter the public services after graduation should be given a stipend of Rs. 1,000 a year.

Side by side with the rapid production of as large numbers as possible of all categories of health personnel, the Committee considers it essential to establish an All-India Medical Institute in order to bring together, in one place, educational facilities of the highest order for the training of doctors and of the more

important types of health workers. The Institute will also train selected candidates from the provinces for helping to man, with suitable staff, the new medical colleges which will be established.

At the present time research work depends mainly on two organisations: (1) the Central and Provincial Government laboratories and the Medical Research Department and (2) the Indian Research Fund Association.

The Committee recommends the constitution of a Central Medical Research Organisation consisting of (1) a Scientific Board which will be the executive machinery of the organisation and (2) an administrative body which would form the link between the Board and the Government of India and exercise general supervision over the working of the organisation. The composition of the Scientific Board should include medical research workers of standing and experience, representatives of universities and medical colleges, representatives of the principal scientific bodies in India, prominent workers in the field of public health and medicine, non-medical representatives of allied and fundamental sciences and persons with experience of health administration. The Board would make recommendations regarding the allocation of funds for the furtherance of research to the Administration Body, in which would be vested the power of giving sanction to such allocations.

Malaria Control

Malaria is by far the most important disease in India. An expansion of the Malaria Institute of India and the establishment of provincial malaria organisations and malaria control units is recommended.

The Committee suggests that it should be left to the Provincial Governments to decide what part, if any, should be played by the indigenous systems in the organisation of public health and medical relief. They point out that public health or preventive medicine is not within the purview of the indigenous systems which also do not deal with such aspects of medicine as obstetrics, gynaecology, and advanced surgery. The scientific systems of medicine they consider must be regarded as neither Eastern nor Western but as a corpus of scientific knowledge and practice belonging to the whole world.

The Committee has stated that the final responsibility should rest with the Governments in India for seeing that the country's essential needs for drugs and medical requisites are met in such a manner as to make them available in adequate amount and of the proper quality to all sections of the people. In regard to all



Malaria presents one of the worst threats to public health in India. Some time ago, New Delhi organised an anti-malaria exhibition when motor lorries displaying anti-malaria posters and slogans were taken round the city to educate the population.

such articles as are of an essential nature the country should be made self-sufficient as far as possible.

The Committee points out that vital statistics are at present inaccurate and incomplete and recommends that steps should be taken to improve them. The appointment of a Registrar General of Vital Statistics and Population at the Centre and Registrars in the Provinces is recommended.

The growth of population will, in the opinion of the Committee, become an increasingly serious problem. The prospects of emigration helping to lessen the pressure of population are remote and uncontrolled growth of population will eventually outstrip the productive capacity of the country. The Committee considers that the only practical steps that can be taken are, firstly, measures to raise the standard of living, and secondly, the spreading of the knowledge of birth control as far as the limitations imposed by the peculiar circumstances of the country will permit. All the members of the Committee are agreed that, when childbearing is likely to result in injury to mother or infant, there is every justification for the practice of contraception and that Government agencies should give instructions in birth control methods in such cases. Some members consider that

the State should provide such facilities to persons desirous of family planning for economic reasons also, while others hold that State action will be justified only if there is substantial support from public opinion.

Financial Problems

The Committee points out that at present Provincial Governments expenditure on curative and preventive health measures constitutes a very small fraction of the total provincial expenditure, varying from 2.5 to 7.3 per cent. and they suggest that this percentage should be raised considerably. The present provincial expenditure ranges from 3.2 to 10.9 annas per head. The Committee estimates that their proposals will involve an additional expenditure of Rs. 1-3 per head in the first year and Rs. 2-13 in the last year of the ten-year programme.

The Committee suggests a searching enquiry into building costs and the data on which Public Works Departments base their estimates and states that there is a widespread and persistent belief that the Public Works Departments are unduly expensive agencies for the construction of public buildings.

DELHI PROVINCE AS DEMONSTRATION AREA

Bhore Committee Recommends Single Health Authority

"THE Central Government should attempt to demonstrate in Delhi Province the effects of implementing not only our proposals but also those put forward by other committees which have made recommendations for post-war development in different fields of community life," says the Bhore Committee.

"The purpose in view is to demonstrate to the country as a whole what can be achieved through co-ordinated effort to improve the health and general prosperity of the community."

The Committee strongly recommends that a single authority should be established for health administration in Delhi Province as a whole, to be designated the Delhi Provincial Health Board. It is suggested that all local authorities in the

area should be represented on the Board and that in addition, there should be provision for a number of representatives, elected directly by the people. The Chief Commissioner of the Province should, in the initial stage be its Chairman, though later the Chairman should be elected. The Director of Health Services should be a member. The Committee says:

"The administrative organisation at the provincial headquarters will be based generally on our recommendations for other provinces although, in view of the small size of Delhi, we are of the opinion that the full strength of Deputy and Assistant Directors of Health recommended for the larger provinces will not be required here. The fact that the Director-General of Health Services and the technical members of his staff have their headquarters in Delhi and may, therefore, be expected to take a prominent part in the development of the health programme is another

reason against employing in Delhi the full strength of the directional staff recommended for the provinces.

"The creation of a Provincial Health Council for Delhi with its structure and functions similar to those of corresponding councils elsewhere, will also be necessary in order to enable the Health Administration to keep itself informed of the views of medical and allied professions in all technical matters relating to the development and maintenance of the Health services. We have specially stressed that the new services which will be established in the provinces under our scheme should supplement and not supplant the existing organisations for affording health protection to the people. This remark applies to the Delhi Province also."

Modification of General Plan

The modifications of the general plan as applied to the Delhi Province are designed, says the Committee, to secure a higher level of efficiency in the proposed health service, in view of Delhi being a demonstration centre for the country as a whole. For instance, a Rural Primary Unit in this province will have a population of 20,000 as against double that number suggested for the rest of the country. The proposed provision for medical relief will be higher in Delhi Province than that suggested for other provinces.

The dispensary at the headquarters of the primary unit will have five emergency beds as against two elsewhere while the 30-bed hospital will serve in Delhi a population of 60,000 as against 160,000 in the rest of the country. In view of the limited number of women doctors available in India, the Committee's proposal for the appointment of a woman doctor to each primary unit may not be possible of being carried out in the country as a whole in the early stages of the programme. It should however, be possible for Delhi Province to secure women doctors for the relatively smaller number of such units which will be developed here. In proportion to its population (520,000 in Delhi and 94,000 in New Delhi at the 1941 census) Delhi Province will have double the number of midwives and trained *dais* in each primary unit as compared with the rest of the country. Thus health work among women and children should be capable of development here on a more effective basis than in other provinces.

"As regards financing the Delhi health organisations our recommendation is that the contributions from the existing local bodies which will be merged in the Provincial Health Board should be the same as those which we put forward in connection with the District Health Scheme for other provinces, namely, 30 per cent. of their income from all sources other than Government grants in respect of municipalities and 12½ per cent. in the case of rural health authorities. The additional money that will be required for the scheme should be found by the Central Government.

"The scheme proposed by us, if given effect to, should be subject to review after seven years to enable stock to be taken of what has been achieved and modifications made, where necessary.

"In Delhi Province although communications may have been developed to a larger extent than in many other parts of the country we desire to stress the importance of still further improvement in this direction in order to ensure that the health services we are recommending may confer the maximum possible benefit on the people."

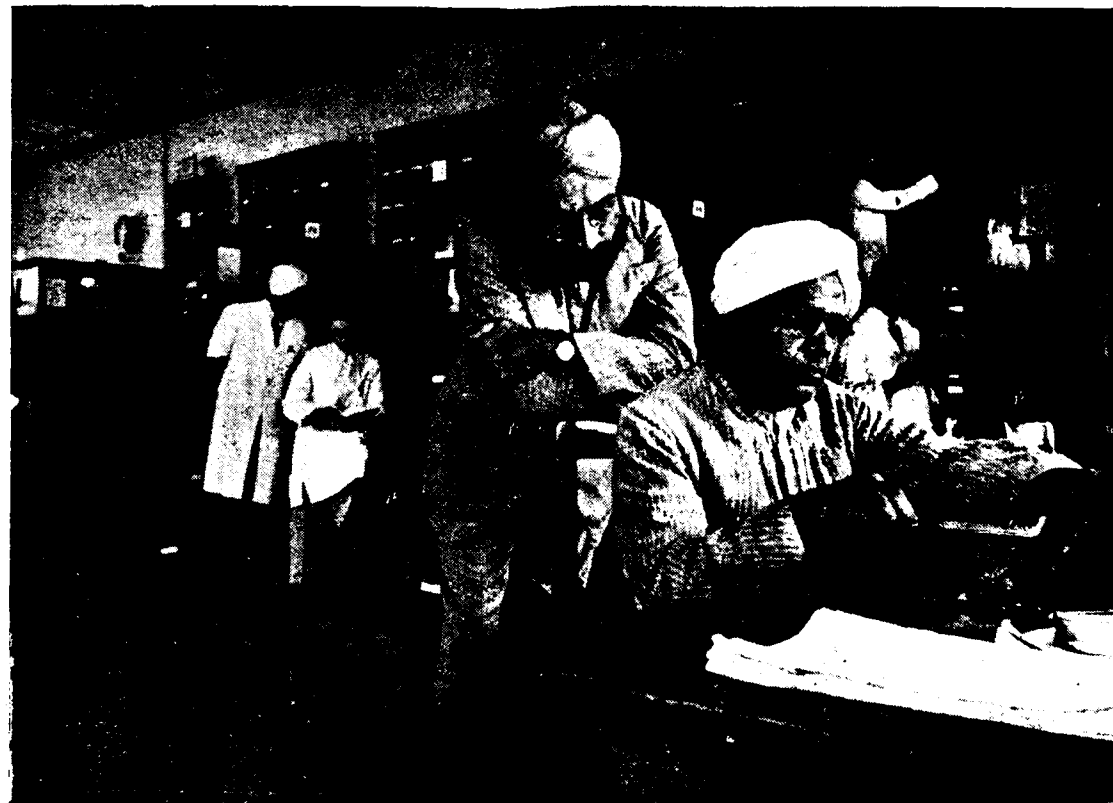
Employment of Demobilised Military Personnel Urged

"There exists in the medical and ancillary services of the Indian Army a great reservoir of personnel, whose training and experience render them particularly suited to employment in the civil health services," says the Bhore Committee. "This personnel comprises Medical Officers (male and female), Dental Officers, Nurses and Technicians."

The Committee points out that "in addition to the phenomenal enlargement of the Indian Army during the war, the military medical services have undergone a radical reorganisation and development dictated by the intensive application of modern science to military medical problems, which have greatly increased the professional and technical value of the personnel concerned.

"We would emphasize the supreme importance of this reservoir of trained talent being made available to the fullest possible extent to the health services of the country. If this opportunity of providing trained personnel for the carrying out of our proposals is allowed to pass without full advantage being taken of it, it may materially delay the initiation of the nationwide health programme for the country which we contemplate. We, therefore, consider it essential that the services of all such personnel should be utilized, except in cases of proved unsuitability."

The offices of the Liaison officers (Consumer Goods), Karachi and Madras have been closed with effect from March 1, 1946. Copies of any returns under the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order that were being sent to these Officers should hereafter be addressed to the Inspector of Civil Supplies, care of the Deputy Director of Supplies, Variama Buildings, McLeod Road, Karachi and to the Assistant Inspector, Civil Supplies, care of the Deputy Director of Supplies, United India Life Building, Esplanade, Madras.



The library of the Central Research Institute (Kasauli) which has a highly specialised collection of medical books in many languages and is open to all medical workers in India.

BHORE COMMITTEE EXAMINED 450 WITNESSES

Over 200 Memoranda Scrutinised

THE Health Survey and Development Committee scrutinised over 200 memoranda and examined 450 witnesses.

A Press Communique issued by the Government of India on October 18, 1943, announcing the appointment of the Committee, said: "In connection with post-war reconstruction plans the Government of India have appointed a Committee, to be known as the Health Survey and Development Committee, to make a broad survey of the present position in regard to health conditions and health organization in British India and to make recommendations for future development." Government felt that "a broad survey of the whole health field by a Central Committee will be of considerable assistance to Governments in preparing their post-war programmes and that the time has come when, in spite of the difficulties arising from war conditions, such a review must be undertaken."

The Committee was expected to draw up "plans for the improvement of health organization based on a comprehensive review of the health problems as a whole which will take account of, and place in their proper perspective, all the various factors affecting the health of the community with which health administration is concerned."

The Committee

Following was the personnel of the Committee:

Chairman—Sir Joseph Bore, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.B.E.

Members—Officials.

1. Rai Bahadur Dr. A. C. Banerjee, C.I.E., Director of Public Health, United Provinces.

2. Khan Bahadur Dr. Abdul Hamid Butt, Director of Public Health, Punjab.

3. Col. E. Cotter, C.I.E., I.M.S., Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.

4. Dr. J. B. Grant, C.B.E., M.D., Director, All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta (1939-45).

5. Lt.-Gen. Sir Bennett Hance, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., I.M.S., Director-General, Indian Medical Service.

6. Lt.-Col. Miss H. M. Lazarus, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service.

7. Major-Gen. W. C. Paton, C.I.E., M.C. K.H.P., I.M.S., Surgeon General, Bengal.

8. Lt.-Col. B. Z. Shah, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.F., I.M.S. (Retd.), Superintendent, Mental Hospital, Poona, formerly Director of Medical Services, Sind. Members—Non-officials.

9. Dr. R. A. Amesur, President, Indian Medical Association.

10. Dr. R. B. Chandrachud, F.R.C.S., Chief Medical Officer, Baroda State.

11. Dr. (Mrs.) D. J. R. Dadabhoy, M.D. M.R.C.P. (Lond.), Ex-President of the All India Association of Medical Women, Bombay.

12. Khan Bahadur Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hameed, M.D., M.R.C.P., Member of the Medical Council of India, Professor of Pathology, Lucknow University.

13. Sir Henry Holland, C.I.E., F.R.C.S., C.M.S. Hospital, Quetta.

14. Sir Frederick James, O. B. E., Member, Central Advisory Board of Health.

15. N. M. Joshi, Esq., M.L.A. (Central).

16. Pandit L. K. Maitra Member, Central Advisory Board of Health.

17. Diwan Bahadur Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, M.D., Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras.

18. Dr. U. B. Narayanrao, President, All-India Medical Licentiates Association.

19. Dr. Vishwa Nath, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Member of the Medical Council of India.

20. B. Shiva Rao, Esq.

21. Dr. B. C. Roy, M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., President of the Medical Council of India (1939-45).

22. The Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Saprú, Member, Council of State, and Member, Central Advisory Board of Health.

23. Mrs. K. Shuffi Tyabji, J.P., K.I.H., Bombay.

24. Dr. Hemandas R. Wadhwani, K.I.H., J.P., Minister for Public Health, Sind, till April, 1945.

Secretary.—Rao Bahadur Dr. K. C. K. E. Raja.

The Communique went on to say that "the Committee appointed includes persons with practical experience of preventive public health work, medical relief, medical and public health education, industrial health education and other aspects of the health problem. The Committee will have power to appoint sub-committees to make preliminary inquiries into particular aspects of the problem. The procedure of the Committee will necessarily have to be adopted to war conditions and it will not be possible for the Committee as a whole to make tours of inquiry but it will be open to the Committee to have local inquiries made by small groups or sub-committees when such inquiries are essential for the adequate discharge of their task."

The first meeting of the Committee was held in New Delhi on October 26, 27 and 28, 1943. The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Health, delivered the opening address at the first sitting of the Committee on October 26 when Press representatives were invited to be present.

Viceroy's Message

H.E. the Viceroy sent a message, in which he drew the Committee's attention to the health problems to be tackled as India journeyed along "the road towards National Health", namely, slum clearance and re-housing, proper water supply and sanitary systems, anti-malaria work, maternity and child welfare work, village medical services, etc. His Excellency also referred to the possibility of improving the production of home-grown drugs and the need for the development of research organisations in addition to those who we already have."

Sir Jogendra Singh said: "We have to find a way to overcome distress and disease and to lay firm the foundation of prosperity by improving health and with it the efficiency of our increasing population." He added, "I hope that in addition to a vision of the ultimate objective, you will let us have an indication of the task to be undertaken in the near future as soon as conditions permit."

Sir Joseph Bore, Chairman of the Committee, assured Sir Jogendra Singh that "what lies in our power will be done to accomplish it (the task) to the best of our ability" and hoped that it would be "one of our foremost endeavours to rouse public opinion in this country to a realization of the toll which every day is being so relentlessly exacted from us in terms of individual suffering and national loss."

Advisory Committees

At the first meeting of the Committee after general discussion five Advisory Committees were appointed to deal with the subjects of Public Health, Medical Relief, Industrial Health, Medical Education and Medical Research. These Committees were composed mainly of members of the parent Committee but in some cases other medical men and research workers with special experience in various fields were co-opted.

The Advisory Committees were constituted as follows:—

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH: The Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Saprú (Chairman), Mr. N. M. Joshi (Vice-Chairman), Lt.-General J. B. Hance, Col. E. Cotter, Sir Frederick James, Dr. B. C. Roy, Mr. B. Shiva Rao, Dr. R. A. Amesur, Dr. M. Ahmad (Member-Secretary). This Committee had to report on the health of the industrial population.

MEDICAL RELIEF: Dr. B. C. Roy (Chairman), Sir Henry Holland (Vice-Chairman), Lt.-General J. B. Hance, Maj.-Gen. W. C. Paton, Lt.-Col. B. Z. Shah, Dr. R. B. Chandrachud, Dr. D. J. R. Dadabhoy, Pandit L. K. Maitra, Captain A. Banerji (Secretary). Medical relief, hygiene and control of the trade in medicines were the subjects entrusted to this Committee.

MEDICAL RESEARCH: Lt.-Gen. J. B. Hance (Chairman), Col. E. Cotter, Dr. W. R. Aykroyd, Pandit L. K. Maitra, Lt.-Col. Sir Ram Nath Chopra, Dr. Vishwa Nath, Dr. C. G. Pandit, Dr. V. N. Patwardhan, Lt.-Col. H. W. Mulligan (Member-Secretary).

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: Diwan Bahadur Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar (Chairman), Lt.-Col. H. M. Lazarus (Vice-Chairman), Lt.-Gen. J. B. Hance, Dr. J. B. Grant, Dr. Vishwa Nath, Dr. B. C. Roy, Dr. M. A. Hameed, Dr. U. B. Narayanrao, Dr. S. Ramakrishna (Secretary).

PUBLIC HEALTH: Col. E. Cotter (Chairman), Dr. J. B. Grant (Vice-Chairman), Lt.-Col. C. A. Bozman, Sir Frederick James, The Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Saprú, Rai Bahadur Dr. A. C. Banerjee, Khan Bahadur Dr. A. H. Butt, Dr. Hemandas R. Wadhwani, Mrs. K. Shuffi Tyabji, Mr. E. C. Das Gupta, Mr. B. Shiva Rao, Dr. K. T. Jungalwalla (Secretary). This Committee dealt with environmental hygiene, nutrition, chief diseases, quarantine (internal and international), maternity and child welfare, health, education and physical education.

Suggestions Invited

On October 29, at a Press conference Sir Joseph Bore said: "All persons concerned, as well as any organizations interested in social work, are welcome to come forward with any suggestions that they may have to offer."

The same evening Sir Joseph, in a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station of A.I.R., told the public that his Committee had been asked by Government "to give a true and faithful picture of existing health conditions in India and to recommend lines of improvement and development for the future."

The five Advisory Committees prepared and issued questionnaire on the subjects allotted to them and also invited memoranda. When the memoranda and replies to questionnaire were received the Committee and its five sub-committees met again in New Delhi in January, 1944, and held a ten-day session.

The main Committee reviewed the work of the sub-committees and arrived at a few general conclusions of a tentative nature which were

to be further examined in the light of evidence which might be given and of the results of personal investigation during the tours of the country that the members of the Committee were to undertake in the near future.

The Committees dealing with Medical Research and Professional Education had the benefit of hearing the views of Prof. A. V. Hill, Secretary of the Royal Society. The Public Health Committee heard Brigadier Covell, Director of the Malaria Institute, and Drs. P. V. Benjamin and A. C. Ukil on tuberculosis. Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, Professor of Public Health Engineer at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, discussed questions relating to the training of Public Health Engineers and Sanitary Inspectors and the improvement and control of water supplies.

By the first week of April, 1944, the Committee received about 40 memoranda from members of the public and public associations while 157 memoranda had been prepared by the Committee from the material and literature then available. The Provincial Governments had also sent their replies and 30 witnesses had been examined. A number of important *ad hoc* sub-committees, had also been formed.

Town Planning Survey

The committee then broke up into four groups for the purpose of touring, making local inspections and taking evidence in the Provinces—one group for Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the Central Provinces; a second for Madras and Mysore and Hyderabad States; and the third for Bombay, Sind, the Punjab, N.W. F. P., the United Provinces and Delhi Province. The fourth, entrusted with industrial health, was to see as many industrial centres as possible throughout the country.

The Committee appointed Mr. B.R. Kagal, Administrative Officer, Jamshedpur, to make a rapid survey of town planning and housing in different parts of the country. He proceeded in October, 1944, on an all-India tour and contacted Provincial and State Governments and their technical advisers as well as representatives of organisations such as Improvement Trusts, Co-operative Building Societies and Local Bodies. The material collected by Mr. Kagal is the basis on which the Committee has made its recommendations on the principles on which land development and housing should be carried out.

A number of experts from Britain, the U.S.A., and U.S.S.R., came to India in December, 1944, to give evidence before the Committee. They were Prof. J. A. Ryle, Professor of Social Medicine, Oxford University; Dr. H. E. Sigerist, Professor and Director, Institute of

History of Medicine, John Hopkins University, Baltimore; Dr. J. W. Mountain, Medical Director in the U.S.A. Public Health Service; Sir W. D. Champneys, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, London; Dr. Janet Vaughan, Medical Officer-in-Charge, N. W. London Blood Supply Depot for Medical Research Council; and Dr. T. H. L. Cumpston, Director-General of Health, Commonwealth of Australia. Prof. B. V. Ognev, Chairman of the Central Institute of Higher Medical Training, U.S.S.R. gave evidence in February 1945.

Other experts from foreign countries sent replies to the questionnaire on public health issued by the Committee. They were: Dr. Winslow, till lately Professor of Public Health, Yale University, U.S.A.; Dr. T. T. Ilcagerty, Director of Public Health Service, Canada, Mr. Charles Seeley, of the Birmingham Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health, England; Dr. H. S. Raper, Dean of the Medical School, Manchester; and Dr. B. C. William, Public Health Department, Oxford.

MEDICAL RELIEF AND CONTROL OF EPIDEMICS

A party of officers, including a medical stores officer, carrying with them information regarding available surplus medical stocks, left New Delhi by air on March 1 to visit Madras, Bangalore and Bombay to ascertain what medical stores and equipment are required and to consider to what extent they can be met from surplus stocks. Substantial stocks of medical supplies and equipment and of the vaccines and other materials required for controlling epidemics are available.

As a precautionary measure the manufacture of protein hydrolysates, a preparation which was found useful for treatment in Bengal, has been commenced at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, in order to provide a reserve available to meet an emergency.

The military authorities have been requested to release forthwith medical officers on provincial cadres who were made available by Provincial Governments for military service during the war.

The Enemy Trading Regulations no longer apply to those areas of China which were formerly under enemy occupation. Persons and concerns in India can now carry on private trade with persons and concerns in those areas subject to the existing export, import and financial regulations in force in this country.

COUNTRYSIDE THE FOCAL POINT OF OUR MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS, SAYS SIR JOSEPH BHORE

“WE have taken the countryside as the focal point of our main recommendations, for it is the tiller of the soil on whom the economic structure of the country eventually rests,” said Sir Joseph Bhore, Chairman of the Health Survey and Development Committee, in a recorded talk broadcast from A.I.R., New Delhi on March 4.

Sir Joseph Bhore said: It is impossible, within the compass of a 15-minute talk, to give any picture of the Health Committee's recommendations which will be both clear and comprehensive. I feel I can best utilise the time at my disposal by trying to give you some definite idea of the more important principles which we have kept prominently before our minds and which form the general framework of our proposals, instead of confusing your mind with a number of details or a string of figures, I can only hope that this method of approach may excite your interest and your curiosity sufficiently to induce you to spend a little of your time in looking at least into Volume II of our report, in which you will find our recommendations set out.

First Principle

The first and most important principle we have enunciated, so far as the mass of our population is concerned, is one which will, I think, challenge no opposition. It is that no individual should fail to secure adequate medical care merely because of his inability to pay for it: It may be for many years to come that the medical aid available will fall far short of the country's requirements. That this should be so is unfortunate but, in the existing circumstances, inevitable. What, however, we would emphasise is that our ideas of human values must change and that it should be our aim to see that the poor receive as efficient medical attention as the rich. If it is found possible to carry out our main recommendations we should be in a position to give practical effect to this ideal over the country as a whole in the space of about 40 years.

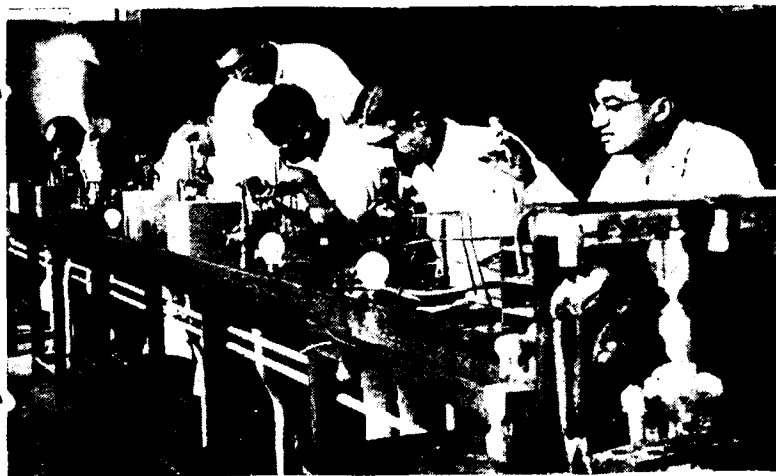
The next important principle we have tried to emphasise is that the time has come to redress the neglect which has hitherto been the lot of the rural areas. Let me repeat what has been said in our report. We have taken the countryside as the focal point of our main recommendations, for it is the tiller of the soil on



Sir Joseph Bhore

whom the economic structure of the country eventually rests. It is his patient toil that year in, year out, gives the nation its food, such as it is, and the country's main manufacturing industries their raw material. It is from his meagre earnings that the larger provinces drew nearly a third of their total revenues before the war. It is on the produce of his husbandry that the country's balance of foreign trade largely depends. When pestilence and famine sweep through the land it is he who pays the heaviest toll, while it is only the outermost fringe of such public services and amenities as the country enjoys that occasionally comes the orbit of his daily life.

We have suggested that, taking the district as the starting point, medical aid should be dispensed through a network of centres which will eventually cover the whole area. Our eventual plan for a district with a population of three millions consists of 150 primary units, each providing preventive and curative medical attention for a population consisting of from 10,000



Students of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, at work in the Micro-biology Laboratory. (Below) A rabbit being injected with typhoid culture in the laboratory.

to 20,000. Each primary unit would ultimately have a staff of six doctors, half of them women, 26 nurses for hospital duties and for work in the homes of the people, six midwives and 18 others, including hospital social workers, sanitary inspectors and various other personnel associated with preventive health activities. Thirty primary units would be attached to a secondary unit which would provide institutional facilities of a high order.

Finally five secondary units would look to the district headquarters centre, where ultimately a hospital will be developed making available medical aid of the highest standard in every department of modern medicine.

Transport Ambulances

Transport ambulances and travelling medical units would help to extend the aid which stationary medical institutions are capable of giving.

These developments, owing to the lack of trained personnel and funds in the initial stages, would take time to materialise. But under even moderately favourable conditions it should be possible, we feel to provide a reasonably complete health service for the country in a period of about 40 years.

In the earlier years not only would a beginning have to be made with a smaller number of units but these would have to cover a larger section of the population. A primary unit would at this stage serve, say, 40,000 instead of 10,000 or 20,000. Further, with a smaller staff the service given would be less intensive than



that which it will be possible to give when the plan is in its later stages. Our short term programme has been drawn up in some detail to cover two five-year periods, by the end of which we hope that about half the country will be provided with a reasonable measure of medical protection.

Another principle to which we attach fundamental importance is the linking up of preventive and curative medical activities and the active promotion of positive health.



A student studies charts of different Indian diets in the museum of the Institute.

The Institute has a blood bank attached to it. (Right) A serviceman is giving his blood. (Below) A research worker is studying a large-scale model of the deadly plague-flea in the Institute's museum.



The doctor of the future—the "basic doctor" as we call him—will need to attend to public health duties as well as dispense medical aid on the curative side as part of his day-to-day work. His training will have to be such so as to induce in him a strong bias towards preventive work, for it is only through such activities that we can hope to tackle successfully the problem of disease and reduce its incidence. So long as environmental hygiene is neglected, so long as the faulty modes of life of the individual and of the community remain uncorrected, so long as the factors weakening man's power of resistance and increasing his susceptibility to disease are allowed to operate unchecked, so long will our

towns and villages continue to be factories for the supply of cases to our hospitals and dispensaries. It is only by attacking the problem at its source and removing the causes of ill-health that we can expect to build up a robust virile and dynamic population.

It is only a medical practitioner with a strong preventive bias who can help effectively in dealing with disease in its remedial and preventive aspects. For instance, when treating a typhoid patient in his home, our primary unit doctor should, in addition to the medical attention he gives him, instruct the other members of the family regarding the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. He should vaccinate them against the disease. In the interests of the community he should, if possible, discover the sources of infection and take such steps as are necessary to control its spread. It is only by a simultaneous application of curative and preventive measures that the health of the individual and of the community can be safeguarded.



A health unit at work in a U. P. village. The Provincial Government has employed a number of doctors and touring vaccinators in connexion with its rural development campaign.

Then we are suggesting that, as development proceeds, what is called "group" practice should be made available at institutional centres. Modern medical practice tends to grow more and more complex and it will therefore become increasingly necessary to provide consultant, laboratory and institutional facilities of the most varied character. In other words we should aim at making our principal hospitals Mayo Clinics, where as complete diagnostic and consultant aids as may be possible will be available.

Need for Trained Personnel

The factors impeding the rapid increase of medical aid are of serious importance. We have to remember that the country's financial resources are limited. The trained personnel necessary to provide a health service of the expansive character we have in mind is unfortunately lacking at the moment, and this limitation is not one which can be removed today or tomorrow. It takes five years to produce a doctor and other key personnel require periods of training which, in many cases, must normally be measured in terms of years and not on months.

The number of trained nurses available is so limited in relation to the requirements of the country that we might almost consider them non-

existent. Dentists are almost equally scarce while hospital social workers are practically unknown. For our ultimate requirements the number of doctors will have to be increased about five times, nurses about a hundred times, midwives about 20 times and dentists about 90 times. Our recommendations take into account the fact that the first necessity for any material advance in the improvement of the health provision for the country is a substantial increase of trained personnel and we have suggested a considerable enlargement of training facilities for every type of health worker, we recognise what a crucial part the nursing profession plays in the provision of medical aid.

The public health nurse of the future, moreover, is in some ways the key-stone of our plan for taking health knowledge and preventive work into the homes of the people. We realise that the conditions under which nurses are at present called upon to work are such that they can make no appeal to women of the types so urgently required for this profession. We are recommending that these conditions should be materially improved without delay. This will, I hope, do something to attract larger numbers and it is an essential reform long overdue. But I would like to appeal on a higher plane to those young women who are now considering a profession. I would say to them:

Vital Work

"Here is an opportunity if you wish to take a really constructive part in building a healthier and a happier India. It is work that is vital for the country. Will you not come and help? It may mean a sacrifice but no worthwhile cause was ever won without sacrifices and your reward will be the satisfaction that comes from the knowledge that you have helped to fight against suffering and disease and have given the men, women and children around you opportunities for a better and happier life."

We must bear in mind that social habits, customs, usages and existing standards of living may also call for modification, which in some cases may be profound, before the way can be effectively prepared and the requisite pre-conditions ensured for the satisfactory functioning of the new health order which we envisage. Nor can the ideal of community health be achieved through a bottle of medicine or a surgical operation. It cannot be attained until the individual has learnt to realise that his neighbour's health is a matter of as much concern to himself as his own, that it is his own efforts which must help to decide the health pattern of the community circle in which he lives and that only a combined co-operative effort on the part of all workers in the many fields of activity in that circle can yield results that are worth achieving.

To make any real progress we need the willing co-operation of the people and we look to popular ministers who enjoy their confidence to mobilise, lead and inspire their efforts in this truly national fight against disease.

I cannot emphasise too strongly the importance and urgency of the health problem in India. The expectation of life for a new born infant in this country is about 27 years. About 160 of every 1,000 children born in India die before the first year of life is over, while the corresponding rates of mortality in the other two countries is about one-fifth of this figure. Of a total of about six and a quarter million deaths per year in British India nearly one-half occurs among children under 10 years of age. One hundred million individuals suffer every year from malaria while deaths due directly and indirectly to this disease number about two millions. At least 2½ million persons are bed-ridden with tuberculosis and it probably accounts for half a million deaths each year. These figures should help to give some idea of the importance and urgency of the health problem in India.

May I hope I have said enough to excite the interest of my listeners and to induce them to seek for a fuller account of the problems of ill-health in India and of their suggested treatment in the pages of the Committee's report? May I also express the fervent wish that every one of those who are listening to me tonight will take an active part in promoting the national health campaign? The war against disease and death will have been half won if each individual is prepared to play his or her part with zeal and determination.

JUTE ACREAGE FOR 1946

At a conference held in New Delhi, the question of the acreage to be sown in Bengal with jute in 1946 was reviewed in the light of the food situation at present obtaining in the country.

As a result of this review, it was decided that:

- (a) an acreage of 6 annas of the basic acreage of 1940 should be licensed this year;
- (b) the Government of Bengal will take all possible steps to ensure that the licensed acreage is fully planted;
- (c) the Government of India will continue to guarantee the minimum price of raw jute on the present basis;
- (d) the Jute Price Control Order, 1945, will remain in force.



JAIPUR MEDICAL COLLEGE

Viceroy Lays Foundation-Stone

HIS Excellency the Viceroy, laying the foundation-stone of the Jaipur Medical College on March 13 said:

I am very pleased to be here today and to lay the foundation-stone of the Jaipur Medical College. I congratulate His Highness and the State on his beneficent undertaking, which is a very necessary and fitting complement to the series of medical institutions which have been founded here. It is a very worthy aim that this place should become the centre of medical teaching in Rajputana, and that a fully-equipped and well-staffed institution should be the means of training many hundreds of doctors.

As your Director of Medical Services has so rightly emphasised, and as the Bhore Committee Report has recently shown, the lack of medical facilities in India is one of the major social deficiencies which need to be remedied. I had not realised until I came here that you already had so many specialist medical institutions: these will provide invaluable material for the students of this college; and the result will surely be an output of keen and skilful doctors.

I am sure that the personal interest of His Highness in this institution will mean that the standards which it sets out to establish will never be lowered; and that teaching and research will both be of a high order, so that the Jaipur Medical College may come to be known as one of the leading medical schools in India. It will certainly supply a much-felt want for this vast area of Rajputana. I wish all possible success to this great undertaking.

REMOVAL OF COMPANY RECORDS TO REGISTERED OFFICES

Rule 51L of the Defence of India Rules was issued with the object of protecting the records and documents of companies from destruction or damage by enemy action, by authorising their removal from registered offices of companies and offices of Registrars of Companies, which were situated in vulnerable areas, to places of safety. This rule is no longer necessary and will be deleted with effect from June 9, 1946.

The Companies which removed their records and documents from their registered offices under that rule should in the meanwhile bring such records etc., back to the registered offices.

MILITARY TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL AT AUNDH

AN institution unique in India is No. 8 Indian Base General Hospital at Aundh, near Poona. It is the only military T.B. hospital in the country.

Started in June 1945, it has 1,250 beds for Indian and British patients. Up to the end of January 1946, nearly 1700 patients had been admitted, and 800 discharged.

The three essentials for the treatment of tuberculosis are fresh air, good diet and rest. These are available in full measure at the hospital, and a marked improvement is achieved by patients in a comparatively short time.

In the surgical wing of the Hospital specialists are available to perform the most difficult and delicate of operations. There are also well-equipped X-Ray, physiotherapy and occupational therapy centres.

Amenities

On the amenities side, the Hospital is exceptionally well-equipped. There are recreation rooms, a library of 4,000 volumes, a theatre and a cinema at which films are shown daily. There are shops of every kind and a hairdressing saloon for the benefit of women patients and nurses.

Col. J. Chandra, O.B.E., who has been in charge of the Hospital since its inception, is a man of tireless energy and enthusiasm. Never satisfied, he is always looking for further improvements. His latest is a meteorological section for recording winds, pressure and humidity—important data for the treatment of tuberculosis.

MORE INFORMATION WANTED IN ALL SALES MEMORANDA

By a notification in the *Gazette of India* dated March 2, the Central Government have revised the particulars that are to be shown in all sales memoranda.

Importers and Producers are now required *inter alia* not only to indicate their own selling prices but also the wholesale and retail prices chargeable under the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance. Wholesale dealers are similarly required to indicate in addition to their own selling prices, the retail prices chargeable under the Ordinance.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1946.



ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES' WORK IN INDIA

DURING six years of war the Army Medical Services in India faced and overcame unprecedented problems of medical organisation. Some details concerning the vast expansion of the Army's hospital accommodation are given in the current issue of "Indian Army Review".

At the outbreak of war, there were garrison hospitals in all military stations throughout India and they were capable of dealing, at any one time, with 5,044 British troops and 6,077 Indian troops. In 1945, the corresponding figures were nearly 13,000 and 43,000 respectively.

Mobile Hospitals

To meet the demands of war, mobile hospitals were necessary and also hospitals to cater for the needs of the long-term casualty who had to be evacuated from operational areas. Consequently, field hospitals and Indian base general hospitals were formed.

Field hospitals catered for the needs of field forces both in India and overseas and could, if necessary, function in tents. The expansion of these field hospitals was so great

Doctor of a Field Ambulance attends to a wounded soldier in Burma

that in 1945, they could accommodate more than 19,000 British troops and 35,000 Indian troops.

Indian base general hospitals were grouped as far as possible in base hospital centres where highly specialised facilities were provided. These hospitals were sited in India in accordance with the operational situation and such was their growth that, in 1945, they could provide beds for 11,000 British troops and over 20,000 Indian troops.

The employment of well over 1,000 field medical units enabled the Medical Services to deal with all battle casualties and to cope successfully with the very high rate of sickness—the inevitable accompaniment of every war in the East.

In addition, more than 1,500 specialists with trained staffs and specialised equipment brought the most modern forms of diagnosis and treatment to troops in the most forward field areas, on the lines of communication, and at the base.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1946.

INFORMATION AND ARTS DEPARTMENT

Sir Akbar Hydari's Reply to Criticisms in Central Assembly

"If you pass this Motion, you truncate the Information and Arts Department and I very much doubt whether it will continue to have a separate existence", said the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Information and Arts, speaking in the Central Assembly on March 12, on the Cut Motion moved by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Congress) that the demand under the head Department of Information and Arts be reduced by Rs. 93,34,000.

"I have tried as far as I could to run this Department in accordance with what I consider to be the national interest", continued Sir Akbar. "If you, as representatives of the nation, duly elected, say that you do not want this activity by passing this Cut Motion for Rs. 93 lakhs, do not do it on the assumption that it will be restored. I, therefore, appeal to you, before you take this step, to think whether you are wise in depriving the constitutional Government, on the eve of its coming into existence, of a machine and of technical and competent people without hope of recall."

Broadcasting

Sir Akbar said: Sir, I do not appear before this House in sack cloth and ashes. I am not ashamed for what has been done in the past or what is proposed to be done, if it is allowed to survive, by this Department in the future. Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan, in his very attractive literary exercise, which is worthy of some of the best productions of my Department, has really confined his speech to broadcasting which is not in question in the present Cut Motion. If he finds anything to complain of, and I am sure there are things which could be probably improved, I would very much like him to give me and Mr. Bokhari the benefit of his counsel.

MR. MUHAMMAD NAUMAN (Muslim League): Do they care to hear us. Give them as much advice and counsel!

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: As I have announced previously in the House, it is my intention that as soon as it may be, broadcasting would be under the direction of a semi-autonomous body consisting of Indian men and women of standing. Anyhow that should be ample evidence that I am very willing and so is Mr. Bokhari to act on advice.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Congress): Is it to screen it from criticism?

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: I do not propose to go into the matter of publication which forms the main theme of Mr. Tyson's remarks because that again is not in question. In view.....

MR. GEOFFREY W. TYSON (European Group): May I ask the Hon'ble Member if he would try and address this side of the House. It is frightfully difficult to hear.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Sir, I will do my best (Interruption.)

MR. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: There is a very good case for Publications but I do not want to explain it now because that again is not in question and therefore I would like to confine myself to the four activities of the Department which is the subject of this cut totalling Rs. 93 lakhs.

In the first place I would like to say that it is not true that I have flouted the opinion of the House expressed in the previous debate on this subject in the time of my distinguished predecessor. I joined the Department on November 1, 1945. Very soon after I had got the hang of it, I went through myself along with my officers the various activities of this Department. I abolished some. I pruned down others and then what did I do?

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Revive the third!

Standing Finance Committee's Approval

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: I submitted proposals to a Committee of the Executive Council and got the proposals vetted by them and then by Government as a whole. But I did not stop there. I appeared myself on all the proposals which are in question and appeared before the Standing Finance Committee on February 9; and by a majority the Standing Finance Committee accepted every one of them. You cannot say, like the last Standing Finance Committee, that there was a majority of people of our way of thinking. Out of nine members three belonged to the Muslim League, four belonged to the Congress Party,

and therefore if these proposals were passed by a majority, it must have been by a majority of elected members.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Congress): By a majority which shall be defeated now!

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: My point is merely this: that at the earliest date, after I had examined the various activities of the Department and got governmental approval to their being carried out I placed them before a Committee of this House, and had the Committee not agreed with one or the other of these proposals I was prepared not to carry them out.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): On a point of information. Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Member, or as a matter of fact his predecessor started this Department before it was brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Their activities were started in June 1945 and they did not come up to the Standing Finance Committee till February 1946.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: When I joined the Department, the whole Department came under review and all the principal activities of this Department were placed before the Standing Finance Committee of this House and passed, each of them by a majority. When I come to deal with each of the four items which my Hon'ble friend proposes to abolish, I will read out.....

MR. MANU SUBEDAR (Congress): Will the Hon'ble the Finance Member make clear what we made clear on this subject and what I said?

MR. PRESIDENT: I think it is better if the Hon'ble Member is given a hearing.

MR. MANU SUBEDAR (Congress): Since matters which transpired in the Standing Finance Committee are being read and since the position which some of us took is not properly put. I am calling upon the finance Member, who is the Chairman, to make clear what some of us said on this subject. We do not want it to be said that in one place we took one line and today we are taking another line.

MR. PRESIDENT: What I would suggest to the Hon'ble Members is to be a little patient while the other side is putting its case.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): There is no impatience.

MR. PRESIDENT: Order, order. Instead of having running commentaries and running questions at every instance, let us first grasp

what the Hon'ble Member has to say. After that is done, if there is anything which requires a personal explanation, certainly Hon'ble Members are entitled to put their questions and get the matter clarified. But this sort of running commentary at every instance is not going to help the debate.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): On a point of personal explanation. I am a little sorry that you should have implied that there is impatience. As a matter of fact the Hon'ble Member said he was not responsible. . . .

MR. PRESIDENT: Order, order. The Hon'ble Member is trying to justify his position without hearing the other side.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): I heard the other side.

MR. PRESIDENT: I respectfully differ from you. I am hearing the whole debate and trying to follow it up. The Hon'ble Member may have his own views, I am starting on a blank slate. I have no presuppositions either this way or that way. Let him develop his argument. If there is any misstatement of any facts, or misrepresentation of the views of any Hon'ble Members, they will certainly have an opportunity. I will give them an opportunity. But the point is that there should not be running commentaries and interruptions at every sentence. It breaks the link of the person who is arguing his own case and then the House does not get all that he wanted to say. Let him say all that he wants to say. The Hon'ble Members will make notes of the questions they want to put and then can put them. I will give them an opportunity.

Field Publicity Organisation

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Thank you, sir. I will make one observation on what my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Manu Subedar says, I do not wish to disclose what each individual member in the Standing Finance Committee said because that is against the rule. The only reason why I mentioned the Standing Finance Committee and which I think I have every right to do is that I did at the earliest possible moment place these matters before a Committee of this House and recorded; what is stated in this publication is for anybody to see. I did not reveal any secret. Now with the permission of the House I wish to deal with the four subjects which the Hon'ble the Mover wants cut out.

He mentioned first Field Publicity and said that this was flouting the opinion of the House, that it was extravagant expenditure and in the

interest of economy this particular Organisation should be cut out. Of course he is perfectly right in saying that there was no difference in time between the abolition of the National War Front and the creation of this Field Publicity Organisation. He was quite right but there was a difference in bias and I will read out a few lines from what was stated in the memorandum to the Standing Finance Committee:

"With the cessation of hostilities the need for educating the people in the restriction in daily life has to some extent decreased and Government's plans of post-war development have now become of primary importance. Any plan for the general improvement of the social and material conditions of the people as a whole must pay special attention to the villages. The measures required for such improvement are many and include improved methods of agriculture, better livestock, organised marketing, the financing of agriculture, the relief of indebtedness, anti-erosion, irrigation and reclamation measures. In addition improved communications, agricultural and health services and education are required."

Provinces' Share

These are the present objectives of the Field Publicity Organisation and how do we propose to carry them out? At the Centre there is going to be only a very small co-ordinating organisation. Out of Rs. 51 lakhs, Rs. five lakhs are to be spent at the Centre, that is the area of my patronage—5 lakhs and nothing more. The rest of the money is to be handed out to the Provinces not of course to be spent as they like but in accordance with an agreed programme; but the appointments in the Provinces and in the Centrally-administered areas will not be made by the Centre but will be made by the Provincial Governments concerned. In this connection I was very glad to hear the tribute paid by my friend Khan Abdul Ghani Khan to the good work which the Organisation is doing on the Frontier.

How is this sum arrived at? This sum of Rs. 41 lakhs to the Provinces represents half the cost of their non-recurring expenditure on equipment (which becomes the property of the Provinces) and two-thirds of their recurring expenditure. The intention is that this Organisation should be tried out for a year, if you agree to it, that is for the year 1946-47. If by the end of 1946-47 it is found that the Organisation has been successful and the Provincial Governments then are willing to undertake a greater measure, a greater share of the recurring expenditure, we will continue it. If it is found that they are not prepared to share a far

greater measure than one-third, we will discontinue it. Therefore it is purely on an experimental basis and dependent upon whether the services which we expect it to give is in fact given.

Were conditions in the country likely to remain as they have been during the last five or six years, Hon'ble Members opposite may have said, "Oh, yes. That is all very well. But many of these Governments are Section 93 Governments. They are under your thumb and they will just carry out such policies as are dictated to them by the Centre, which in turn are dictated to by the Secretary of State for India."

Already we see popular ministries being installed in the Provinces and before this Organisation really begins to get under way Provincial ministries will be installed, I hope, in all Provinces and even the Centre, as you see it now, will be by then, I hope, in the process of dissolution. Therefore if you now cut out this grant you are really not hurting anybody except the people, who will have to carry on both in the Centre and in the Provinces the responsibilities of Government.

When this proposal was made first, fortunately we were not faced with a famine. But the fact that there is likelihood of severe scarcity and famine, probably in many parts of the country, gives me an additional reason, though I would like to have gone without it, to ask you not lightly to throw away this machinery which may be of great use in educating our people and alleviating their conditions at a time of great distress. That is all that I have got to say about the Field Publicity Organisation.

Information Films of India

A good deal of heat was engendered about the Information Films of India which account for Rs. 30 lakhs out of this Rs. 93 lakhs. The revenues are not accounted for, which are about Rs. 14 lakhs which leaves a net expenditure of Rs. 16 lakhs.

I was really amazed that an Hon'ble Member opposite, who moved this motion, should have made the allegations which he did without taking the trouble to verify them. One of the allegations which he made was that we have produced the film "Ganga Din" and that we exhibited it in Athens which led to a riot. What are the facts?

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): May I intervene, Sir. I cannot wait until the end of the Hon'ble Member's speech. I want to correct a misstatement. I merely said whether he did it or the Government of India did it, this is the kind of film that is going to be produced against India.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: In this case I am the Government of India.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Are you the Military Department also?

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: I am just as responsible for whatever the Government of India does as any other Member of the Government of India.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Defence Department also?

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Yes.

"Ganga Din"

Let me continue. Now this film "Ganga Din" was produced before the war by an American company. It proved very offensive at that time to Indian susceptibilities and rightly so. When the war was on, it was re-hashed by the Americans and they tried to cut out things which they in their ignorance felt were offensive to Indian susceptibilities, and exhibited this film and sought to import it into India. We proscribed it; and what is more: two Provincial Governments let it pass and we asked them to proscribe it in those Provinces also. How can you base your claim that we have vilified our own countrymen abroad on facts like these?

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Why was it exhibited?

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: I am not going to give way. Another allegation which was made was that "Oh yes; you show extremely good films to the legislators here but look now you blackguard the name of Indian abroad."

I will give you an answer to that. Here is the latest programme of Information Films which was shown in America. There were six films; the first one was "Our Heritage"—portrayal of "ancient Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist" architecture. (2) "Rural Maharashtra peasant life in Bombay Province" (3) "Khattak"—North India's favourite classical dance. (4) "Handicrafts of South India"—typical examples of South Indian craftsmanship. (5) "Musical instruments of India"—popular musical instruments and their melody. In that connection I would just like to mention the opinion of Mr. Walt Disney—many Hon'ble Members must be aware of him: they must have seen his cartoons also. He said:

"I think the films on the musical instruments were excellent. I think you will find that the people of this country, (that is America) are very interested in knowing about peoples of other countries. It is films like these that create a better understanding and stimulate interest in the culture and way of life of other nations."

Another film which we showed was the "Tree of Life," dealing with the coconut palm in its manifold uses; here it is rather interesting if I quote to you the tributes paid to it. When this film was exhibited in America and when the Press in India got notice of how this had been received, this is what *Dawn* said:

"One of the things which can be put down to the credit side of the Government of India is the popularisation of the short film on the Indian screen."

The *Bombay Sentinel* said this:

"The Information films of India may definitely pat themselves on the back on this achievement; for if we remember correctly, this is the first time that the Indian films have been reviewed by the American film press and reviewed so favourably too."

I would like you to mark these words from a paper like the *Bombay Sentinel*:

"The Information Films of India blazed a pioneer trail in making the production of short films a practical possibility in this country, and are now doing further valuable pioneering work by exporting them abroad and acquainting the world about India and her many-sided problems and national life."

This is what the *Bombay Chronicle* said:

"The Information Films of India which made the production of short films a practical possibility in India are doing further pioneer work."

But my Hon'ble friend opposite may say "Oh, yes; but you are only reading certain chosen extracts. This is not the only film which you have produced. What about the others." Well, Sir.....

MR. PRESIDENT: Is the Hon'ble Member at a convenient point to stop? He can resume at 2-30.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Very well, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2-30 p.m. When the House reassembled in the afternoon, Sir Akbar Hydari resumed his speech. He said: Sir, I was saying that after I had read out the programme of films shown in America perhaps my Hon'ble friend opposite may say 'Oh, well, that is all very well but what about the other films that you produced'. My answer to that is that I have here a list of the 153 films which since the constitution of the Indian films unit have

been produced by it. They are available to any member of the House to see what the subjects are and if it is any one's wish I shall have any of them exhibited, so that they may be able to judge whether any of these are derogatory to the dignity or against the self-respect of our people.

I do not think I will take up the time of the House by reading some of the selected film titles but my challenge stands. I challenge any member of this House to come and see any of these films and say whether any of them are derogatory to the self-respect of India. Now, we did show the other day to members of the Legislature a small collection of these films and this is what one of my friends from the Congress Benches wrote to me about it. I will not mention his name. He is a very eminent man, a worthy son of a worthy father. This is what it says:

"I was greatly struck by what I saw. Allow me to say that the performance was both informing and instructive...."

MR. SRI PRAKASA (Congress): The letter is from myself. I stand by what I said.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Thank you, "The photographs were exceedingly fine and I learnt much about our own ancient and medieval art. I also think that your idea is very good, that you should give a knowledge of how things are done by various departments of Government so that the public may appreciate the difficulties of the workers and co-operate with them."

Excellent Technical Unit

We may have fallen down at times in regard to the quality but it is gradually improving. I do not say that the quality has always been excellent but to use the language which my friend Mr. Nauman used—that they depicted the great pageantry of the Government of India, that they are trash and that they are degrading is really to use words without knowing their meaning.

Then, Sir, it is a matter of considerable pride to me and I hope it will be to the House that this excellent technical unit is very largely run by Indians, our own people who have by a process of trial and error brought these films to the perfection they have so far attained. There are 164 Indians as against six Europeans and the head of the organisation is an Indian, Mr. Ezra Mir.

I have said sufficiently about the Information films. I next go on to the other item, which is the Research and Reference Division

of the Publications Division. The Publications grant is not to be cut. Therefore I will not say anything about Publications at this stage. I will only confine myself to the Research and Reference Division the grant of which is about Rs. 4 lakhs. It is perfectly true that this formed part of the old Counter Propaganda Directorate but it has now been brought under the umbrella of this Department and for a very good reason.

External Publicity

You cannot have publicity in this country about outside countries. For example our people want to know what is happening in Russia, in the Middle East, in the Far East and elsewhere what movements are taking place and what measures of development are taking place and they cannot know, unless you have a body of information on which to write. Now, a magazine (Perspective) which I think received general approval in this House and certainly that of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is directed towards America. He was good enough to tell me how extremely well got up it was and what good material it contained. Now, to produce the matter contained in that magazine requires a good deal of research and a good library on which to base these articles.

I agree with my Hon'ble friend Mr. Abdul Ghani that your instrument may be good but it all depends on who lays down the policy. That is one of the arguments in asking you not to break down this machinery at the present moment. This is a very useful bit of machinery. Even if you do not trust me, I hope you will trust my successors. It is a very good bit of machinery on which they would base their own publicity because India will need both inside and outside publicity of the kind we are endeavouring to carry out. Now, the whole of this Division is run by three officers. Two of them are Indians. One is a Muslim and the other is a Hindu. Not that I believe in these communal proportions or racial divisions. I don't but it so happens that one is a Muslim and the other is a Hindu. The chief gentleman is an Englishman. I am very sorry he is going away. He is leaving us not because I want him to go but he is going for his own purposes next month, so that the whole of this Research and Reference Division, which has done extremely good work and which submits quarterly reports which I am prepared to lay on the table of the House and which show what it does—the whole of this is run by Indians and, I say, in the interest of India, if you like to cut it down, you can do so, but you will be doing a very wrong thing.

Then, Sir, the last item included in the cut is that of Arts. I have, as my Hon'ble friend has said, inherited the other activities, such as, Field

Publicity, Research and Reference and the Films, but Arts is something which I in my simplicity did. I thought that our own people would like the Government, when they were thinking of spending crores and crores of rupees on industry, on health, on agriculture and hundred and one very desirable objectives of national improvement, to spend a little money on encouraging our culture and in helping our artists and also in preserving memorials of our past, so that they may be an example to our younger generation.

My Hon'ble friend opposite has spoken quite truthfully, I am sure, of what he feels for the common man and woman in India. So do I, and it is just because I feel for them and for the new generation which is growing up that I had this modest provision included in the Central budget. If you go along the cities of India, where can the poor boy or girl, whose parents cannot afford to buy a good picture or who cannot afford to send them on their travels, who are going to be the future generation of India can refresh their minds unless we now begin to have proper museums, preserve our manuscripts and preserve our records and make them available to the public at large? Take them away from the custody of the rich and make them a national inheritance. That is what my aim has been in trying to get a small initial grant which is Rs. 4 lakhs for this purpose.

Arts Section Welcomed

I have already received several letters from Indian Arts Associations, Indian Artists and so on, asking for Government assistance. They have all welcomed that at this late stage the Government are trying to do something for the cultural advancement of this country. I do not say that we will direct these activities. All that I say is that here is a small organism sought to be created in the Centre to which an appeal could be made by people, artists and sculptors, etc., for help. It is purely that. Here is an organism which will try, if it is allowed to survive, to see whether we could not create Academies of Art and Literature, so that our artists and our men of letters might get a status in our own community.

In the India of the past, writers, painters and sculptors were respected and they were looked up to. But look at their position now. It is due to the fact that they have got no status that I was hoping to try in a small way to provide them with the means to be able to re-acquire that status.

There is one other incorrect statement in this connection which I would like to correct. The Hon'ble Mover said that this was only another name for the dancing parties and so on, which were sent abroad for entertaining our troops. Now, that is absolutely and entirely untrue. The Indian equivalent of the European E.N.S.A. was

not in charge of this Department but of the War Department, of the Directorate of Public Relations of the War Department. It has nothing to do with the Information and Arts Department. I am not saying that that was an activity which was wrong, because why should we object to our soldiers in foreign land seeing something and hearing something of the music to which they were accustomed and seeing the faces of our own people in the midst of their difficulties. But that is a different matter. It had nothing to do with the question of arts.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Is not dancing an art?

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: In developing your theme what you said was that I was appearing only under different colours and you implied that the Arts side of the Department was just another name for the dancing parties and so on sent for our troops. That is wrong.

Sir, I have traversed all the four items which make up the total cut of Rs. 93 lakhs. I have shown that in regard to Field Publicity, the bulk of the money is for the Provinces. They are subject to our general directive and co-ordination, but they are entirely free to manage it as they like. If you cut that out, then you knock out this particular help from being given to them and, mind you, at a time, when they are faced with many grave problems. Every member of the staff of Field Publicity is an Indian.

In regard to Films also, I think I have given sufficient evidence that they are not what they have been alleged to be and that for the most part they are directed by Indians.

In regard to Research and Reference, I have again shown you what the position is and I have mentioned to you the reasons for starting the section of Arts.

An Appeal

Very unfortunately, all these four activities have been clubbed together in one enormous cut motion of Rs. 93 lakhs. If you pass this motion, you truncate the Information and Arts Department and I very much doubt whether it will continue to have a separate existence.

I have tried as far as I could to run this Department in accordance with what I consider to be the national interest. If you, as representatives of the nation, duly elected, say that you do not want this activity by passing this cut motion for Rs. 93 lakhs, do not do it on the assumption that it will be restored. I, therefore, appeal to you, before you take this step, to think whether you are wise in depriving constitutional Government, on the eve of its coming into existence, of a machine and of technical and competent people without hope of recall.



Students of the Bombay School of Art painting watercolour designs.

VICEROY OPENS ALL-INDIA ART EXHIBITION

H. E. the Viceroy, opening the All-India Art Exhibition in New Delhi on March 1, said:

You have come here to see pictures and not to listen to speeches and I have no intention of detaining you. I think, however, that you will find this a most interesting exhibition. It is a great achievement of the organisers to have obtained pictures by artists of international repute from France and England which you can compare with contemporary pictures from this country.

I think everyone is agreed that the time has come to give active encouragement to young artists in order that India's art may be developed and flourish. The Government of India have recently decided that the Department of Information and Broadcasting should become the Department of Information and Arts; though artistic effort should be fostered mainly by pri-

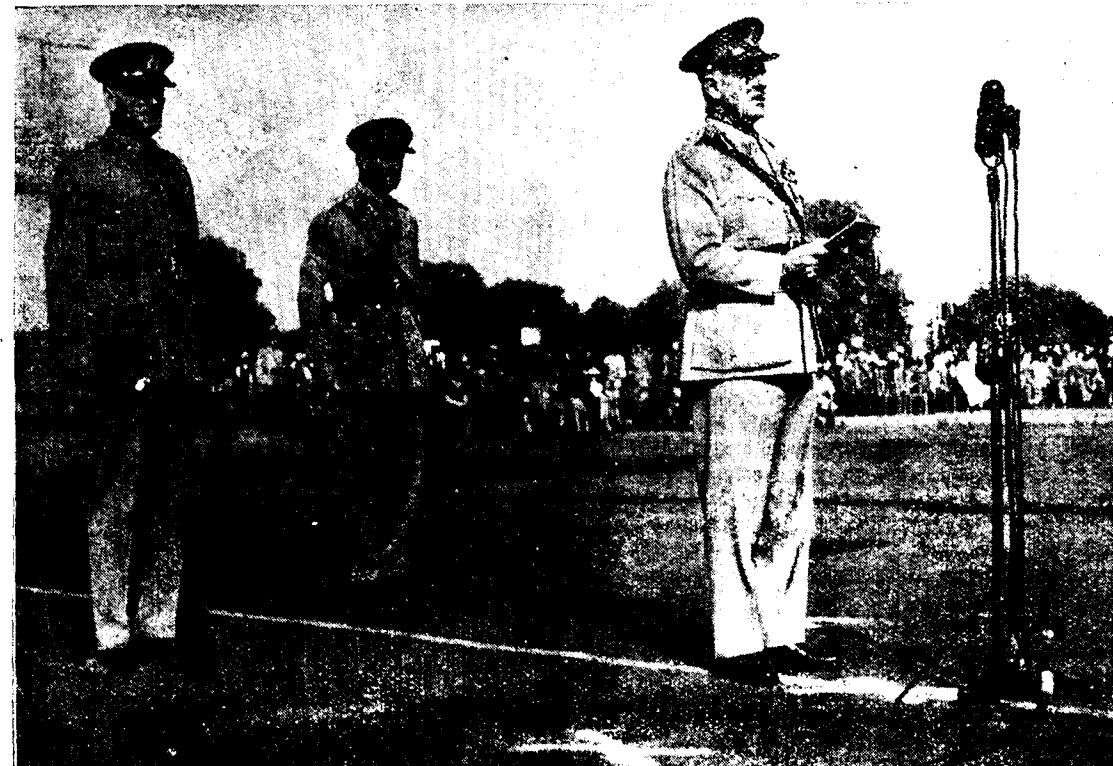
vate enterprise, it is believed that Government can do something to encourage it without attempting to control or interfere with the natural development of any branch of art.

I have much pleasure in declaring the exhibition open. I hope it will be seen and appreciated by many people.

The Office of the Paper Controller, India, located at Calcutta has been abolished with effect from February 28.

In consequence of this decision, notifications have been issued in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated February 26, 1946, making amendments to the following Orders relating to Paper Control so as to require after that date the submission of returns prescribed therein to the Central Government in the Department of Industries and Supplies instead of the Paper Controller, India:—Paper (Distribution) Order 1944; Paper (Prices of Imported Paper) Control Order 1944; Paper Control (Prices of Board) Order, 1944; and Paper Price Control Order, 1945.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1946.



H.E. the Viceroy opened Delhi Victory Week at the Memorial Arch, Kingsway, on March 4, when the first Remembrance Ceremony was held for those who lost their lives in World War II. Picture shows His Excellency delivering his speech at the Remembrance Ceremony.

INDIAN TROOPS PAY TRIBUTE TO FALLEN COMRADES

Victory Week: Viceroy's Speech at Remembrance Ceremony

D ELHI'S Victory Week Celebrations started on a solemn note. Assembled round the Memorial Arch on Kingsway on the morning of March 4, two thousand troops, representing all arms of the Indian, Nepalese and Burma Services joined in a Remembrance Ceremony for those who lost their lives in World War II.

The ceremony started with the arrival of the Viceroy and General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India. In a speech, later repeated in Urdu, the Viceroy paid tribute to the 28,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives fighting to defend India. "But for them," said the Viceroy, "India would have suffered invasion and domination by a ruthless and predatory foe, the Japanese." His Excellency said:

"At the beginning of Victory Week in Delhi, during which we celebrate the end of

the most widespread and devastating of all wars, our first duty is to pay tribute to those who gave their lives to make our victory possible.

"We stand at a memorial dedicated to 114,000 British and Indian soldiers who fell in the first world war. The names of 13,500 of these, who have no known graves, are inscribed on this arch. We are now assembled to honour another 28,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen, who have given their lives in the defence of India.

"Twice in the space of a single generation has one powerful nation, Germany, sought with overweening ambition to dominate the world; and we have had to make these grievous sacrifices of our young men to repulse that challenge. But for them India would have suffered invasion and domination by a ruthless and predatory foe, the Japanese.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1946.

"Those who fall in war are inevitably drawn from the prime manhood of a nation, the most intrepid, the most vigorous, the most patriotic, the most devoted. The brave men whose loss we mourn here were of our best.

"Very many years ago a clear-sighted Roman poet wrote that 'the folly of rulers is paid for by the fighting men. That is still true today. It is too often the business of us soldiers to redeem with our blood the mistakes of our leaders in peace. It is a hard fate, but it is man's fate. Perhaps some day, in some better world to come, there will be no more wars and no more soldiers. Till then the foundation of all peace and of all progress can be assured only by the spirit of a nation's young men and their readiness to sacrifice to the defence of their country their ease, their leisure, and if need be, their lives. The greatness and the safety of all nations is founded on the soldier's toil and the soldier's sacrifice.

India's Warriors

"India's warriors have now made safe for many years to come, we hope, the foundations on which India's greatness may be built; and those foundations will shortly, we trust, be well and truly laid. Let us here determine that the peace and opportunity which has been



The Viceroy (above) and men representing the various units of Indian Defence Services (left) laid wreaths at the foot of the Memorial Arch.



The Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, lays a wreath. (Right) The band of the 8th Gurkha Rifles playing Retreat at the Memorial Arch.

won by India's fighting men shall not be soiled or squandered by internal strife.

"The Indian Forces have indeed won much honour in this war. It would take too much time to recount here all their exploits, to proclaim to you all their glory. The mere tale of battlefields and victories is a long one. I will mention only a few among many: Sidi Barrani, El Alamein, Tripoli in North Africa, Keren in Eritrea, Amba Alagi in Abyssinia; Mount Cassino and the river Sangro in Italy; Kohima and Imphal in Manipur; Mandalay and Rangoon in Burma. These are some of the names which you and your children and your children's children will remember down the years as the achievements of Indian prowess. On the naval side, the epic fight of the *Benz* against two larger and more heavily-armed Japanese vessels, and the handling of the landing-craft at Ramree and elsewhere in Burma have rightly won for the R.I.N. the admiration of the Royal Navy. The performances of the R.I.A.F. in Burma showed that the Indians are as doughty fighters in the air as on land or sea.

Matchless Courage

"The highest award for valour, the Victoria Cross, has been won by 31 members of the Indian Army in this war. The tales of the heroism of these men will be your inspiration for ever. Who can forget the matchless courage of that





The R.I.N. contingent in the March Past.

leader in the storming against odds of a desperate height, who with one foot blown off and other grievous wounds, still waved on and encouraged his men with his last words: 'We must capture the objective'? Who does not take pride in the unflinching self-sacrifice of that commander of a post who died in its defence driving back an attack with the cry "Jats and Mohammedans, there must be no withdrawal, advance"? Who will not admire the astonishing bravery of that soldier who when he received

The W.A.C. (I) contingent marches past the saluting base.



The Last Post. The Viceroy (left) and Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck (right) pay tribute to those who lost their lives in World War II.



Claude Auchinleck (third from left) pay tribute to those who lost their lives in World War II.

a mortal sword-thrust in his chest, drew out the weapon, slew with it the Japanese officer who had wounded him, and led his platoon to success waving the captured sword, until he collapsed and died? Whose spirit does not quicken at the story of that artilleryman who defended his gun with such resolution that a counter-attack found him lying beside it with seven head wounds and ten of the Japanese enemy dead around him?

"These are only a few instances taken from the records. For everyone of those who won the proud decoration there were many hundreds whose valour went unseen and unrewarded.

Gallantry

"India's international status has grown by the exploits of her soldiers. Besides their old and well-known comrades, the British, they have fought in close association with Australians, Canadians, South Africans, East and West Africans, Americans, Chinese and many others. All these have seen and testified to their gallantry and steadfastness on the battlefield, to their discipline and comradeship in the camp. They have been proved and accepted as worthy of the highest place in the illustrious fraternity of true fighting men.

"We have, however, more to do than to honour the names of the fallen. They have left families whose welfare must be our care. There are those also whose

names will not be written here, whose fate is perhaps harder still, who have lost not life but the health which makes life worth living—the maimed, the blinded, the permanently crippled or invalided. They deserve and must receive our most generous attention. Of them, as of the dead, we may say, with pride, gratitude and sorrow: 'for our tomorrow they gave their today.'

"The men we commemorate here came from homes all over India, from all creeds and from all classes. Without distinction of home or creed or class, they fought and suffered and died in many lands; they fell in seeming disaster or in the triumph of victory. Our sorrow in their loss is tempered by our pride in their qualities, in their bravery, for these men were brave; in their endurance, for these men endured; in their bearing for these men had the high carriage of warriors; in their chivalry in victory, for these men were generous and merciful; in their comradeship at all times, for these men thought of and fought for their comrades and not only for themselves. Their names will be written here. Their glory is imperishable."

Then, as the troops presented arms in a Salute to the Fallen, the buglers of the 8th Gurkha Rifles sounded the Last



V.C. winners watching the ceremony.

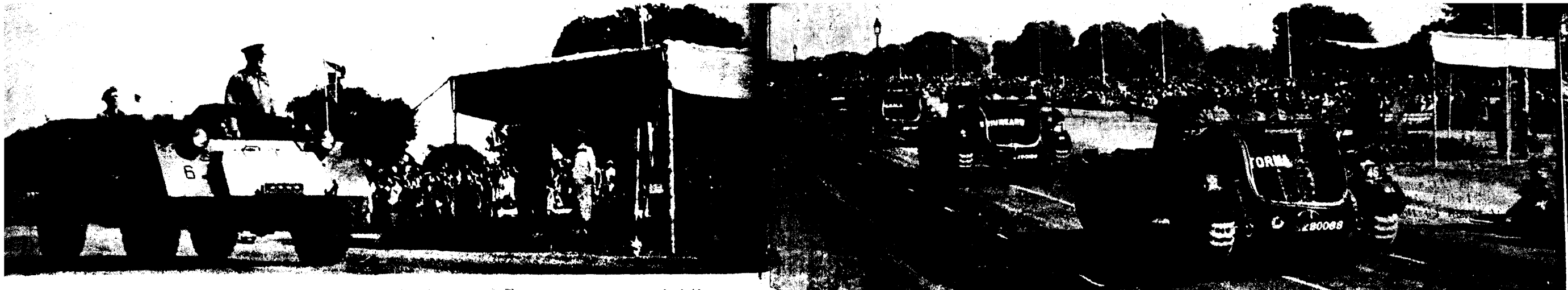
Post and the Fire of Remembrance on top of the Arch was lit, the smoke drifting lazily up into the sky.

Wreaths were then laid by the Viceroy and General Auchinleck on either side of the Arch and they were followed by twenty wreath-bearers representing The Royal Indian Navy, each Corps and Arm of the Indian Army, the Royal Indian Air Force and the Indian Women's Services.

After the sounding of "Reveille" by buglers from the top of the Arch, the parade, led

High-ranking military officers watch the ceremony at the Memorial Arch.





Lord Wavell took the salute at the March Past of the Delhi Victory Week parade, the most impressive ever to be held in India. Here, the C-in-C. leads a mechanised column to the saluting base.

by detachments of the Nepalese and Burma Armies—marched proudly past the Viceroy to music played by the massed brass bands of the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners, the 1st Punjab Regiment and the Jat Regiment. Some of the smartest troops on parade were to be found among the 1,000 Boys comprising detachments from the R.I.N. and all Regiments and Corps of the Indian Army.

Among the several thousand spectators was a small party of 14 heroes—representatives of the 31 officers and men who were awarded the Victoria Cross during the war. Also present were members of the Tibetan Goodwill Mission.

IMPRESSIVE VICTORY PARADE IN DELHI

IN the greatest and most impressive military spectacle ever seen in Delhi, more than 10,000 troops preceded by scores of tanks, armoured cars, field guns, anti-aircraft guns, Bren Carriers and jeeps, forming one vast victory parade, marched past the Viceroy, at Kingsway on March 7. Beside Lord Wavell stood two other men whose genius and inspiration helped to make the Victory against the Axis possible—the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, and Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia.

A detachment of Nagas, who helped to drive the Japs out of Burma, passes the saluting base.



Armour of the 8th Indian Division (above) and tanks of the 14th Army (below) pass the saluting base.

The entire route from the Memorial Arch in Kingsway to the outskirts of the old City were lined by a vast crowd estimated at 100,000.

Heading the parade which was divided into two columns, a mechanised and a marching one, was the C.-in-C. himself who, after passing the saluting base, joined the Viceroy and Admiral Mountbatten on the dais. Behind Gen. Auchinleck in the mechanised column were Vice-Admiral J.H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding Royal Indian Navy; Air Marshal Sir Rodrick Carr, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Air Forces in India; Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Chief of the General Staff; Lt.-Gen. A.R. Godwin-Austen, Principal Administrative Officer (India) and commanders of some

of the famous Corps and divisions whose achievements are known throughout the world.

Column after column of armoured vehicles rumbled past the Viceroy. They were followed by 25-pounders and 75 mm. howitzers of the Royal Artillery, 25-pounders, 5.5 "guns, 17-pounder and 6-pounder anti-tank guns, 40 mm. guns and light and heavy anti-aircraft guns of the Royal Indian Artillery. Then came the Royal Indian Engineers with their various types of bridging equipment and bulldozers; men of the Eighth Indian Divisional Signals, the A.P. (I) and R.I.A.S.C.

Dressed in the traditional uniforms of their regiments, the massed pipe bands of the



INDIAN ARMY WINS OVER 6,000 AWARDS

Nearly 6,300 awards have so far been made to the Indian Army for gallantry and meritorious services during the war. Awards for gallantry alone total about 4,800. These include 31 Victoria Crosses, four George Crosses, 252 Distinguished Service Orders, 347 Indian Orders of Merit and 1,311 Military Crosses.

The Infantry has earned about 4,000 awards including 29 V.C.s, one George Cross, 29 M.C.s and 446 Distinguished Service Orders, while the Royal Indian Engineers and the Royal Indian Army Service Corps each have about 350 awards to their credit. Of the 300 awards won by the Indian Armoured Corps 21 are Distinguished Service Orders and 88 Military Crosses.

The invaluable and gallant services rendered by Army doctors to front line troops have earned the Indian Army Medical Corps 140 awards for gallantry alone, among them eight Distinguished Service Orders and 10 Military Crosses.

Over a hundred awards go to the Indian Army Signal Corps. One Distinguished Service Order and 8 Military Crosses are among them.

The Indian Artillery have over hundred awards which include one Victoria Cross, six Distinguished Service Orders and 38 Military Crosses.

Madras Sappers and Miners, the Baluch Regiment, Dogra Regiment, Royal Garhwal Rifles and the R.I.A.S.C. led the marching column which included United States, Nepalese, Burmese, West African and East African detachments. A colourful sight were the massed flags of formations, Indian States and infantry regiments, spaced throughout the column. The British infantry was represented by the 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 1st Gloucestershire Regiment.

The R.I.N. detachment was followed by a heroic little band of 12 men whose supreme daring and bravery won them the most famous award of all the Victoria Cross. As the party with Brig. A.E. Cumming, V.C., O.B.E. M.C., at their head, marched proudly past the Viceroy they received tremendous ovation.

Hundreds of boys from the R.I.N. and all corps and regiments of the Indian Army were also there. Their smartness and military bearing on parade spoke well for the future of the Indian Services. Prominent in the parade was Brig. Bulwant Singh—famous for his leadership of the 1st Rajendra Sikh Light Infantry in the Burmese campaign—who led the Indian State Forces Infantry.

Some of the most picturesque detachments in the parade were a platoon of the Bikaner Ganga Risala in front of which were 12 Nagas wearing tribal dresses of many hues.

Then came representative detachments of all the corps of the Indian Army, next the R.A.F. and the R.I.A.F.

The devoted contribution of our women to Victory was remembered by the inclusion of detachments of the S.A.I.M.N.S., I.N.S., the W.R.I.N.S., A.T.S., the W.A.C. (I) and the W.A.A.F. Marching behind them were the guardians of law and order on the home front—the Delhi District Police.

R.I.A.F. Fly-Past

Climax to the whole parade was a fly-past by planes of the R.A.F. and R.I.A.F. Cornet, Harwards, Dakotas, Hurricanes, Spitfires and Lancasters flew low over the Memorial Arch, dipped in salute as they passed over the Viceroy and disappeared from view over the Secretariat buildings.

Victory salvoes were fired by the 11th Indian Field Regiment R.I.A. during the parade and after the fly-past.

Among those present at the parade were Lady Wavell, Ruling Chiefs from many Indian states, members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly, and prominent citizens of Delhi.

Subjects transferred to the Home Department as a result of the closing down of the Defence Department of the Government of India are: Civil Passages, Manpower, Civil Defence, War Histories, Protected Places as also Protected Areas and Prohibited Places and Areas. "Class B" release of officers will also be dealt with in the Home Department.

VICEROY'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

SPEAKING at a reception given to Indian V.C.s and their families by H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala at Chelmsford Club, New Delhi, on March 5, H.E. the Viceroy said:

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I shall make only a brief reply to His Highness' speech. We are all glad to be here to honour those who have won this great decoration, the most famous award for valour in the world.

A measure of the supreme daring and bravery required to win it is afforded by the fact that of the 31 V.C.s won by members of the Indian Army in this war, no fewer than 14, nearly half, were posthumous awards, won at the sacrifice of life itself; and I think that practically every wearer of the Cross must carry on him scars to remind him of his feat.

Your Highness has spoken some words of me this evening which I could wish were fully justified. I have had great troops to lead during my military service in this War, and the largest number of them have been Indian. I warmly welcome your tribute to their deeds, which have indeed fixed high the martial renown of India all over the world.

Courage, Steadiness And Comradeship

Your Highness has spoken of the military traditions of the Sikhs and of their great services in the War. They have indeed done splendidly and are entitled to a very full share in the glory that has been won by the fighting forces of India.

Now we must look forward to our next tasks, the even harder ones of peace. We want the same qualities of courage, steadiness and comradeship that our soldiers have shown, to assure India's greatness.

I thank Your Highness on behalf of us all for your hospitality this evening. It was a good inspiration to bring together these brave men during this Victory Week, and to give us the opportunity to thank them for their gallantry.

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 300,000 from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for amenities for officers and men of the R.A.F. and R.I.A.F., said a Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House on March 14.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES SAVED CRITICAL SITUATION

Temporary shortages and delays in the delivery of stores and equipment for the Army Medical Services in India often occurred during the earlier years of the war. This critical situation was saved by the Indian manufacturer. With little experience in manufacturing such equipment as surgical instruments and appliances, he was able to produce 85 per cent. of the Medical Services' requirements until a smooth supply from overseas was assured.

Another difficulty the Services overcame was the production of a substitute drug for the treatment of malaria when supplies of quinine ceased with the loss of the Netherlands East Indies. The production of Mepacrine on a large scale was achieved and maintained.

By the end of 1944 the Medical Services were helped considerably in the treatment of wounds and sickness when sufficient supplies of penicillin began to arrive.

As the war progressed so did the care of the wounded. The invention of "the tubonic morphia ampoule eased the suffering of a casualty by making it possible for him or a comrade to administer a pain-killing injection without his having to wait for medical attention before obtaining relief. Mobile surgical units located close behind the front line then afforded him rapid treatment.

TROOPS' CIGARETTE FUND

About Rs. 44,000 have been subscribed to the Cigarette Fund organised by the Welfare General in India, Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel de la Poer Beresford-Peirse, for the distribution of free cigarettes to Indian troops serving overseas and to those evacuated from overseas to base hospitals in India.

Lt.-Gen. Beresford-Peirse opened this fund last September on a parallel with the scheme already in existence in England as a result of which free issues of cigarettes were made to thousands of British troops.

The response to the fund by business organisations and individuals all over India has been generous. Further contributions to this Fund which helps in no small way to maintain the high morale of the Indian soldier should be addressed to the Welfare General in India, G. H. Q., New Delhi.

INDIA'S DEFICIT FOOD BALANCE-SHEET

Measures to Meet Crisis

AN overall cut of 25 per cent. in the basic cereal ration; extension of statutory rationing in many more towns both in surplus and deficit areas; tightening grain procurement systems in provinces; a firm determination to enforce statutory price control; and a country-wide austerity drive in the matter of food, these were among the measures contemplated by the Government of India to meet the impending food crisis in the country, which faces an overall deficit this year of three million tons in *Kharif* grains and an equal quantity in *Rabi* grains, and which were explained at the first of the weekly Press Conferences to be held regularly by the Secretaries of the Food, Agriculture and Health Departments, Government of India, while the food crisis lasts. The Conference was held on March 2.

"The Government plans have been drawn up" declared the official spokesman, "but plans by themselves cannot provide food. This is a task in which all parties must take a hand and that is why responsible leaders of public opinion have been approached and their co-operation sought in this national crisis. There may be criticism on the detailed working of the Government plans; such criticism is welcome and the Government will seek to turn it to constructive purposes. For in this matter of food, India cannot afford to fail."

"In pursuance of the undertaking given by the Government of India at the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference held at Allahabad, weekly Press Conferences will be held to give complete information on the food situation as it develops in the country, and it is hoped that Government will get full support in its schemes of rationing, procurement, price control and food austerity."

Estimated Deficit

The estimated foodgrain deficit which India faces to-day may be placed at six million tons due to (1) the continued drought in Southern India as a result of which the loss in *Kharif* grains is three million tons and (2) the absence of winter rains throughout North-West India which will result in a short fall of *Rabi* grains i.e. wheat, gram and barley to the extent of another four million tons of which three million tons will fall on the current year. The situation therefore is grim, but provided all co-operate in this national emergency, there is no justification for panic.

The most severely affected area this year is a compact block covering the districts of Dharwar, Belgaum, Bijapur, Sholapur and Satara in the Bombay Presidency; the districts of Kolar, Bangalore, Tumkur and Chittaldurg in the Mysore State; and the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem in the Madras Presidency.

The need for adequate and speedy imports of foodgrains has now been recognised by the London Food Council and will be placed before the Combined Food Board by the Indian Delegation.

As regards rice, surpluses are available in Siam, but the main problem is procurement and the larger the quantity secured, the greater will be the amount allotted to India. A senior officer of the Food Department, with wide experience of the rice trade, has been deputed to Siam to assist in maximum procurement with a view to an early shipment of quantities to be allocated to this country.

Government Measures

The Government are not depending wholly on imports, and every possible step is being taken to rely on our own efforts such as scaling down rations and tightening of procurement. All Provinces and States, whether surplus or deficit, have been asked to reduce their basic cereal ration to 12 ozs. and their supplementary ration for heavy manual workers to four ozs. and already many of the Provinces have given effect to this reduction. The number of rationed towns to-day is 553, but this will soon increase as provinces, both surplus and deficit, are already working on plans to ration as many towns as possible within the next two months.

As regards procurement, Madras, Travancore Cochin, Bombay, Mysore and C.P. already have some form of monopoly procurement which is the ideal system of procurement in scarcity conditions. Bihar has introduced a grain levy in spite of the lack of revenue staff, and other Provinces like U.P., Punjab and Sind have measures in hand for tightening the methods of procurement. It is anticipated that new or improved systems will be in force in these Provinces in time for the next wheat crop.

With a view to the speedy disposal of all matters arising out of food shortage in different parts of the country and to adopt measures to avert or relieve scarcity conditions, a committee of the Secretaries of various Departments of the Central Government has been formed and a meeting is held once a week to take decisions at its own level. Two meetings of the Relief Co-ordination Committee have

AUSTERITY MEASURES

As a measure of austerity and in order to meet the reduction in ration, it has been decided, in consultation with the representatives of the House Committees of the various Government hostels in Delhi, to amend the standard menus served in these hostels by omitting porridge, cakes, oats or any other cereal from breakfast and bread and butter from the afternoon tea. Curry and rice is to be allowed only once a week at lunch.

Further, not more than two pieces of bread may be supplied at a meal. Cereals will not be cut from the diet of children under 12 years.

already been held, and among important decisions reached are the early establishment of a Co-ordination Committee with its headquarters at Bangalore, to co-ordinate relief measures and formulate emergency plans likely to affect more than one area; the subsidised sale of vegetables to be grown in selected areas; the utilisation of dried fish as a valuable item of food in scarcity affected provinces by regulating fish exports, and the despatch of a party of officers to ascertain what medical stores and other equipment out of the Army surplus can be used in zones affected by the food shortage.

Price Control

The Government are determined to adhere to the present foodgrain prices which in their opinion are fair both to the consumer and the producer. It is felt that any attempt to raise prices during a period of acute scarcity will have disastrous results on the food economy of the country, and should therefore be resisted.

As the subject of exports has received great attention during the past few weeks, it is necessary to clarify the position once again. All exports of cereals are totally banned except for small quantities required for provisioning ships sailing from Indian ports and for certain stations on the passenger air line routes. As regards the recent statement issued by the Food Secretary on the export of 42,000 tons of rice to Ceylon on a replacement basis last year, it has been alleged that the figure is about 62,000 tons. The Government of India have made enquiries from the Export Trade Controller, Calcutta, which show that the total quantity of 62,000 tons mentioned in the Press include shipments of rice to Mysore of 16,000 tons through Marmagao, the Post for Mysore. This makes a total of 58,000 tons exported from Calcutta, and therefore a balance of 4,000

tons is still unaccounted for. This is due to the fact that the quantity sanctioned for export to Ceylon was 46,000 tons, of which however only 42,000 tons were actually shipped. These exports to Ceylon were on a replacement basis. As regards the other figures of Colombo and coastwise exports mentioned in the Press, the reference seems to be to small quantities taken by ships sailing from the port of Calcutta for passengers and crews.

As edible oils and oilseeds form a very important article of Commerce in India, exports have always been allowed. In view of the emergent food situation however, an immediate embargo has been placed on the export of rapeseed and mustard and as regards linseed, an export quota is being fixed in consultation with the Provinces.

Pending a re-examination of the position, all exports of groundnuts have been suspended, although it is realised that groundnuts and groundnut oil provide oils and fats to countries from which India has to get cereal imports.

BASIC PLAN FOR OILSEEDS

A Conference of representatives of Provinces, Administrations and Indian States was held in New Delhi on February 25 under the chairmanship of Mr. K.W.P. Marar, Joint Secretary, Food Department, to formulate a uniform policy throughout India for the control of edible seeds, oil and oil cake in view of the overall shortage of edible oils and fats in the country. The Conference favoured the adoption of a Basic Plan for oils and oilseeds with co-ordination of prices and a satisfactory system of procurement. There was also general agreement regarding the necessity for controlled distribution of cotton seeds.

The representative of the Commerce Department of the Government of India quoted figures showing the gradual decline in the export of oilseeds, but emphasised the need to continue some exports in view of the world shortage of fats and oils and India's requirements of cereal imports to be secured in exchange.

The Government of India will attempt to supply each area with the kind of oil to which it has been accustomed, and where this is not possible, substitute oils will be provided.

Four out of five of the Regional Food Commissioners of the Government of India also attended the Conference.



The first of the weekly combined Press conferences on the food situation addressed by the Secretaries of the Food, Agriculture and Health Departments, was held in New Delhi on March 2.

FOOD : AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S EMERGENCY PLANS

THERE was not much time to lose, said a spokesman of the Agriculture Department at the first of the Joint Weekly Press Conference in New Delhi on March 2, on the food situation. Therefore in the Department, they were concentrating on two main objectives. The first objective was to secure that as many cultivators as possible were induced to grow as much catch or in between crops as they could in the coming months. These may be mostly small millets, vegetables and root crops.

The other was to increase water supply facilities, particularly in drought-affected areas for irrigation. This means mainly the construction of wells. The way in which the Central Government can help in these matters are to offer financial and, wherever possible, material assistance to Provincial Governments for these purposes. This they were doing by an intensification and extension of the scope of assisting their "Grow More Food" campaign.

Subsidies to Cultivators

All Provinces have been asked to offer subsidies and loans for the construction of wells and they have offered to provide, to the full extent necessary, loans as well as grants covering one half of the subsidies given by Provincial Governments to cultivators. The Madras Government have already announced a programme of construction of 10,000 wells in each of the three badly affected districts, involving nearly Rs. 1 crore by way of subsidies. Other Provinces are working on similar schemes.

In some areas, it is understood that special concessions as regards the water rate and land revenue should be forthcoming to make it worthwhile for cultivators in those areas to undertake the growing of such crops. The Central Government have, therefore, asked these Provinces to announce such concessions as they may find necessary, and the Central Government will meet half the cost of any such concessions.

During the War, a number of vegetables production schemes were in operation for providing supplies for the Army. The Central Government have urged Provincial Governments to make arrangements for the continuation of these schemes so as serve the needs of the civil markets.

A Feature of Schemes

An essential feature of these schemes is that the cultivator is assured that all his produce would be taken over at a reasonable price. We have asked Provinces to make the necessary arrangements to this effect and undertake to meet one half of any loss accruing as a result of guaranteeing reasonable price and disposing of produce acquired by Government.

Arrangements for making processed or dried fish available are also being worked out in certain areas in the South.

Arrangements are in train for selecting from surplus stores such items as pumping sets, tractors and implements likely to be of help in food production, and their expeditious movement to the areas where they are wanted.

RELIEF CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Army Aid Sought to Meet Food Crisis

TO dispose speedily of all matters arising out of the food shortage in different parts of the country and to adopt measures to avert or relieve scarcity conditions, a Conference of the Secretaries of the Food, Agriculture, Health, Finance, Political, War, War Transport, Industries and Supplies and the Information and Arts Departments of the Government of India is held once a week. This Relief Co-ordination Committee will take decisions at its own level.

The second meeting of the Relief Co-ordination Committee, held on February 26, with Mr. B. R. Sen, Food Secretary, in the chair, favoured the establishment of a Co-ordination Committee with headquarters at Bangalore to deal, *inter alia*, with the co-ordination of various relief measures emergency plans likely to affect more than one area, and to work out a programme of any large-scale Army assistance which may be called for. The day-to-day administration of relief measures, including the distribution of available supplies under the Basic Plan, will continue to be the responsibility of the Provincial and State Governments.

Sale of Vegetables

The Committee also recommended the subsidised sale of vegetables, to be grown in selected areas, which would help to make up the shortage of foodgrains. It was also decided to appeal to H.M.G. for a special allocation of Kerosene oil to relieve the pressure on the supply of edible oils, part of which is being utilised for lighting purposes in rural areas. The question of fodder supplies was discussed as well as measures to meet the shortage.

The Committee also considered the banning of exports of dried fish and their utilisation as a valuable item of food in the scarcity-affected areas. The principle of regulating fish exports was accepted and details of the scheme were to be worked out in consultation with Provinces and States likely to be affected.

Short-term plans of assistance to agriculturists with a view to meeting the present food emergency are reported to have been considered at a recent meeting of the Relief Co-ordination Committee. A flying squad is touring Bombay, Madras and Mysore to ascertain the needs of these areas for agricultural pumps, among

other things, and how they can be met from available supplies. It has been decided to convene a conference of Provincial representatives at Delhi, to consider the demands of all areas and decide allocations. Other steps under consideration include assistance to indigenous manufacturers of pumps and securing, if possible, imports from abroad.

The Committee also discussed a proposal for seeking Army assistance for sinking a large number of wells in the Punjab, U. P., N. W. F. P. and parts of Madras. In this connection it was decided to convene a conference of representatives of the Provinces concerned and the Central Command to work out a practical scheme. Instructions have already issued to the various Army commands to render every possible assistance to the civil authorities in the execution of emergency food schemes even at the expense of normal military training.

IMPORT DUTIES ON RAW MATERIALS REMOVED

As indicated by the Finance Member, the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, in the course of his budget speech, the Government of India have had under consideration for some time the question of removing or reducing the import duties on certain raw materials required by Indian industries, as an effective means of assisting them in their post-war plans. As a result of this examination, they have decided that the import duties on the following articles should, with immediate effect, be wholly removed:

1. Wooden blocks, cut to shape and size, for shuttle and bobbin manufacture.
2. Manila hemp, raw.
3. Piglead.
4. Copper, unwrought.
5. Celluloid, raw, for the manufacture of dressing combs.
6. Asbestos, raw, including fibre.
7. Wood for the manufacture of pencils.
8. Tanning extracts required for the tanning industry.
9. Dum Nuts for the manufacture of buttons.
10. Mineral oils, white and half white, for the manufacture of insecticides.
11. Raw materials other than glass bulbs, required for the manufacture of electric lamps.
12. Bristles for brush making.
13. Carbon black for the manufacture of printing ink and black paint.

They have also decided that the import duty on fittings for umbrellas, parasols and sunshades should be reduced to 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

FOOD—FIRST PRIORITY Cotton Committee's Recommendation

THE Indian Central Cotton Committee has answered the difficult question, "shall India grow more cotton this year or more food?" by unequivocally supporting the need to grow more food during the present crisis.

At a meeting held in New Delhi recently the following resolution was passed unanimously by the Committee:

"The Indian Central Cotton Committee, after a careful review of the statistical position of Indian cotton and of the plan for cotton production for 1946-47, is of the opinion that from the purely cotton standpoint an expansion of the cotton acreage is highly desirable.

"In view, however, of the gravity of the food position in the country, the Committee strongly recommends to the Government of India that all Provincial Governments and States be required to take whatever steps are necessary to restrict the cotton acreage for the season 1946-47, so that it may not exceed the acreage sown in 1945-46.

Cotton Production

"In making this recommendation, the Committee is aware that the maximum acreage suggested is below India's minimum domestic requirements of raw cotton and cotton seed for cattle food".

Following this resolution, the Government of India have circularised Provincial Governments urging upon them the need to keep the production of cotton this year on a level not exceeding that of 1945-46.

From 24,865,000 acres under cotton in 1938-39 the area was reduced to 14,218,000 acres in 1944-45 and to 13.7 million acres in 1945-46, in an endeavour to divert more acreage to food crops. Although there is no room for further reduction in cotton cultivation, the imperative need to keep up food production prevents any extension of cotton acreage in 1946-47.

Mrs. Sheila Joseph, M.A., wife of Dr. Paul Joseph, Superintendent, Afghan Mission Hospital, Peshawar, and K. S. Fateh Mohammad Khan Khattak, M.A., LL.B., Advocate, Nowshera (Peshawar District) have been appointed non-official members of the Advisory Committee for the Peshawar Station of All India Radio, vice Mrs. Mushtaq Ahmed and Nawab Qutbud Din respectively.

MEASURES TO MEET FODDER SHORTAGE

SEASONAL conditions which have given rise to the scarcity of foodgrains in many parts of the country are also likely to lead to scarcity of fodder for cattle. The Inspector-General of Forests has, therefore, been deputed by the Central Government to discuss with representatives of the Governments of Madras, Bombay, the Central Provinces and Mysore on the spot the fodder position and to decide arrangements for procurement and movement of supplies.

The Inspector-General of Forests will ascertain availabilities and requirements of each area and make such arrangements as may be possible for rendering assistance in matters of procurement, transport and distribution. He is also ascertaining from the authorities concerned the extent to which the Army can release stocks and can assist in baling at their military dairy farms.

Any serious loss of cattle will affect cultivation in future years and, therefore, inquiries are also being made from countries like Australia, South Africa and East Africa about the possibility of importing fodder, if it is necessary to do so later in the year.

Well Construction

The Punjab, U.P. and Delhi authorities have been asked to investigate the question of rapid expansion and completion of the well construction programme of the alluvial barani (non-irrigated) tracts of these Provinces by using organised labour, including assistance from the Army.

The Headquarters of the Central Command and Northern Army have been requested to examine in what form they can help civil authorities in large-scale food programmes. It has been proposed that the representatives of these Provincial Governments and of the Central Command and Northern Army should meet in conference and decide these questions.

Dr. Baini Prasad, Fisheries Adviser, who recently visited Madras, discussed with the Regional Food Commissioner and representatives of the Madras Government the possibilities of utilising naval vessels and personnel in connection with arrangements for making processed or dried fish available for certain areas in the South.

DESPATCH OF FOOD PARCELS TO U. K. BANNED

THE food situation in India is so grave that H. E. the Viceroy has directed that the despatch of all food parcels from India, with the sole exception of tea, shall immediately cease.

It is well known that both civilians and Service personnel stationed in India have been in the habit of helping their families in the United Kingdom by sending them parcels of foodstuffs from India and it is realised that these parcels have been very welcome to families in the United Kingdom who have considerable food problems with which to cope.

It is, however, an indisputable fact that the Government rationing system in the United Kingdom ensures that everyone has at least a sufficient ration to ensure physical fitness, health and general well-being, though meals are dull and there is a lack of variety. The situation of the mass of the people in India which is threatened with families is worse than in the United Kingdom.

Necessities of the Situation

As far as the three Fighting Services are concerned, the Commander-in-Chief in India has ordered that this prohibition takes effect from March 15. He realises that the imposition of this prohibition will cause great disappointment to those who, up to the present, have been doing their utmost to alleviate the shortages and the lack of variety experienced by their friends and families in the U.K.

The C-in-C. is confident, however, that the necessities of the present situation will be clearly understood by officers and all ranks of the three Services and that they will loyally accept the deprivation of the pleasure and satisfaction which the ability to send food parcels home has afforded them.

The Government of India propose to ratify the amendments to the constitution of the I.L.O. adopted in its Paris Session in November last. The amendments relate to changes in regard to the membership and finances of the I.L.O., which have been found necessary as a result of the U.N.O. taking the place of the League of Nations in international matters.

A copy of the Instrument for the amendments of the I.L.O. constitution was laid on the table of the House (Central Legislative Assembly) on February 20 by the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, Government of India.

IMPORT OF FOODSTUFFS FROM EMPIRE COUNTRIES

Most classes of foodstuffs are still on the Reserved Commodity List, which means that imports have to be regulated in accordance with the allocations approved by the London Food Council and the Combined Food Board in Washington. Recently, however, several items which were previously on this list have been removed from it, and, in order that there may be no unnecessary restrictions on the import of any kind of food, the Government of India have decided to include such items in Open General Licence No. VII, which permits imports without licence from Empire countries in the Sterling area.

A notification giving effect to this decision is being issued. The most important items thus freed from import restrictions are potatoes (other than seed potatoes), vegetables (not including canned vegetables), sago and sago flour, tapioca and tapioca flour, fodder and cloves.

Other miscellaneous items have also been included in this Open General Licence by means of a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* published on March 2. These include certain steel goods falling under Part I of the Import Trade Control Schedule, certain textile chemicals falling in Part III, machine cloth, ivory, beer and wines, camphor, mercury, and office machines such as duplicating machines, tabulating machines, etc.

FRUIT PRODUCTS CONTROL ORDER

The Fruit Products Control Order will come into force from May 1 instead of March 1, 1946. This decision has been taken by the Government of India in view of representations received from fruit manufacturers about the inadequacy of the time allowed to them for the disposal of their existing stocks.

The Order was issued by the Government in December 1945 in consultation with the Provincial Governments and fruit preservers' associations and was to come into force from March 1 of this year. The object of the Order is to provide for the manufacture of fruit and vegetable products under hygienic conditions and in accordance with the prescribed standards of quality.

In view of the extension now granted, the Government wish to impress upon all concerned that no further extension shall be allowed. The manufacturers are reminded to equip and renovate their factories so as to comply with the hygienic standards prescribed in the Order.



By order of H.E. the Viceroy, 70 acres (flower gardens and lawns) of the Viceregal Estate are to come under the plough, a notable lead in the "Grow More Food" Campaign. Here, labourers are engaged in preliminary work on the Estate.

WHEAT TO BE GROWN ON VICEREGAL ESTATE

Flower Gardens and Lawns Come Under the Plough

FROM the window of his study, H.E. Lord Wavell will soon see trim and sedate vegetable plots in the famous Moghul Garden, which is now a riot of colour. Yoked cattle are already hard at work turning up the soil of 70 acres of the Viceregal Estate as part of the Grow More Food Campaign.

This area excludes the gardens and lawns of the staff bungalows—those of the Private Secretary, Military Secretary and other officials—and the Golf Course which are also to make their contribution to the campaign.

Of the 70 acres it is proposed to devote at least 50 to the cultivation of cereals like maize and wheat while the remainder has been earmarked for growing Indian vegetables and gram.

Owing to the shortage of fodder cattle which provide milk to the servants on the Estate are now permitted to graze the once carefully tended lawns skirting the gardens and the House.

Mr. C. H. Reader, Superintendent of the

Viceregal Gardens, who is the author of a pamphlet on how to grow vegetables in Delhi, stated that the entire gardening staff would be put on the job. Sweetpeas and other blooms would be uprooted and replaced by vegetables. The lawns were virgin soil and he expected a fine crop. The plan would be carried into the winter.

H. E. the Viceroy inspected the arrangements for Delhi's filtered water supply on March 12. By 8-15 a.m. he had reached the Intake Works at Wazirabad and saw the new Intake Works which are under construction. From Wazirabad he went to Chandrawal and saw the Filter Houses and pumping plants. He was shown round by the Chief Commissioner and Mr. Berry, the engineer of the Delhi Joint Waterworks and Sewage Board. On the way to Wazirabad the Viceroy visited the Town Hall, much of which was burnt out during the disturbances on March 7.



Mrs. C. E. B. Abell, wife of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, little Isabella Abell and Mr. C. H. Reader, Superintendent of the Viceregal Gardens, watch ploughing operations in the garden of Mr. Abell's residence. (Below) Cattle which provide milk to the servants on the Estate are now permitted—owing to the shortage of fodder—to graze the once carefully tended lawns skirting the gardens and the Viceroy's House.



TAX REMISSION OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS?

Finance Member's Reply to Budget Criticisms

R EPLYING to the Budget debate in the Central Assembly on March 5, the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, referred to the criticism that he had enriched the rich still further and given no relief to the poor and stated that it was not his intention to do this.

After explaining that the charge was untrue and based on an inadequate appreciation of the Budget and the demands for grants, he expressed his conviction that the common man would be better served by the financing, at the expense of the rich, of social and economic schemes which would ensure to his advantage rather than by any wholesale revision of indirect taxation. It was doubtful to what extent he would benefit by such a wholesale remission, while such a course would not be considered practical politics even by a popular Finance Minister.

A figure of Rs. 22 crores had been mentioned by Mr. Asaf Ali as possible remission of indirect taxation; but the Finance Member asked which would result in greater benefits to the common man: this remission or the real and tangible benefits that would accrue to him from the financing of the many social and economic development schemes provided for in the Budget? They amounted to the aggregate sum of Rs. 39 crores in 1946-47 as against a remission of Rs. 22 crores in indirect taxation considered possible by Mr. Asaf Ali.

Relief Measures

It should be remembered in this connection, emphasised the Finance Member, that the financing of schemes to this magnitude was provided mainly by taxing the rich—that is, those who were in a position to bear a high burden of taxation—and making available the proceeds for the benefit of the poor. These schemes, while providing social and economic benefits to the common man, were calculated to promote employment during this period of transition from war to peace economy, when maintenance of the employment level was of paramount importance.

Turning to the charge that his relief measures would only benefit the already rich, the Finance Member explained that, in respect of the abolition of E.P.T., it should be borne in mind that it made no difference in the next

year's revenue, that its retention would act as a damper on industrial development, which held out the greatest promise of increasing the national income and earning power of the people, that it would produce in the years immediately ahead a progressive diminution of yield and that its continuance might cause a liability to make good losses incurred in the transition period. Apart from the E.P.T., the other reliefs represented a relief to the so-called rich of no more than Rs. 4½ crores in a rate of taxation which circumstances connected with the war had carried to unprecedented heights.

Sir Archibald Rowlands said: Sir, nobody can accuse me of not being a sportsman; but, if I had known that my Honourable friend the Raja would be so critical, I might have been less forthcoming.

With your permission, Sir, and the indulgence of the House, I should like, in the first part of my reply, to pay rather close attention to my notes. There are one or two matters of importance that I want to say and I do not want their significance to be qualified by bad phrases or ambiguous terms.

I have little cause for complaint about the way that this debate has proceeded. It is true a number of brickbats have been thrown at me, but I have a feeling that they have been hurled more in sorrow than in anger—

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: What about the bouquets?

THE HON'BLE SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: I am just coming to the bouquets. Hon'ble Members have also thrown several bouquets, which I most gratefully acknowledge, even if the cards which accompanied some of them detracted somewhat from the fragrance of the flowers. My Hon'ble friend, Pandit Balakrishna Sharma, for example, sent a most lovely bouquet with a card which read with a charming and most disarming note, which has quite lamentably failed to achieve the object which it set out to achieve. Of the several bouquets I have received, the one that has given me the greatest pleasure has come from a quarter which does not normally regard these benches with an excess of affection. I am referring to the comment in a newspaper which I shall not more closely identify than by saying that it is one of India's leading journals and that I do not normally read it except when it contains the work of one of the world's most distinguished cartoonists. The comment was to the effect that

my Budget might have been framed by an Indian Finance Member. I know how difficult it is for the West to don with dignity the clothes of the East but, I can honestly say that, in formulating my proposals, I tried to keep prominently in mind the task, which, in a few months' time, will confront my successor.

Now, Sir, before proceeding to deal with the main criticisms that have been levelled against my Budget, I should like to pay tribute to the speech of the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party. While Mr. Asaf Ali would not expect me to agree with all that he said and while, as I shall attempt to show later on, he has, at least to some extent, missed the inwardness of my proposals, his approach and the general tone and tenor of his speech are, in my humble judgment, exactly what is required at the present time. If, during the next two or three months which are pregnant with destiny for India, the British Commonwealth and the world, we can go on sweetening the atmosphere in the way that Mr. Asaf Ali has sought to do, then I am certain, I am absolutely certain, that we shall emerge from the critical days ahead with dignity, mutual respect and full confidence in the future.

Charge Entirely Untrue

And now, Sir, I turn to the gravamen of the main charge brought against me in the course of the debate. It is this, that in framing my Budget I have deliberately set out still further to enrich the already rich and to give no relief to the miserably poor. As I shall demonstrate in a moment, the charge is entirely untrue and is based on an inadequate examination of the Budget and the Demands for Grants. I never thought that I should live to see the day when I should be portrayed as the champion of the wealthy, and particularly of the wealthy industrialist—I who have never in my life drawn a single pie by way of dividend from any company, whether industrial or commercial or financial, since I have never possessed a share of any kind, I who have known what it is to keep myself at the University and pay my college fees on Rs. 55 a month. I have, it is true, many industrialists among my personal friends, but in their public, as distinct from their private, capacity, I only like them to the extent that they add to the wealth of the community as a whole.

But let us leave my own personal position and attitude and get down to facts and figures. It is true that I have abolished E.P.T. but several things are to be noted about that. First, that it makes no difference to next year's revenues.

Secondly, that its retention would act as a damper on the advance of industrialisation which holds out the greatest promise of increasing the national income and the earning power of the people. Thirdly, that it would produce in the years immediately ahead a progressively diminishing yield. Fourthly, that its continuance carries with it a liability to make good losses incurred in the transitional period, and it is significant that the Chamber whom Mr. Manu Subedar so ably represents has already tabled a claim that losses incurred during the next three years should be charged back to E.P.T. already paid. I sincerely hope that my successor will resolutely reject any proposal to keep the matter open for so long a period.

Apart from E.P.T., my proposals represent a relief to the industrialists and the so-called rich of no more than a net Rs. 4½ crores on a rate of taxation which the war had driven to excessive heights. But let me compare the position now with the pre-war position. In 1938-39 companies paid 41 pies in the rupee by way of income-tax and super-tax. Under my proposals they will pay, even if the dividend distributed does not exceed 5 per cent, 72 pies, while there is a steeply rising rate for distributed dividends. On dividends exceeding 60 per cent. of the total income, the total charge will be no less than 144 pies in the rupee. Is this undue favouritism for the rich?

My proposals relating to the dividend tax are intended to discourage the distribution of excessive dividends and indeed the earning of excessive profits and I appeal to companies to co-operate with me in securing this result. In my judgment the profits in certain sections of India's industry are excessive and it would, I submit, be in their own interest, as well as in the interest of the country, voluntarily to reduce their prices to the consumer.

Individual Assessee

So far as the individual is concerned, the man with an earned income of rupees one lakh pre-war paid Rs. 19,354 income and super-tax under my proposals he will pay Rs. 47,875; a Rs. 2 lakh income paid Rs. 48,129, it will now pay Rs. 1,25,375; a Rs. 3 lakh income paid Rs. 83,111, it will now pay Rs. 2,14,438. For a Rs. 4 lakh income the figures are Rs. 1,24,865 and Rs. 3,06,625 respectively. For a Rs. 5 lakh income, Rs. 1,73,389 and Rs. 4,00,375. Does this show an undue tenderness for the rich?

Nobody has had anything but approbation for my proposals relating to people of moderate means, but I have been savagely assailed for my

alleged failure to do everything for the poor man for whom, I may say, I have as much solicitude as any of my friends opposite. It would have been very easy for me to have gained cheap popularity and won the plaudits of the multitude by slashing indirect taxation right and left. But I tried to keep in mind the task which will confront my successor. As I pointed out in my Budget, India will need a great deal of money to overcome her internal enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment, and, in my judgment, the interests of the common man (I dislike the word masses) would be best served by financing, at the expense of the rich, schemes which will ensure to his advantage rather than by a wholesale remission of indirect taxation.

To what extent, indeed, would the common man benefit by the wholesale remission of indirect taxation and how far would my Hon'ble friends opposite and to the right be prepared to go in this direction? Would they, for example, abolish the salt tax which has been the plaything of politicians for so long? I very much doubt it. Indeed, I have heard it said that the Congress would, on coming to power, at least double it, and I expect that a Pakistan Finance Member would do the same. Anyway, what would a wholesale remission of indirect taxation amount to? My Hon'ble friend Mr. Asaf Ali mentioned a figure of Rs. 22 crores; this would give relief of about 12 annas a head. Is this going to be of greater help than the schemes which are being financed through the Budget and the Demands for Grants next year? These schemes will cost Rs. 99 crores in 1946-47 and, apart from the employment that they will provide, will, in the main, promote the economic and social being of the common man.

Indirect Taxation

Nevertheless, on reflection and in the light of the debate, I fully confess that while, as I submit, Government's proposals are eminently sound on economic grounds, they may be in some measure defective psychologically, in that the man in the street, and particularly the man in the village street, may not have seen the true inwardness of the Budget proposals. Partly on these grounds and partly because Government, at any rate, in their present mood, are anxious to be as responsive as possible to the views of the House, I undertake, between now and the debate on the Finance Bill, carefully to review the whole field of indirect taxation to see whether any, and if so which, relief can be granted, whether, for example, it could be a cheaper postcard, a cheaper box of matches, a cheaper *bidi*, a cheaper betel nut or something else.

When we come to the Finance Bill, I shall seek guidance from my friends to the front and to the right as to what remission might ensure the passing of the Bill.

Sir, I think I have covered the more significant of the criticisms which have been raised in the debate. I shall now attempt briefly to deal in chronological order with some of the more important points with which I have not already dealt. I do not however propose to go into any of the matters which do not affect the Finance Department. If the Opposition wishes to raise any points, they may do so on a Cut Motion relating to a particular Demand.

Concessions to P. and T. Staff

When you, Sir, were speaking from your place in the House, you raised the point that the Posts and Telegraphs Department were expected to yield a revenue of Rs. 10 crores this year and that, in spite of that fact, the Government had taken no steps to remedy the grievances which were being represented by the postal employees. Well, Sir, I should like to tell you that it is entirely due to your intervention that Government is considering this matter and, as will be announced at a Press Conference this evening, in addition to certain concessions, which are in relation to pension, namely removing the present limit upon the maximum pension earned, the allowances and pensions for inferior servants will be brought into line with those of superior servants in toto.

In addition to this, the dearness allowance which was granted to these employees of the postal department, in common with the other employees of other Government departments with effect from 1st January last year, will be antedated to 1st July, 1944. In addition there will be roughly an addition of Rs. 5 in the good conduct pay of the postal employees. They have also agreed to refer to arbitration the question of any further relief which should be granted to all the employees whose pay was reduced by the 1931 cut in the rates of pay. So there will be at least some cut in these Rs. ten crores anticipated surplus.

The next point was about the American purchases and the suggestion was made that the purchases should be confined to articles which are likely to be of some use to India. Although the agreement has not yet been finally fixed up, we are on the point of concluding an agreement, which is however subject to negotiation at Washington as was announced in my budget speech. This will place at the disposal of India all the American surplus, and we can dispose of them at such time and at such rate as we think

in the best interests of India, having regard to the requirements of the consumer.

Then, Sir, the point was raised about earned income between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 and I think it was you, Sir, who raised the point. If anybody is paying tax on incomes less than Rs. 2,000 it is contrary to law.

H.M.G.'s Ships

Then, I come to Mr. Asaf Ali who said in his speech that India should acquire cruisers and aircraft, so that she might stand before the world as a full sovereign State with full sovereign powers. I am quite sure His Majesty's Government will do all they can to make the best equipment available to India. But it is not enough to have equipment, you have to have trained personnel. I know Indians, I have seen them at work, they are as good airmen or sailors or soldiers as the other races, but at the moment it is not enough to have merely control; they should have the technical skill also.

MR. M. ASAF ALI (Congress): I hope it will be forthcoming.

THE HON'BLE SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: Then he suggested that what was required in addition to the Taxation Enquiry Committee was to set a Council of Economists. Well, Sir, I do not know how far my Hon'ble friend is an economist. I have had a lot to do with them. Surely they have their uses, but God forbid that I should have to have a Council of Economists. You know the story that if you have six economists studying a problem you will get six different opinions and you may get a seventh one also. That is the sort of thing that you can get from economists. I understand what the suggestion means. There is a great deal in it; if you set up an Economic Council it will have to have a general staff collecting data all round, with a head of the staff. If you like, I can have one like that.

Then, Sir, a savage attack was launched by my Hon'ble friend Lieut.-Col. Chatterjee on bureaucracy. Well, Sir, I do not like it myself. I think his attack was a little unfair to begin with. He suggested that there was greater expenditure as compared with last year. That is not true. The expenditure is about Rs. 112 crores as against Rs. 129 crores in the revised estimates of this year. But I do agree with him that the course of bureaucracy is very insidious and it should be watched. Nevertheless if Government launches on new activities and ceases to be merely a tax gatherer and policeman and accepts responsibility for those activities which are the normal functions of every civilised government, then you have got to have additional

staff. But the growth is there and I entirely agree it should be closely watched.

That is the point which Col. Chatterjee made. Most of us are aware that salaries grow. In my humble judgment, the salaries paid in this country are too high and require revision. I am not thinking of the salaries you have to pay for us from overseas. You have to take the salaries paid in India man for man and I say they are much higher than what is paid in England.

MR. MOHAN LAL SAKSENA (Congress): That is what we have been agitating against all the time.

Consumers' Interests

THE HON'BLE SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: The next broadside came from my Hon'ble friend Mr. Nauman. With a great deal of what Mr. Nauman said I do not agree; but there is one thing I do like in his remarks, because in spite of what he said against my budget, he showed solicitude for the consumer. Since I have been in India I have heard too much talk about the producer, too much about the grower of this or that; about the manufacturer; but the consumers' interests are apt to be overlooked. To that extent I entirely agree with him. You know the lot of the Finance Member in this country is like that of the Gilbertian policeman, not a happy one. On the one hand, I have some friends who say, for heaven's sake do something to the poor grower of betel nuts as against the foreign industrialist and levy a customs duty; on the other hand, I get an attack from my friend Mr. Nauman for having done that.

MR. MUHAMMAD NAUMAN (Muslim League): Use enough intelligence to keep your balance.

THE HON'BLE SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: That is exactly what I am trying to do. I think I have dealt with most of the points that affect the Finance Department in Mr. Nauman's speech. He raised some points which affect the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.

Next I come to my Hon'ble friend Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan. I would like to add my own meed of praise to what was showered on him for his most attractive maiden speech, if indeed the word 'maiden' can appropriately be attached to such a stalwart and valiant representative of the North-West Frontier Province. I will not say his remarks were irrelevant to the budget, some of them were; but from others, I could make out that his main theme was an appeal to

he Afridis that they should in future practise their natural sport on the British instead of on the Pathans or, in the alternative, that I should transfer one of my munition factories to the North-West Frontier Province.

The next one was from my Hon'ble friend Sardar Mangal Singh who was overwhelmed by the turbulence of his oratory and I just managed to keep his head above water. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and so did I. I was very surprised to be portrayed as a matrimonial agent ringing about an unholy wedlock between British big business and Indian big business. I am sure Mr. Manu Subedar will not accept me as a matrimonial agent. He suggested that I framed my budget with an eye on the Cabinet fission. My budget was ready before I even heard of the Cabinet Mission. I am afraid that is another bit of moonshine.

Capital Levy

He then stressed very strongly what I ought to have done instead of what I have done and have tried to do. He said that we should go in for a capital levy. I would like to assure him that I did study the problem in very considerable detail, and it was only because I came to the conclusion that it is impracticable that I abandoned it. I abandoned it for many reasons, but there are two principal reasons: experience in other countries has shown that a capital levy has never been a success unless carried with it the wholehearted support of the tax-payers. It cannot be said that this Government carries any support of the tax-payers. Secondly, it requires a very large staff which we do not have. There are other reasons too. Thirdly, in my judgment it should come after and not before estate duties. But that is another matter.

Sardar Mangal Singh suggested that the scope of the Taxation Enquiry Committee should be widened to embrace some other things—the land revenue system. I entirely agree. I have not had an opportunity of studying the land revenue system of India, except of course the land revenue system of Bengal for five months, but I have no doubt myself that the land revenue system should be included.

He then referred to the sterling balances as a blood bank. I think that is a very good phrase, and the purpose of blood bank, of course, is to promote health amongst the people and I am looking to the sterling balances as providing that health to get India going ahead.

Dr. Sanyal, who is not here because he is not well, was rather angry with me because I did not deal with food, textiles and so on. I sympathise with him, because food will be the

dominating problem with us for the next six months, but he can be assured that in so far as it rests with the Finance Department—the provision of funds—there will be no impediments in the way of saving this country from disaster.

He also wanted the Government to adopt an overall river policy. Perhaps this Government will go out unsung and unwept, but there is one thing it has done. It has laid down the foundations of a policy to utilise the enormous resources of the rivers of India, and in the Budget this year there are grants to no less than thirteen schemes—rivers on which work is being done, the Damodar, Kosi, Moori, Soni and others. All these great rivers are being studied and work is being started on a good many of them. This Government has laid a very sound foundation for, as I have said, the utilisation of the enormous resources of power and irrigation.

I will not attempt to cover the whole ground explored and investigated by my Hon'ble friend the Leader of the European Group because to do that would detain the House too long. I do not think there are many things on which I disagree with him. He was critical of defence expenditure. It is high, he said. I think my Hon'ble friend, the War Secretary, has dealt with that in the course of his remarks. He also asked a question about surplus stores, and I explained that the things we want immediately are medical stores, and there are large supplies of American medical stores available.

Small Savings Scheme

As for controls, I entirely agree with him. Controls have no use once they have outlived the purposes for which they were created, and I agree with him that if controls get into the hands of bureaucrats, they get into their blood. With regard to the policy of the Ordnance Factories, it is not in my portfolio, but I can assure him that the utilisation of these factories for civil purposes is definitely a short-term policy; and, indeed, they will only be used when stores are urgently required.

With regard to the Small Savings Movement, I am very glad to have his support because I feel very strongly on this point. I think it can be a great social movement; it is in the interest of the individual and it is in the interest of the country.

The question of co-ordination has been dealt with by my Hon'ble friend the Commerce

(Continued on page 411)

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1946.

INDIA AND BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS

Central Assembly Committee Report

HERE is the Interim Report of the Committee consisting of Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, Government of India, Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson, Mr. B. K. Madan, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. Yusuf A. Haroon and Mr. Zia Uddin Ahmed, on the Bretton Woods Agreements:

The motion adopted by the House at its meeting held on the 29th January, 1946 in substitution of the motion moved by the Honourable the Finance Member on the previous day asking for ratification of the action of Government in adhering to the Bretton Woods Agreements as an original member proposed *inter alia* "that, in order to determine what steps should now be taken, a Committee of this House consisting of nine members be elected to go into this question and report at an early date to this House and, pending consideration by this Assembly of such Report, no further action be taken by this Government in respect of the said Fund or Bank." We, the undersigned, members of the Committee to which the above matter was referred, have considered the subject and have the honour to submit below our Interim Report containing our recommendations.

(1) We strongly endorse the statement made in the course of the recent debate by the Honourable the Finance Member that India is not bound in any way by the terms of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement of December 1945.

(2) In our view the final decision whether it would be to India's advantage to remain a member of the Bretton Woods institutions may be determined to a very considerable extent by the outcome of the negotiations which His Majesty's Government are committed to undertake with the Government of India on the subject of liquidation of sterling credits. If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits. Similarly, it may be necessary for India to withdraw from the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank in case the proposals of His Majesty's Government for the

settlement of sterling balances are not satisfactory to India. Apprehensions in this regard were voiced in the course of discussions in the Committee owing to certain speeches by eminent men in England advocating the scaling down of sterling balances, and we are assured in this connection by the Honourable the Finance Member that nothing has happened since the authoritative pronouncement made by Lord Keynes, Head of the U.K. Delegation at the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference in response to the demand of the Indian Delegation for an assurance on the subject, to diminish in any manner the authority or force of that statement. Nevertheless, in order to allay the anxieties which have been caused by certain statements in Parliament and in the British press we would welcome an early and authoritative re-assurance from His Majesty's Government on this point and the fixing of a date for negotiation with the least possible delay.

Reserve Bank of India Act

(3) We are also informed by the Honourable the Finance Member that sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934, under which the Bank is legally compelled to give rupees for sterling and to accumulate sterling against the issue of rupees, will be amended as part of the action that will be taken to implement adherence to the International Monetary Fund Agreement.

(4) We recommend to the Assembly that Government may be authorised to appoint a Governor and an alternate and Executive Directors and alternates, when this is necessary, but no further financial commitments should be undertaken by Government with regard to the fund or the Bank before the matter has been further considered by the Committee. The Committee should be summoned again to have a report from the Governor on his return from the first meetings of the Boards of Governors of the Fund and the Bank; we expect that he may be able to bring additional information bearing on the probable scope and manner of operations of these international institutions in relation to the requirements of this country, which may assist the committee in arriving at a considered recommendation to the Assembly on the question of continuance or discontinuance of membership.

In a supplementary note, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. K.C. Neogy, Mr. N.V. Gadgil and Mr. Manu Subedar state:

(Continued on page 408)

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1946.

INDIAN STATES' SHARE IN Government Take Over CAPITAL ISSUES American Surpluses

OF the permitted capital issues between May 1943 and September 1945, both industrial and non-industrial, initial, further, immediate and long-range, Indian States have had their share. The aggregate capital asked for by them—classified as "outside British India" by the Examiner of Capital Issues in his statistical statement, which classification is almost entirely confined to Indian States' applications—amounted to Rs. 43 crores from 289 applications, of which total refusals amounted to only Rs. 7 crores relating to 80 applications.

This gives a percentage rejection (to total applications) of 28 in respect of applications and 16 in respect of capital asked for. Consent was given in respect of 209 applications involving a capital issue of Rs. 33 crores. The latter figure, it should be explained, is arrived at after deducting from the total sum asked for both total and partial rejections.

Analysis of Consents

In assessing Indian States' share of the capital issues consented, it should be noted that the applications from the States relate only to permission for issue or recognition in British India. Any issue of capital exclusively in the States does not need the permission of the India Government's Examiner of Capital Issues and consequently the figures herein given do not include such issues. Therefore, the total capital issued by the States should presumably be appreciably larger than the sum recorded in the statistical statement.

Of the total asked for by the States, 19 applications for an issue of about Rs. 13 crores belonged to long-range schemes, for all of which permission was given. Of the total consented—viz., 209 applications for an issue of Rs. 33 crores—114 applications for an issue of Rs. 20 crores belonged to industrial and 95 applications for an issue of Rs. 13 crores to non-industrial schemes. Of the long-range schemes to which consent was given, 18 applications for an issue of over Rs. 11½ crores related to industrial and one application for an issue of Rs. one crore to non-industrial schemes.

Printed papers can also be sent to the Philippine Islands under the usual conditions. This service as well as the existing services of letters and post cards extend to all the islands of the Philippines.

CONVERSATIONS between the Government of India and the Foreign Liquidation Commission of the United States Government concerning the subsidiary agreements necessary to implement the block take-over of U.S. Army surpluses agreed upon on December 24, 1945, have reached a successful conclusion and the transfer of custody of these surpluses to the Government of India has begun.

As it is in the interest of both the Governments, this transfer of custody will be pressed with the utmost speed in order to supply present demands and avoid excessive deterioration. Early completion of the transfer will ensure prompt beginning of sales to the public, movement of goods from Assam prior to the monsoon and the early withdrawal of U.S. troops from India.

While the conversations were in progress, the exceptions agreed to under December 24 block take-over have been utilised to satisfy the priority purchasers under the U.S. Surplus Property Act. Those U.S. citizens, firms, agencies, non-profit institutions, U.N.R.R.A., in India free to purchase from the Government of India which may develop new requirements, will be on exactly the same basis as Indian firms, institutions and the general public. The Directorate General of Disposals organisation will be responsible for the movement of surpluses to areas where sales will take place and for the general control of disposal in accordance with the disposals policy of the Government of India.

Prospective purchasers should note that none of this surplus property can be sold for the purpose of export to the United States or its possessions except on consignment to a person or firm in the United States for reconditioning for re-export. As agreed to on December 24, 1945, all aspects of the block take-over and the result of these subsequent conversations are subject to review when the representatives of India visit Washington to make final settlement of Lease-Lend, Reciprocal Aid, Surplus property and other matters arising from the recent war. It is expected that the representatives of the Government of India will leave for Washington in the near future.

The Government of India have cancelled their notification fixing the prices of various categories of Raw Buffalo Hides.

T.V.A. EXPERTS TO ADVISE ON DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

MR. ROSS M. Riegel and Mr. Fred C. Schlemmer, leading engineers of the Tennessee Valley Authority, have arrived in India on a mission to advise on the plans being made by the Central Technical Power Board for the Maithon, Aiyar and Panchet Hill Projects. These are the first three of the dam sites in the Damodar Project for which outline designs and detailed estimates are being prepared at present. The plans and designs for the Maithon Project are in a relatively advanced stage. In regard to the other projects, a good deal of topographical and other data is still in course of preparation.

Four Reports

Mr. Riegel and Mr. Schlemmer do not expect to be in India for more than eight weeks, their services having been made available to the Government of India by the Tennessee Valley Authority, with the approval of the State Department, Washington. It is hoped to associate two leading Indian civil engineers with the Mission, but the present circumstances in which exceptional efforts are being made to carry out irrigation projects in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign" have made it difficult for the Indian engineers to join the Mission as yet.

The Mission is to make four reports. Two are to be made to the Central Technical Power Board, and are to comprise a critical examination of the Board's proposals for the form of design to be adopted and the construction schedule at the dam sites. The other two reports will be made to the Government of India and will cover recommendations as to the methods of preparing detailed working designs and carrying out construction work.

Two-hundred and seventeen industrial stoppages involving 1,70,510 workers occurred in British India during the second quarter of 1945 as against 197 involving 1,63,333 workers for the same quarter of the previous year.

The total number of man-days lost was 4,27,329 as compared with 13,31,668. Three stoppages involved more than 10,000 workers. Textile mills accounted for 29 per cent. of the stoppages, 60 per cent. of the workers involved and 62 per cent. of man-days lost. The demands related to wages or bonus in 127 stoppages.

Workers were successful in 60 stoppages and unsuccessful in 108.

AMERICAN ROAD EXPERTS VISIT INDIA

WITH the concurrence of Provincial Governments the Government of India invited two top-ranking Public Works and Road officials from the United States to pay a short visit to India, to advise generally on India's large programme of road development.

Owing to their other important duties, the services of these two distinguished officials were spared by the U.S. Government with great difficulty, but the President of the United States has agreed to their spending about one month in India during which time they will be the guests of the Government of India and will see as much of India's road system as possible in the time available.

The two officials are Major-Gen. Philip B. Fleming, head of the Federal Public Works Administration and Mr. Thomas Harris MacDonald, head of the Federal Bureau of Public Roads. They arrived in New Delhi on March 21 and stayed at the Viceroy's House, leaving on March 23, on tour.

Experts of International Reputation

In view of India's programme for large-scale road development and of the heavy expenditure involved, information on current road engineering practice in other countries and friendly and independent criticism of the programme cannot fail to be of value.

The technical and administrative problems connected with road planning and construction in India, have much in common with those of the United States and India is therefore fortunate in being able to obtain the advice and suggestions of these two experts, who are not only directly concerned with the planning of life development in the United States, but have an international reputation.

DELHI-LUCKNOW AIR MAIL SERVICE

The Indian National Airways Ltd., are now operating a daily air mail service between Delhi and Lucknow via Rampur. The service leaves Lucknow in the morning and Delhi in the afternoon, completing the journey in 2½ hours. Surcharged air mail correspondence can be sent by this service at the same rates and under the same conditions as are applicable to inland air mail correspondence generally. Special arrangements have been made at Rampur and Lucknow for the delivery of air mails received by this service on the same day.

LABOUR MEMBER ON WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY OF WORKERS

Statement in Central Assembly

THE Government of India propose to appoint a Committee, or some other suitable body, to advise them, after an examination of the reports that are so far available, whether the Government should proceed stage by stage in the matter of social security of workers dealing with each case of insecurity specifically or whether they should take up an ambitious plan like the one adumbrated in the Beveridge Report. This was announced by the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, speaking on the cut motion moved by Mr. S. Guruswami in the Central Legislative Assembly on March 11, to "discuss the failure of the Executive Council to provide for unemployment relief, adequate dearness relief and social security benefits for the employees of the Central Government."

Relief Measures

The Labour Member said: The object of this cut motion is quite clear from the notice which has been given by the Hon'ble Member. He proposes to discuss the failure of the Executive Council to provide for three specific matters which he has mentioned, namely, unemployment relief, adequate dearness allowance and social security benefits. The first point of comment that I would like to make with regard to this cut motion is that if the cut motion was a general one, I have no doubt about it that it should have stood on a different footing; but, as the House will see, the cut motion is restricted to the employees of the Central Government. And I venture to suggest that this is a very grave fault in this cut motion.

I do not know whether it is the wish and the desire of the Honourable Mover of this cut motion that the Government of India should frame its policy with regard to the three matters that he has referred to in such a manner as to create a privileged class of workers in this country (Interruption by Mr. Guruswami) on no other account except that they happen to be employed by the Central Government.

In this country the Government is not the only party that employs labour. There is a large amount of labour employed by private

employers. As everybody in this House would agree, the Government of India, while framing its policy for the betterment of labour, should frame it in such a manner that it should not create a privileged class on the one hand and an under-privileged class on the other.

The Government of India is not merely an employer of labour. It is a State. It is a Government and it has not only responsibility for those who are in the immediate employment of the Government of India: it has also a responsibility for labour in general. If, therefore, all these complaints which have been referred to by the Hon'ble Mover have to be dealt with by the Government of India, it is incumbent on the Government of India, as in duty bound, to frame its policy in such a manner that the policy shall benefit labour in general and not any particular class of labour.

Now, Sir, my Hon'ble friend mentioned that the Government of India maintains various classes of allowances and salaries for different classes of its own employees. I confess that I am painfully aware of that fact but what I would like to ask is this: who is responsible for the gradation which one sees now in the scale of payment either of basic wage or of dearness allowance or of gratuity or any of the perquisites which the employees working under the Government of India are receiving today? I have no hesitation in saying that the fault entirely lies with the leaders of labour.

Railwaymen's Position

Here we have got the Railwaymen's Federation. Any one who studies the policy of the Railwaymen's Federation, I think, will agree with me that it has always taken a parochial view of its own interests. The Federation happen to be in control of a strategic service on which the essential life of the community depends and they use that position for the purpose of coming down on the Railway Department and insisting that certain privileges shall be given to them. I may also say that they get certain members of the Legislature interested in their case and there develops a partisan spirit which is blind to all other interests and concentrates itself on securing certain special privileges for railway workmen alone.

The railwaymen, although there is no open declaration to that effect, maintain that they must always be in a leading position with regard to any other class of employees of the Central



The G.I.P. Railway authorities have organised canteens for workers of the Matunga Railway Workshops, Bombay. Clean food, drinks etc. are supplied at very cheap rates to the railway staff. Here are canteen trolleys at the Matunga Workshops.

Government. If the Postal Department is given something which happens to equate the scale of wages of the postal employees with the railway employees, the railway employees immediately become dissatisfied and they say that owing to the margin of privilege which custom, usage or their position has enabled them to secure they must have a further increase, so that their privileged position is maintained.

This sort of thing is going on and the position of the Labour Department has become completely difficult. My Honourable friend maintains or rather suggested that the Labour Department was not establishing arbitration boards as it should do; but what is the advantage of appointing adjudication boards for specific cases, for specific services each case being dealt with in isolation without relation to the other?

The result is you have *ad hoc* boards, *ad hoc* reports, and *ad hoc* decisions which have to be dealt with *ad hoc*. The result is always a disparity, always a divergence. Therefore the situation which we have at present is entirely the result of the faulty organisation, if I may say so, of the working classes of this country and particularly those who are employed under the Government of India.

I think the House will agree that the decision which the Government of India has recently taken in the appointment of a Salaries Commission is a decision in the wise direction, because the whole question of the wage structure, in this country and the relation of wages paid by the Government of India to its different classes of employees and the relation of wages paid to them to the wages operating in private industry, will be examined by this Commission. I hope that we shall be able to get some recommendations from this Commission from which we shall be able to establish in this country some kind of a uniformity in the wage system, so that everyone would know the underlying principles on which the wages are based.

The other difficulty I find is that most of the employees of the Government of India, who are employed in certain services which earn revenue, have come to regard that they have a first charge on the revenues of their department. The railway employees think that because the railways are earning a profit, it is they who must get something more than anybody else, out of the profits that the railways have earned. If the Postal employees find that the Postal Department has made a profit, they also raise a claim on the ground that their betterment, a



Canteen boys carrying tea and coffee in the Railway Workshops. There are fixed hours for distribution of tea, eatables etc. (Right) General Motors India, Ltd., also provide cheap and good food to their employees. Here, workers queue up for their morning tea.



Canteen boys serve tea to women workers of a mill in Indore. (Below) Staff of the canteen of the mill are busy preparing mid-day meals, supplied to the Mill labourers at cheap rates.

rise in the standard of their living, should be regarded as a first charge on the revenues of that Department.

Now, Sir, so far as I am concerned, I have not the slightest doubt that I cannot accept that position and I shall always resist it. The revenues earned by the Government of India—no matter whether they are raised by taxation or whether they are raised by any commercial undertaking—are the revenues of India. They are not the revenues of any particular class of people. They are not the revenues of any particular Department of the Government of India. They are the revenues of the Government of India, and the whole general public has a claim on those revenues and, as long as I am in charge of the Labour Department, I shall always resist any such claim made by any class of employees, namely, that because their Department earns any profit, they have the first charge upon it. That would lead to chaos and I am certainly not going to be a party to it at all.

Unemployment

Now, Sir, my friend, the Mover of the cut motion, has raised the question of unemployment. I am not going to deal with the specific questions that he has raised, but I am going to deal generally with the question of unemployment.

His view seems to be that unemployment must be relieved by unemployment benefit and I

have no doubt that that is a most fallacious argument. Unemployment must be relieved by employment and not by any relief as such. The payment of relief is a possibility when unemployment is on a very small scale, when unemployment is a tail and not the body of it.

In this country, as everybody knows, practically over 50 to 60 per cent. of the people are unemployed and we have to find employment for them. If anybody were to come forward and say that the 50 or 60 per cent. of unemployment that exists in this country ought to be relieved by the payment of relief, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that the State would come to a ruination if it undertook that kind of obligation.

My friend, therefore, must agree that so far as unemployment is concerned, relief must be sought in the direction of a greater industrialisation. It is only rapid and greater industrialisation that can give us relief from unemployment. and as this House knows, the Government of India has already prepared its plan and has already announced its decision with regard to industrialisation. I will, therefore, not dwell on that subject at any great length but would like to tell the House what exactly the Government of India has done with regard to the advancement of general betterment and the provision of social security to the workers in this country.

As the Hon'ble House knows, the Government of India has already announced its policy with regard to labour. I have no time to read the portions which deal with that question. This, information will be found in the second part of the Reconstruction Committee of Council under Head XXV, pages 55 and 56.

Nobody can, therefore, say that the Government have not an objective in this matter. We have, and we have laid down the objective. I will go a step further and say that it is not that the Government of India have merely laid down its objective but the Government of India have also prepared a programme of action. With regard to the programme of action, the House will know that the Government of India have appointed or did appoint two years ago a fact-finding committee in order to make a survey of the entire condition of workers in this country.

So far, we have received 34 reports from this committee on 34 different industries besides one general report giving a bird's-eye survey of all the specific reports that have been made. Of these reports, 18 have been already printed and the rest of them are with the printers.

Apart from obtaining this general survey of industrial condition of workers, the Government



of India have appointed a special officer, Professor Adarkar, to prepare a report on the health insurance of workers in this country. As I said we have not only an objective, but we have a programme, and we are now in possession of the facts on which any plan of social security could be based.

The next step now for the Government of India is to decide how to plan for social security. As the House will know, there are at present two views. One view is that we should go by stages, as other industrial countries will, dealing with each case of insecurity specifically and building an administrative machinery for the purpose of giving relief in respect of that case of insecurity.

There is another school which is more or less influenced by the Beveridge Plan and which proposes to have an over-all policy of security, covering all cases of insurance at one shot. I do not wish to approach the issue in any matter and to say as to which plan would be better.

The Government of India propose to appoint a committee or such other body as they may be advised to tell the Government of India, after an examination of the reports that have so far been made as to the method by which they should proceed in this matter. Whether they should proceed stage by stage or whether they should take up such an ambitious plan as the one adumbrated in the Beveridge report.

This survey, which I have given, and which I am afraid is all too brief as I have had no time to elaborate or develop it, will convince the House that the complaint made by the Honourable Member of this Cut Motion that the Executive Council is complacent, is indifferent and has taken no steps to provide for the welfare and security of the workers is entirely unfounded and I hope that the House will not accept the Cut Motion that is moved by him.

BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS

(Continued from page 401)

With reference to paragraph (3) of the Interim Report, we should like to add the following:

Apart from India's membership of Bretton Wood's Institutions the question of amending the Reserve Bank Act, 1934, has assumed very great importance as there is a continuous addition to our sterling balances. We think that Government should act promptly to put a stop to these accumulations by amending relevant sections of the Reserve Bank Act 1934, or otherwise. The accumulated balances are already a great problem and we do not want them to become more difficult and disadvantageous to India.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRIVATE BUILDING ACTIVITIES

IN order to find ways and means of encouraging private building activities, a conference was held on March 8 in New Delhi by the Labour Department with various representatives of the building trade from different parts of the country. This was in pursuance of the policy of the Government of India to estimate private building, not only to meet the housing deficiencies of the war years, but also to provide a source of employment for unemployed labour and as a corrective for possible deflationary tendencies in the near future.

In November 1945, the Labour Department had informed all Provincial Governments that they were withdrawing their wartime instructions relating to the control of private building. They have since taken steps for the release of bricks under their control in Delhi and have also addressed the Provincial Governments recommending similar releases wherever the existing stocks of bricks are not required for Government works ready for execution. The Industries and Supplies Department, which control other building materials like steel, timber, cement, etc., have also taken steps to make large supplies of these materials available for civil and non-government requirements.

Importance of Building Activities

Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, who presided over the Conference, in his opening remarks pointed out the importance of building activities in the economy of the country at the present time and said that there were two aspects of the matter. Increased building availability of suitable sites, facilities for getting in housing caused by the restrictions on private building during the war years; and, incidentally, it would help in the maintenance of employment and prices at a reasonable level.

The discussion which followed centred mainly round the prevailing high level of prices, the availability of suitable sites, facilities for getting coal for burning bricks and the shortage of steel bars. Amongst those who took part in the discussion were representatives of the Planning and Development Department, War Transport Department and the Chief Engineer, Central P.W.D.

Summing up, Mr. Prior said that the Government of India would give all possible assistance in removing the various impediments and would do their best to render help in regard to the availability of suitable space for building purposes, supply of coal to brick burners and assistance to private builders with petrol for overcoming transport difficulties.

GOVERNMENT'S REHABILITATION PLANS

Labour Member's Speech in Central Assembly

"I am quite certain that whatever is possible to be done within the short space of time that is available to us is being done and I have no doubt that the soldier, who is demobilised, will find the organisation set up of great use to him in meeting the difficulties which he is confronted with in civil employment," said the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, Government of India, speaking on the resettlement and rehabilitation plans of the Government of India during the General Budget discussion in the Central Assembly on March 5.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar said: Mr. President, in the course of the observations that fell from the Leader of the European Group, he said that they were not quite sure whether the resettlement and rehabilitation plans of the Government of India were proceeding apace in order to meet with the volume of demobilisation that was going on. Sir, it is for this purpose that I rise now in order to give the House the requisite information on this subject.

Resettlement

Sir, the subject of resettlement is divided into two parts: settlement on land and settlement in industry. The question of the settlement on land is a matter which has been left for the Provincial Governments to carry out. The reason for leaving settlement on land to the Provinces is, I think, quite obvious to the House. The land, by constitutional law, is the subject matter of the Provincial Government. Obviously, no matter what argument there may be in support of the position that the whole subject matter of resettlement should be under one Central Government, that argument could not dislodge the opposite argument which is founded on the fact that the land is a provincial subject. It is, therefore, by mutual agreement that that question has been left to the Provincial Government. The only subject that the Government of India deals with is resettlement in industry. It is of this subject that I propose to give some account to this House.

The subject of resettlement has been placed under the charge of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment. The department or branch is divided into seven different categories:

(1) employment exchange (2) technical training (3) vocational training (4) rehabilitation of the disabled soldier (5) canvassing employment for ex-servicemen and the disabled (6) follow-up service (7) statistics of discharges and releases.

The functions relating to canvassing of employment for ex-servicemen and the disabled soldier as well as the next function of what is called 'follow-up' service and that of statistics of discharges and releases, are obviously so necessary and so self-explanatory that I do not think it is necessary for me to spend any time to explain why these services have been instituted and what their purpose is. I will, therefore, leave these subjects for Hon'ble Members to study from this book which has been issued by the Government of India in the Labour Department. A copy of it is in the library and if any Hon'ble Member desires to have a copy for his personal use. I shall be very happy to circulate them.

MR. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): What is the title?

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: It is "The Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment."

BABU RAM NARAYAN SINGH (Congress): Please circulate it.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: Copies of it were given to the Labour Advisory Committee the last time it met. The only question on which detailed explanation is necessary is in regard to the employment exchanges, technical training, vocational training and rehabilitation. I will take each item serially.

Technical Training.

With regard to technical training, the position is this. The Government of India have certain technical centres for technical training. In those centres they have reserved at present 14,000 seats for demobilised personnel. The training, the maximum period of it, will be for one year and the number of trades that will be taught in those technical training centres will be about 48, the detailed list of which is given on page 55 as Appendix VII of this booklet. Then, Sir, with regard to vocational training: it deals with training in agriculture, in dairy farming, in cottage industries, in clerical and commercial occupations. The scheme is at present prepared and is sent round to the Provincial Governments for their approval. The proposal is that in these vocational training centres 20,000 seats will be reserved for training in occupations relating to agriculture and 50,000 in other occupations.

Coming to the question of rehabilitation. This matter is shared between the War Department and the Labour Department, and the reason for such sharing will be obvious. The rehabilitation of a soldier, who has received injuries in the course of the war obviously falls into two stages. The first stage is the medical stage where questions of healing the wound and post-hospital rehabilitation are of primary importance. Obviously, the soldier being in the service of the War Department, this matter has been left to the War Department to deal with. After he has come out of the first stage of rehabilitation, which is the medical stage, he is handed over to the Labour Department and the Labour Department then deals with him.

Rehabilitation

For the purpose of dealing with the rehabilitation of a soldier, the Labour Department has two sorts of centres opened in this country. One is called the Basic Centre. The accommodation provided is for 5,000 such persons. The second sort is the special training centre. There the accommodation provided is for 3,000 persons. The purpose of the Basic Centre is to test the aptitude of the man. What are his aptitudes? What is it that he is likely to be most useful in? After his aptitudes are tested, he is then taken to the special training centre where he is taught some occupation which is most suitable having regard to the particular sort of injury that he has received. The Labour Department plans to open altogether six centres for dealing with soldiers requiring rehabilitation. They have opened one at Jalahali near Bangalore and they propose to open another very soon in Aundh near Poona.

I will now come to the question of employment exchanges, which of course is the most important part of the resettlement plan. With regard to the employment exchanges, the Labour Department has come to the conclusion that it would be enough to start with 71 such employment exchanges. They have today on the ground set up 38 such exchanges and, before long, they hope to complete the maximum number they have decided upon.

Now, Sir, I know that there is a certain amount of criticism both from members of the House as well as from the public outside that the question of setting up of employment exchanges is not progressing as rapidly as it should and I should like to meet that criticism by submitting to the House certain facts which would show why the Labour Department cannot rush the starting of these employment exchanges. The one thing which is necessary to remember is that, unless and until an employment exchange is managed by a man who has had training, it is bound to fail. Let it be remembered that employment exchange-

es are a very specialised sort of work—the most specialised type of work. An employment exchange would completely fail if it were placed in the hands of a man who is not trained for the job. Therefore, before starting any employment exchange, it is necessary to give a certain amount of training to a man who is to be in-charge of the employment exchanges. That is, therefore, one difficulty why it has not been possible to rush in the matter of starting our employment exchanges.

MR. P. J. GRIFFITHS (European Group): Where is the training done?

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: I am just coming to that. We have, therefore, established a training centre in Delhi. It is a sort of a school in the charge of Mr. Jones, whose services have been lent to us by the Labour Department in England. He runs this training centre. In that centre training is given in all aspects of the employment exchanges for a period of six weeks before a man is sent out to take charge of an employment exchange.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Congress): How many are you training at a time?

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: I believe 35 at a time.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: How long do you take to recruit them?

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: The difficulty arises from the fact that all these posts have to be filled on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission and the minimum time that the Federal Public Service Commission takes is somewhere about three months. I do not know whether—and I am not prepared to say that—the time taken by the Federal Public Service Commission is unduly long. (Interruption by Prof. Ranga) I am merely stating the reason why it has not been possible to start them soon. The first difficulty is that it takes a pretty long time to have a man recruited through the Federal Public Service Commission. Secondly, after he has been recruited, we have to give him training. All this, therefore, takes time, I do not regard the time taken as wasted.

Another point which people, who criticise the Labour Department for not having set down all the exchanges, raise is this. The Labour Department have not got all the exchanges on the ground. This does not mean that there is no organisation on the ground which is able to deal with the subject. As might be known there is already a recruiting and employment bureau in the War Department which has been doing this work and the policy of the Government is that, in course of time, this organisation

should cease to deal with this work and the whole work should go over to the Labour Department. The Labour Department, while it goes on increasing its exchanges also goes on taking over the work that is at present dealt with by this recruiting organisation in the War Department.

Consequently, the fact today is that there are really two different organisations working in full co-operation, one in the Labour Department and another in the War Department and, in course of time, we hope that all the work that is now carried on by the recruiting organisation will come over to the exchanges and we shall then be able to set up a full-fledged and competent organisation to deal with this question of resettlement.

Sir, I hope the House will be satisfied that the Labour Department is doing its best in the circumstances in which it has been placed. I would just like to say one word. I think it will be appreciated that this question of resettlement came to us as a matter of great surprise in view of the fact that the war closed before we expected. However, I am quite certain that whatever is possible to be done within the short space of time that is available to us is being done and I have no doubt that the soldier who is demobilised will find this organisation of great use to him in meeting the difficulties which he is confronted with in civil employment.

FINANCE MEMBER'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 400)

Member. On the question of housing, we are trying to do all we can to make available supplies of cement, timber, steel, etc. With regard to the National Investment Board, it is rather in its early stages as yet, and I do not think I need go into that at this time.

The price level is a topic of the day. At the moment we are living in an artificially closed economic system which has affected the price levels. Deflationary tendencies have manifested themselves and we are doing our best to see that prices do not remain too high.

Other matters that he raised I will deal with at the time of the Finance Bill. I do not think the House wants to listen to me any more. I really end where I started. There are two problems in my judgment in front of India at the moment: one is how to allay the phantom of politics and the other is how to destroy poverty. On the first I can make no contribution, but I shall try to abstain from doing anything which will obstruct the second. I submit that my Budget has done a little towards achieving that.

RS. 41 CRORES FOR NEW RAILWAY PROGRAMME

THE provision of staff quarters and staff welfare works is considered an important item in the open line works programme of the Railways for 1946-47. Rs. 2.10 crores has been set apart for this purpose, the provision for staff quarters alone being Rs. 1.64 crores.

A housing committee has been set up by the Railway Board and is now touring various provinces. Immediately on receipt of its report the main work on housing will be taken up. The final report of the committee is expected in the near future.

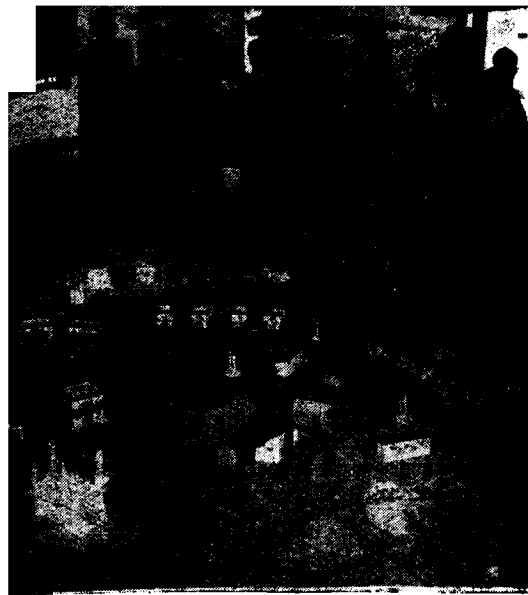
Renewal of track, including rails, sleepers and ballast, is to absorb nearly a quarter of the total budget of Rs. 40.8 crores for the open line works programme. Re-alignments and the re-modelling of yards and stations and increasing the line capacity by doubling the track in certain sections is expected to absorb Rs. 2½ crores, while nearly Rs. one crore is to be spent on rising the existing standard of signalling and in general improvement in railway communications. Additional tele-communications and wireless circuits are to be provided.

Rolling Stock

The largest single item of expenditure is the purchase of rolling stock, for which over Rs. 11 crores have been set aside. The rolling stock to be purchased will be locomotives, carriages and wagons.

The amenities to the public for which a considerable sum has been earmarked include raising the lengthening of platforms, the provision of foot-bridges and covers over the platforms, new and improved waiting rooms, better water supply and improvements to station buildings, goods-sheds and approaches. Provision has also been made for the restoration of lines, dismantled during the war, for new construction and for engineering and traffic surveys for new lines.

By a notification published in the Gazette of India dated March 16, the Central Government have directed that the maximum additions to landed cost or cost of production sanctioned, or hereafter to be sanctioned, under section 6 of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, shall be deemed to be exclusive of any sales tax that may be payable by the seller under any Provincial law.



Model of an ideal village. (Below) A soldier is printing designs on cloth.



Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, Welfare General in India, recently addressed a Press conference in Delhi on troops' welfare and rehabilitation of demobilised defence service personnel. Later, the Pressmen were shown round the pre-release training schools of the Rajputana Regimental Centre, Delhi, and the 2nd Punjab Regimental Centre, Meerut. These pictures show Pressmen at the Meerut Centre.



Specimens of leatherwork done by trainees.



Press representatives in the museum of the Meerut Centre. (Right) Modern ploughing instruments are demonstrated to Press representatives.



Bricklaying at the Meerut Centre. (Below) Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse addressing the Press conference in Delhi.



Weaving cloth on a hand-loom. (Below) Trainee in electricians' class explains his work to a Press representative.



DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Standing Finance Committee Approves Proposals

A MEETING of the Standing Finance Committee was held on February 23, the Hon'ble Sir Aachibald Rowlands, Finance Member, presiding. Further proposals were approved by the Committee, the most important of them being the development of scientific research, the Andamans Forest Department Reconstruction Scheme and a grant-in-aid to the Institute of Art in Industry, Calcutta.

One of the proposals concerning the development of scientific research related to the expansion of the Electrical Technology Department of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, by the establishment of a High Voltage Engineering Laboratory at a non-recurring cost of Rs. 23,13,000 and a recurring cost of Rs. 36,000 in 1946-47 and Rs. 45,000 a year in subsequent years. The establishment of this Laboratory would assist electrical development in the country and the growth of the knowledge of electrical theory and its application and provide substantial employment for skilled labour, particularly the re-employment of war technicians.

Indian Institute of Science

Another proposal of the same nature related to four-year development programme of the Indian Institute of Science. It was proposed to open new departments in the Institute, viz., a General Chemistry section in the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry Department of Metallurgy and a Department of Internal Combustion Engines. The total non-recurring expenditure of the development scheme would be Rs. 40,00,000 and the recurring expenditure Rs. 2,25,000 in 1946-47 rising to Rs. 3,59,000 a year in the subsequent years.

A third proposal was concerned with the appointment of Indian Scientific Liaison Officers in the U.K. and the U.S.A. The Committee was informed that the main function of these officers would be to disseminate information on scientific research in these countries. The annual expenditure would be Rs. 97,000 in the U.K. and Rs. 88,000 in the U.S.A. in 1946-47 and Rs. 1,50,000 and Rs. 1,75,000 respectively a year in the subsequent years. The Committee approved the scheme in a modified form.

The Andamans Forest Department Reconstruction Scheme would involve a capital outlay of Rs. 42,31,000 and a recurrent expenditure of Rs. 14.3 lakhs in 1947-47 and Rs. 42 lakhs a year in the subsequent years if the target of timber output rose to 72,000 tons a year. It was pointed out to the Committee that the Andamans forests constituted a valuable asset of the Government of India, possessing at least 1,500 sq. miles of forest classed as "forests which afford a supply of valuable timber for commercial purposes". Timber was in great demand at present, and would be for some time, for reconstruction and industrial development. It was therefore considered essential to market the timber in the Andamans before competitors exploited the available markets.

Sericultural Research

The proposal further to extend the grant-in-aid of Rs. 5 lakhs to the handloom industry in 1946-47 was approved.

An additional grant of Rs. 1,24,375 was also approved in respect of the research work by the Central Sericultural Research Station, Berhampur. This station, it was stated, was carrying on sericultural research, mainly in respect of maintenance of disease free pure stocks of approved indigenous and foreign races of silkworms and diseases of silkworms. Including this additional grant, the total recurrent expenditure of this Scheme which, it was explained, was for a period of five years, from March 1943 to February 1947, would now be Rs. 69,250 non-recurrent and Rs. 1,74,860 recurrent or Rs. 2,44,110 in all.

A third proposal of a similar nature related to the creation of a Silk Directorate to control price and distribution and the expansion of silk production at recurrent expenditure of Rs. 35,300 in 1945-46 and Rs. 1,40,000 a year in subsequent years.

The proposal to give a grant-in-aid to the Institute of Art in Industry, Calcutta, involved a grant to the Institute of Rs. 45,000 in 1945-46, Rs. 75,000 in 1946-47 and Rs. 1,25,000 in 1947-48. The activities of the Institute, it was stated, would be, *inter alia*,

(a) to undertake widespread exhibitions and displays, both for original work and for India's most attractive goods (including handicrafts);

(b) to have advisory panels in India and representatives in all principal cities abroad.

(Continued on page 416)

RESEARCH ON SYNTHETIC DYES IN INDIA

RECENT developments in applied science have been reviewed in a series of twelve articles published in the January issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*. The subjects discussed include: synthetic dyes, plastics, vegetable oils, glass, refractories, coal, scientific instruments and building materials. The developments in India have been reviewed against an international background.

The inauguration of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has given considerable impetus to applied research in India. In the field of chemistry and technology of dyes, the Council, through its Synthetic Dyestuffs Committee, sponsored a number of schemes of research on coal-tar intermediates. A survey of raw materials for the manufacture of dyes in India was completed and considerable progress has been made on the study of the composition and constitution of commercial dyes which are being employed by the Indian textile industry.

As a result of the activities of the Council, a research centre for synthetic dyes has been established in Bombay. The results of these researches will not only benefit the indigenous textile industry, but will also add to the knowledge of the chemistry of dyestuffs and medicinal chemicals.

Producer-gas Plants

In the field of plastics, the contributions from Indian scientists are confined to the development of natural resin plastics and semi-synthetics. The bulk of the work has been carried out in the laboratories of the Council and at the Lac Research Institute. Perhaps the most outstanding development is the "drawn laminated moulding", which enables plastic, impregnated laminates to be drawn and moulded in one operation. The possibilities of the utilisation of this process, which has been perfected in the Council laboratories, in the field of container manufacture are very large.

The war period witnessed great developments in the design, manufacture and testing, of producer-gas plants. Whilst the cessation of hostilities will probably mean the reversion of a great proportion of the existing producer-gas transport to petrol, the advances which have been made under the stress of war, are expected to give this alternative fuel a longer lease of life.

Even if it is not used for motor vehicles, there seems to be a field for the development of producer-gas as a fuel for small stationary units conveyed from place to place on trailers and which can be used as water-pumping machines in connection with agriculture or as power units for small-scale industries where other supplies of power are not easily available.

Prussian Blue

A process for the manufacture of Prussian blue, an important pigment for several ancillary industries, has been developed in India and described in the *Journal*. The raw materials required are ferrous sulphate and potassium ferrocyanide. The ferrous ferrocyanide obtained on mixing solutions of these two chemicals is oxidised by potassium chlorate to obtain the Prussian blue of commerce.

Several practical considerations are involved in the production of a pigment of good marketable quantity. These have been fully discussed and a working process has been developed and tried on a pilot-plant scale.

LAC CULTIVATION IN FOREST AREAS

"As a result of the last three years' work in a Bihar Government forest, it appears possible to undertake lac cultivation in forest areas as a source of revenue", states the six-monthly Report of the Indian Lac Research Institute for the period April to September, 1945.

Further work on shellac moulding powders has shown that the flow and the finish of moulded articles are improved if heat-polymerised C.N.S.L. (cashew-nut-shell liquid) is incorporated in them.

Lac, C.N.S.L. and casein taken in suitable proportions form a stable emulsion useful for impregnating jute-felt, hessian and various fabrics which may afterwards be moulded into bowls, dishes, etc. The emulsion reacted with furfuraldehyde gives rise to a varnish suitable for preparing waterproof flexible coatings on paper, cloth, etc.

A combination of lac with C.N.S.L. modified by adding small quantities of drying and non-drying oils, and dissolved in solvent naphtha or toluene and reacted further with urea and formalin gives rise to a resinous composition fit for use as varnish.

The Report once again emphasises the necessity of quick disposal of harvested crop, as also of water-immersion or heat treatment of the stick lac, before marketing, for the purpose of eliminating the lac predators and parasites that continue to grow in the harvested lac.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY EMPIRE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

A preliminary meeting of the delegates from India to the Royal Society Empire Scientific Conference, proposed to be convened in London this summer, was held in New Delhi recently under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India.

The meeting dealt with the allocation of subjects among the delegates and held preliminary discussions on some of the outstanding problems, which will come up before the London Conference.

The Conference is being organised by the Royal Society and will last for three weeks from June 17 to July 8. The first four days will be spent in London, after which the Conference will move to Cambridge for a week and to Oxford for another week, returning to London on July 6.

Exchange of Views

The primary purpose of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for exchange of views on scientific problems which are of immediate practical importance to the various parts of the Commonwealth, and to discuss ways and means of achieving the greatest practicable measures of collaboration between scientists in the various parts of the Commonwealth for the solution of these problems.

The Royal Society Conference will be followed by an Official Conference lasting a fortnight. This Conference will discuss the detailed measures to be taken to organise and promote collaboration and scientific research throughout the Commonwealth on subjects of direct interest to the Governments concerned.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

(Continued from page 414)

thus keeping in touch with world developments in design and commercial art, and disseminate this information in India through a magazine and technical bulletins, etc;

(c) to compile a register of commercial artists and designers together with examples of their work, and award diplomas, Associateships and Fellowships to deserving candidates; and

(d) to maintain the high standard of traditional Indian handicrafts and assist craftsmen in producing these wares which are likely to be in demand and display them to the public.

STANDARDISATION OF SOIL TESTS

THE need to evolve standard methods and equipment for various tests necessary in the study of soils was emphasised by Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla when he inaugurated at Lahore, on February 27, the first meeting of the Permanent Committee set up by the Central Board of Irrigation at its last annual session. The Committee consists of representatives of the Central Board of Irrigation, the Indian Roads Congress, the Railway Board and the Army in India. Dr. Asghar, of the Punjab Irrigation Research Institute, is its Secretary but its permanent office will be in the charge of the Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation.

Referring to the tasks before the Committee, Mr. Khosla, who is the President of the Central Board of Irrigation, said: "You have to evolve standard methods for the various classes of tests and then devise standard equipment for carrying out those tests under the conditions existing in our country."

Interim Standards

Relevant standards in use in other parts of the world might serve for guidance, said Mr. Khosla, but the knowledge available at present was insufficient to lay down final standards. He urged, therefore, the setting up of interim standards which could be modified from time to time. He drew the attention of the Committee to the need for standardisation of nomenclature used in connection with soils so that experience gained in one part of the country might be useful to a study of similar problems in other parts.

Mr. Khosla recalled the words of H.E. the Viceroy when he opened the Silver Jubilee session of the Institute of Engineers, India: "I consider that there is also a great need for research institutes so that India may not be dependent on discoveries made abroad and can make her own research into her particular problems, of which those dealing with water are the most urgent and vital."

Mr. Khosla observed that what applied to research applied also to the setting up of standards. The Railways maintained a Central Standards Office and the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and the Indian Roads Congress were setting up organisations to evolve suitable standards in their own spheres of activity. The proposal of the Central Board of Irrigation to form this Committee had been welcomed by the Railways, the Roads Congress and the Army in India.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR ON CIVIL AVIATION

REPLYING to the debate on the Congress Cut Motion on Aviation Policy in the Central Assembly on March 11 Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Secretary, Posts and Air Department, said:

Sir, I am much obliged to my Hon'ble friend Mr. Sanyal for the opportunity he has given me of giving an explanation of the policy of Government in regard to aviation, regarding which there seems to be a considerable amount of misconception. I am convinced that there is a great deal of misinformation, some perhaps deliberate, which has been spread about civil aviation, and I am confident that the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, who very strongly criticised the department, will be satisfied when I have explained to him exactly what the position is.

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE (Congress): Will you agree to a committee of the House to go into the whole question?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I should like the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition to listen to me and then decide whether a committee of the House is necessary. There is nothing that I have to conceal in this matter.

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: My question was directed to Government, Are Government prepared to agree to a committee of the House going into the whole scheme?

MR. M. A. F. HIRTZEL (European Group): Is there not a standing committee of the House?

MR. PRESIDENT: The Hon'ble Member will proceed.

Nationalisation

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: The cut motion is to discuss the aviation policy and nationalisation of air services. The Mover did not speak about nationalisation in the sense of a State monopoly. The term 'nationalisation' has two meanings, one, nationalisation may mean Indianisation, and the other nationalisation may mean a State monopoly as against private enterprise. As the Mover only spoke about Indianisation I gather that it was not his intention to raise any discussion about nationalisation in the sense of State operation.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Congress): My Leader has already spoken in favour of it. Don't take umbrage at what he said.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I am taking no umbrage whatsoever. My hon'ble friend is himself in a perpetual state of indignation.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Come to the point.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I should first of all like to state clearly what the policy of Government is with regard to civil aviation. This is, to promote as rapidly as possible the orderly development of India's air services, both internal and external, on an economic basis by Indian enterprise and under Indian management, and to encourage the training and employment of Indians. I repeat that in this House, and if I am accused of not having carried it out I think Government deserve to be censured. I felt rather hurt at the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition saying that I who am an Indian and occupy this position merely because of the efforts of the members of the opposition towards Indianisation and my Hon'ble Member would lend ourselves to any subterfuge for employing Britishers when Indians were available.

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: I adhere to every word that I said.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I merely expressed my regret.

Now as regards development by Indian capital and Indian management, this has been the policy declared and followed for many years.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Declared but not followed.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I would in this connection refer to the criticisms made that the four companies which operate the air services in India are not Indian. Surely in the case of Tata Air Services, I do not think anybody can say it is not Indian. (Interruptions)

DR. SIR ZIA UDDIN AHMAD (Muslim League): You are making a mistake in not following the right line.

Indian National Airways

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: As regards Indian National Airways, it has been said that this is not an Indian concern. By the courtesy of the Indian National Airways I have received information from them which I have pleasure in giving to the House. The total number of shareholders in this Company is 1,270 of whom 1,165 are Indians, i.e., 91.70 per cent.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: What is their total holding?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: The total capital is Rs. 30 lakhs. The capital held by Indian shareholders is Rs. 26,88,036 or 89.6 per cent. The capital held by non-Indian shareholders resident

in India is 8.59 per cent; capital held by non-Indian shareholders resident abroad is 1.81 per cent.

MR. DHIRENDRA KANTA LAHIRI CHOU-
DHURY (Congress): What is the management
of the Indian National Airways?

MR. PRESIDENT: I think it will be better
if the Hon'ble Member is allowed to proceed in
his own way, and then questions may be put at
the end. It is no use putting questions every
now and then and after every sentence or two,
(Interruption) Please hear his point of view
first; he has got his own point of view.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: It is somewhat
upsetting when Hon'ble Members are impatient.
I was going to tell them about management; only
I was not allowed to finish.

DR. G. V. DESHMUKH (Congress): The
House is not air-conditioned!

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Of the I.N.A.
Directors...

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Which
I.N.A.?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Indian
National Airways. Seven out of the ten Direc-
tors are Indian. The Managing Agents are
Govan Brothers. This is a private Limited
Liability Company registered in India with a
rupee capital. Seven Indian shareholders hold
40 per cent. of the capital.

MR. KHIREDRA KANTA LAHIRI
CHOUDHURY: Who are they?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: And there are
seven directors of the Company of whom two
are Indian.

MR. VADILAL LALLUBHAI (Congress):
Is 60 per cent. of the holding foreign?

European Shareholders

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Of the hold-
ing by Europeans a percentage is surrendered
on retirement and it has been the policy of the
Company for a considerable time past to increase
the number of Indian Directors. All European
shareholders are resident in British India, and
are actively engaged in the management of the
Company.

Now, Sir, as regards the Air Services of
India Limited, it is admitted that it is an Indian
Company. As regards the Air Survey and
Transport Company, no air services are operated
by that company. Their whole work is con-
nected with survey and mapping on charter
by private parties.

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL (Con-
gress): Mr. Smith's Company?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I therefore
hold that the Government of India have follow-
ed a consistent policy of Indianisation.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Question.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I was asked
who are employed by these companies, and that
the Government forced these companies to em-
ploy Europeans. I would like here to give a flat
contradiction to that statement. Government
does not force any company to employ any
particular person. It is entirely their choice.

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a
point of information. Will the Hon'ble Member
be pleased to state if any of these four com-
panies are running without British personnel?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I am coming
to that also, I was not given time. The first
part of the accusation against Government was
that either the Director-General or Government
forced these companies to employ Britishers. I
simply wanted to contradict that statement.
The Companies employ Britishers because they
probably find them more competent or more
experienced.

In the Tata Air Lines to-day, out of the
air crews that is to say pilots and wireless
operators there are 21 pilots and 23 operators;
they are all Indians. Among the Engineering
staff, out of 50 Ground Engineers only 8 are
Europeans...

MR. DHIRENDRA KANTA LAHIRI CHOU-
DHURY: Why are they there?

Development of Aviation

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Probably the
Company find that they are more useful and
experienced.

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: To
please the Director-General.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Syed Ghulam Bhit
Nairang): The Hon'ble Member should be
allowed to go on, as already ruled by the Presi-
dent, and at the end questions can be asked.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: In the Indian
National Airways to-day, out of the air crews
there are 16 pilots and 13 wireless operators,
and all are Indian. Out of the engineering staff
out of a total of 32, three only are British. That
will give the House an idea of what has been
done in the way of Indianisation and again I
would like to state that there is no question of
appointing a Britisher in order to please the
Director-General of Civil Aviation, and if any
Company has any such idea I hope my state-
ment in this House will remove it and I shall
be the first man to congratulate them on employ-
ing Indians in place of Britishers in those Com-
panies.

Government have also been accused by Mr.
Sanyal and others on not having developed
civil aviation in India in the early years. Here,
Sir, I think if anybody is to be blamed, it is the
past Government encouraged to a certain extent
by this House. In the old days it was the most
difficult thing to get any money for civil avia-
tion and I know that the present Director-
General had done his best, and put up the big-
gest fight he could, to get more money, but he
could not get it.

I have here figures of the budgetted expendi-
ture from 1931-32, but I need not trouble the
House with those figures. From 1936 the
amounts allowed every year were about Rs. 17
or 21 lakhs and the highest figure before the
war was Rs. 35 lakhs in 1939-40. On the capi-
tal side again, the capital expenditure was be-
tween Rs. 18 and 20 lakhs a year. Civil aviation
could not be developed with this small amount
of money and no subsidy was given by Govern-
ment. You may blame the past Government,
but that was the policy in those days and people
said that this was a luxury service, India wanted
its money for other purposes, and the natural
result was that civil aviation could not be de-
veloped.

To give the House a conception of the
amount of money required, I would like just to
mention here that for the next year we have had
to provide Rs. 125 lakhs only as the first begin-
ning with post-war planning.

Post-War Planning

Post-war planning for civil aviation was
taken up about two years ago and has been
worked out in great detail. These plans were
prepared in the first instance for the considera-
tion of the Policy Committee which, as the
House is aware, consists of representatives of
all Provincial Governments and of certain indus-
tries and certain operators. When they were
first printed, they were naturally marked 'For
official use only' because it was not intended to
release them until the plan had been seen and
approved by the Policy Committee, then by
Government, and then by the Standing Finance
Committee and the Standing Advisory Commit-
tee. Now Government have decided to release
them, and I am sorry that 'For official use only'
was not crossed out before the copies were
supplied.

The copies have been placed in the library
of the House, and it is our hope that we shall
make it available to the general public who may
be interested in these plans. These plans are
really in far greater detail than have been
worked out by any other country so far as
know, and I know, and I have been to some

other countries. We have tried our very best
to indicate what are the general ideas on the
subject, but I would like the House to accept
this from me that the statements made there
do not indicate any decisions of Government.
They are plans giving certain views as to what
is thought necessary e.g. to employ a certain
number of technical personnel from other coun-
tries. It does not mean that is the policy of
Government that Britishers only will be taken

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Does it
indicate a policy of British infiltration into the
Civil Aviation Department?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Certainly not.
MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Then
what does it indicate?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: These plans
have been put to the Policy Committee, the
Standing Advisory Committee and the Standing
Finance Committee and they approved of them
subject to certain comments which have been
duly noted and which will be incorporated
when the plans are going to be implemented.
The Standing Finance Committee, for example,
approved of these plans and...

DIWAN CHAMAN LAL (Congress): By a
majority.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Yes, by a
majority. They said that any company which
gets the contract should take steps to train
Indian personnel and Indianise the operating
services.

DR. SIR ZIA UDDIN AHMAD: In the
Standing Finance Committee I made a very
strong protest and wrote to the Finance Mem-
ber that I did not agree to the policy.

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The
dissentient notes have not been published.

Subsidies

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: The Standing
Advisory Committee also made certain comments
which we noted and in this connection I think
my friend, Mr. Jaffar, should not have stopped
where he did when he read the minutes. I did
refer to Section 116 to the Government of India
Act which debarred the Government of India
in laying it down as a matter of policy that only
the Indian companies will be subsidised. But
I explained that the subsidy will be given only
to companies licensed by the Licensing Board
and the policy of the Government was to de-
velop civil aviation with Indian capital and under
Indian management and added that as the policy
was clear, the question could arise only in the
unlikely event of a European company getting
the license from the Licensing Board.

I do not think that there is any question here of subsidising a European company. We have been accused that these plans do not go far enough and perhaps we could have made bigger plans with more services. But when we made these plans our intention was to provide a system of air services which are essential in modern conditions for the proper development of India as a whole. But it is not intended to stop here. Government are confident that, stimulated by these trunk and link services, there will come into existence a considerable number of feeder air services to serve local needs. I think a good deal of development has been done and I am sure the House will be glad to note that whereas in 1933 Indian air transport services flew 13 lakhs of miles and carried 784 passengers, in 1945 they flew 21 lakhs of miles and carried 24,310 passengers. Well, Sir, we are going ahead. . . .

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Only in the wrong direction!

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: . . . with the implementation of the plan.

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: With British personnel recruited from England.

Recruitment of Staff

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: And here we come to the question of the recruiting of the staff about which we have met with very bitter criticism. I have fully recognised that the aim of the House is also that of the Government—to Indianise the services as fast as possible.

MR. MOHAN LAL SAKSENA (Congress): Utilise them first and then Indianise!

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: But if we are going to wait until Indians are trained and then take up flying, I am afraid we shall have to wait a considerable time.

DIWAN CHAMAN LAL: Is it his contention that there are not Indians trained sufficiently to take over the services?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: That is the contention of Government.

DIWAN CHAMAN LAL: May I ask my Hon'ble friend whether it is not a fact that the Government found no difficulty in getting pilots for the war?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: We are not talking of pilots alone. We are talking of the development and the management at the head. There has been vast progress in the technique of flying, flying control and navigational aids. Indian Air services have an enviable record for safety. We want to maintain it. Everything possible must be done to ensure safe flying. Any unsafe flying would hold up the develop-

ment of flying and air consciousness among the people.

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: May I put a question to the Hon'ble Member? Will the Hon'ble Sir Gurunath Bewoor tell this House what Sir Frederick Tymms was in England before he came out to India.

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Navigator, only a pilot!
(A pause).

MR. AHMED E. H. JAFFER (Muslim League): He is collecting the information!

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: The qualifications of Sir Frederick Tymms before he joined were his administrative experience and experience in civil aviation.

DIWAN CHAMAN LAL: The same sort of experience that you yourself have.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Let me continue. I am not stopping there. Sir Frederick Tymms was commissioned in the war of 1915-19 and was commissioned in the Royal Flying Corps in 1917.

DIWAN CHAMAN LAL: What?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I must ask Hon'ble Members kindly to hear the statement completely before making remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Syed Ghulam Bhir Nairang): The Hon'ble member should be allowed to complete his statement and questions can be asked later on.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I do not think it is quite fair to me.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: You have not been fair to the country! That is the trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Sir Frederick Tymms

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: He has received the Military Cross, the Chevalier of the Order of the Crown and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. In 1918 he went on a British Aviation Mission to the United States of America regarding training and organising American Air Service in air observation. In 1919 he was Instructor in Air Navigation at the Royal Air Force School of Navigation. In 1920-27 he was Technical Officer in the Civil Aviation Department of the Air Ministry. In 1924 he commanded the Air Section of the Oxford University Arctic Expedition to Spitzbergen. He was a member of the Air Survey Committee, Great Britain, and part Author of "Flying for Air Survey Photography". He was the Air Ministry Chief Examiner in Navigation for Pilots and Navigators' licences and part Author of "Commercial Air Transport". In 1927 he was appointed

ed by the Air Ministry as Superintendent of the Egypt-India air service. He was seconded to the Government of the Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika to survey and organise air routes, including the Cape to Cairo air route, and to organise the administration of civil aviation. In 1928-31 he was Chief Technical Assistant to the Director of Civil Aviation, Air Ministry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the holder of 1st Class Air Navigator's licence and Pilot's "A" licence. He is also the author of a number of scientific papers on Navigation, Air Survey, Meteorology and other technical Aviation subjects. Now, Sir, I ask the House. . . .

MR. MOHAN LAL SAKSENA: How were the services of such an experienced person dispensed with in England?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: His services were lent to the Indian Government at the request of the Government of India in order to succeed Sir Francis Sheldermine, who was the previous Director of Civil Aviation. I am surprised at the amount of prejudice that I see against a distinguished and faithful officer of the Government of India. I wish to state that I have had the honour and privilege of working with Sir Frederick Tymms for the last four years. I have attended with him the private conversations we had with the United States Government. I went to the Chicago International Civil Aviation Conference with him.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Why didn't you both remain there?

Not Anti-Indian

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: And I have been in a number of various conferences with him. I have never known Sir Frederick Tymms ever raise any question which smacked of his favouring the British as against the Indian. The House may refuse to accept my statement but I must express my personal conviction about this matter.

I think, Sir, a man who is in charge of a big department like this has to do many things and Sir Frederick Tymms is a strong man and it is quite possible that he does not put up with fools gladly. He may have had to do many things which are not quite liked by many people. It would be most unfair to consider that an officer of this kind who has worked with singular energy and singular devotedness should be accused of being anti-Indian.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Syed Ghulam Bhir Nairang): The Hon'ble Member has one minute more.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I understood that the Government representative can have

20 minutes and even more if further time required.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon'ble Member has had 20 minutes already but I can give him five minutes more.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I shall require more time, because I have to deal with a large number of questions which have been raised.

As regards the presence of Britishers whom we have got, I would like to state that we only got these Britishers when Government was convinced that we have not got the necessary men to deal with the post-war plans. Before the war this Department had one Director of Civil Aviation, one Deputy Director of Civil Aviation and we were working with a small staff of officers. We planned this large expansion—as I stated the expansion is six times what we had before the war—and in view of the large progress made in aviation and its technique we felt that we must have men who knew something about it. The selection was made when we were in London, by myself, Mr. Sen Gupta, our Financial Adviser and Sir Frederick Tymms. In this connection I must express my obligation to the Air Ministry and Civil Aviation Ministry in England who were able to spare these experienced men for our service here.

MR. MANU SUBEDAR (Congress): Why did you give them such long contracts?

Sir Edward Rice

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: We took Sir Edward Rice as Deputy Director General. The Leader of the Opposition was not impressed by the fact that he was Air Vice-Marshal. I quite agree that an Air Vice-Marshal need not necessarily be suitable.

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: He was just an ordinary pilot like many of our Indian pilots.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I would explain to the House who Sir Edward Rice is and what experience he has got. He has had 32 years' experience of aviation in the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force. His experience of flying operations ranges over France, Belgium, Africa, Egypt and the Coastal Command. He was transferred to the Bombay Command in 1938 and took part in the bombing offensive on Germany. In 1941 he organised in West Africa the air reinforcement of the Forces in North Africa at a critical stage of the war. At the end of the European war, after commanding No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, he commanded a Training Group to train crews for the Japanese War.

We have taken Mr. Bussell who was in India for nearly five years and he was associated with the enrolment and training of officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force.

Now, Sir, these people have been taken on contract. The contract is for five years and I am told that this is too long a period. May I assure Hon'ble Members that these contracts are subject to termination on six months' notice. If suitable Indians are available, it will always be possible to employ them in these places but, Sir,

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: It is a foul libel on Indians as the Hon'ble Member knows it.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I think that is a very wrong statement. I would not make a foul libel on my own countrymen.

MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: That is our tragedy to-day.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: It is a matter of opinion. Where we have had men of experience in a particular line of operation.

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You are selling our future.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I am not selling our future. These people are on contracts which are terminable on six months' notice.

Training and Experience

There is one more point, Sir. No amount of training is a substitute for experience. What we wanted was men who have had some experience of actual air transport operation and they have come here to help us to build the air transport of this country. We are putting Indians in the next lower level and we are hoping that they will learn in the course of a year or two or three years the method of work. In fact we might say that most countries have done it. Every country imports experts from outside in order to learn by their knowledge and experience, to teach the people in the country and when we are capable of looking after ourselves we would be able to Indianise the service completely.

As my time is ending I intend to deal with the question of nationalisation. In the case of nationalisation I understood that it is not a case of State versus private enterprise. But so far as nationalisation in the sense of Indianisation is concerned, I have already stated the policy of the Government and, if Europeans or Britishers are being taken, it is solely as an interim measure to enable us to take up and progress more rapidly with the development of air ser-

vices in India and not for any other reason whatsoever.

There is unfortunately a misunderstanding about the four companies which have been mentioned in the plan. This memorandum dealt at that time with the various possible modes of operation. It examined the advantages and disadvantages of a state service operated departmentally or operated as a corporation or a private company or corporation. All that is stated about the four companies is this. It is stated that the services which were set out in the plan could be operated by four companies and there was never any intention that there would be only four companies or that they would be those existed or that there would be four and no more. I hope that that misunderstanding is removed.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Why did not the Department consider the feasibility of a nationalisation scheme in connection with civil aviation?

State v. Private Enterprise

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: Government did consider it at very great length indeed—the question of state versus private enterprise . .

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Why did you not adopt it?

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I will tell you. This question I am not going to examine on any basis of abstract economic theory. I know that there is a great deal to be said for either type of operation of air transport services. Both of them have their advantages and disadvantages. Government was anxious to see what method would promote the most rapid and orderly development in the present conditions of India. That was the only test which was applied. The four methods have already been mentioned in this book which Hon'ble Members must have read. Now, Sir, the arguments which. . . .

MR. DHIRENDRA KANTA LAHIRI CHOUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Member's time is up. You said five minutes and he has already taken five minutes. We want to know how long more he will be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): If Hon'ble Members go on putting question after question, the Hon'ble Members speech is bound to be lengthy. I think Hon'ble Members should resist the temptation to put questions and then he will come to the end of his speech sooner.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I am sorry I am taking so much time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon'ble Member cannot have more than one minute.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: What we felt was this: we felt that if we nationalised all air transport, that is, had state monopoly, the rate of development would be slowed down, due to limitation of capital and recurring expenditure. Development would be subject to the fluctuating conditions of government finance. Air transport is still a luxury service and might therefore get neglected as compared with other development plans of government. In a new and changing type of transport like air, flexibility in management and imagination in development is essential. State enterprises are notoriously lacking in these. . . .

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: You are condemning yourself.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I cannot finish at this rate.

MR. P. J. GRIFFITH (European Group): On a point of order: can we not have an end of this continuous fire of interruptions?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The only way to terminate this interminable parley is to tell the Hon'ble Member that his time is up.

SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR: I should like to say that I think it is most unfair that Hon'ble Member interrupt me when I give the opposite point of view: I did not interrupt them when I was listening to what they had to say. But when I speak and when I am on very strong ground in replying to them, I am interrupted at every step. I know that for every view there is an opposite view; but if Hon'ble Members will not allow me to give my answer to them, I cannot help it.

MR. HON'BLE MEMBERS: The question may now be put.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is. . . .

That the demand under the head Aviation (pages 146-150) be reduced by Rs. 100. The motion was adopted.

All classes of telegrams are now admitted to and from Batavia at the rates shown against Dutch East Indies in the current edition of the Post and Telegraph Guide. Private telegrams must be written in plain English, Dutch, French, or Malayan.

Commercial telegrams are restricted to those ascertaining facts of exchanging information. Senders of telegrams to Batavia desiring replies are advised to prepay the charges.

AIR SERVICES IN INDIA

A safety record was set up in India in 1945 when the two Indian Air Transport Companies carried a load seven times as large as that in 1938 without any loss of life or injury to passengers or crews. Fifty per cent. of the load capacity on all services was freed during the year from priority control and made available to the public.

Air traffic was carried by the Tata Air Lines and the Indian National Airways, which operated internal air services both for the Government of India and the R.A.F. Transport Command. In 1938, only 784 passengers were carried by these two companies; in 1945 the figure rose to 24,310. During the last two years, there have been no accidents causing loss of aircraft or loss of life or injury to passengers or crews. The weight of mails and freight had doubled, while the total traffic expanded from about 30,000 ton miles in 1938 to over two million ton miles in 1945.

Services Reorganised

In March and April 1945, the operators were re-equipped by the R.A.F. with Beechcraft "Expeditor" and D.C. 3 types of aircraft. In the following month the services were reorganised under new agreements with the Companies.

Tata Air Lines, during the year, ran services from Bombay to Delhi, Calcutta, Coimbatore, Madras, Karachi and Colombo, as well as a long distance service from Karachi to Colombo. Indian National Airways operated services from Delhi to Bombay, Madras, Karachi, Peshawar, Calcutta and Quetta.

At the end of 1945, the lease-lend "Beechcraft" expeditors loaned to the companies were withdrawn. As a result, this year, the companies have returned to commercial operation and are now using Douglas "Dakota" (D.C. 3) aircraft purchased from U.S. disposal stocks with which they are expanding their services. Though all traffic including Government passengers, mails and freight, is carried against payment of fares, mail and freight charges, fifty per cent. of the load capacity on the service is still subject to priority control.

The detailed traffic figures are as follows:

	1938.	1944.	1945.
Total mileage flown.	1,286,349	2,100,000	3,347,231
Passengers carried..	784	13,250	24,310
Weight of mails and freight carried.	565,625 lbs.	1,540,000 lbs.	1,350,875 lbs.
Total traffic.	290,824	1,500,000	2,106,872
	ton-miles.	ton-miles.	ton-miles.

BRITISH AVIATION EXPERTS FOR INDIA

Air Transport Development

THE Civil Aviation Office of the Government of India is being expanded to meet the requirements of the programme for the development of India's air transport services and civil flying, said a Press Note issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on March 9.

"As a first step towards this three specialist officers have been recruited in England. These officers who have taken up their appointments in Delhi are Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward Rice, who becomes Deputy Director-General (Aircraft); Air Commodore E. I. Bussell, who has been appointed Director of Licensing, and Mr. J.P. Jeffcock, who becomes Director of Communications. Mr. Jeffcock is on three years' contract while both Sir Edward Rice and Air Commodore Bussell are on five years' contract."

Specialist Officers

SIR EDWARD RICE, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., comes to India with 32 years' experience of aviation in the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force. He has experience of flying operation over France and Belgium (1914-19), in Iraq (1920-22), in Egypt (1929-34) and in the Coastal Command (1935-38). Transferred to the Bomber Command in 1938, he took a prominent part in the offensive against Germany. In 1941 he organised in West Africa the air reinforcement of the North African Forces at a critical stage in the war. At the end of the European War, after commanding No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, he commanded a Training Group to train crews for the Japanese War. He was knighted this year for his distinguished services in the R.A.F.

AIR COMMODORE E. I. BUSSELL, C.B.E. was largely responsible in the early years of the war for the enrolment and training of officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force. He is a graduate of the Royal Air Force Staff College and has outstanding experience in air training. He served for six years at the Air Ministry, and for five years at Air Headquarters, India. He was of late in command of a Training Base in England.

MR. J. P. JEFFCOCK, M.I.E.E., the Radar Expert, has for the past ten years taken a prominent part in the development of Aeronautical Radio Communications. During the war, he was seconded by the Air Ministry to the Ministry of Aircraft Production to assist in the development of Radar. He organised the Central Radio Bureau, formed for the dissemination of information on Radio Research and development in the

(Continued on page 426)

RELIEF TO P. AND T. STAFF DOUBLED

Annual Report for 1944-45

A HUNDRED per cent. increase over the previous year in the amount allocated for wartime relief to employees, new peak figures in traffic and revenue returns and the bringing into operation of the major part of the tele-communication system are some of the highlights of the Posts and Telegraphs Department's Annual Report for 1944-45.

An outstanding feature of the Report for relief granted to the employees amounting to Rs. 347.5 lakhs as against Rs. 180 lakhs the previous year. This hundred per cent. increase includes war and dearness allowances, increased good conduct pay, cost of concessional supplies of foodstuffs, extra-duty allowances and bonus to employees in emergency areas. This relief of Rs. 347.5 lakhs works out to about 40 per cent. of the total establishment pay bill of Rs. 866 lakhs. The higher cost of foodstuffs necessitated a revision of the dearness allowance rates and good conduct pay. A concessional food supply scheme was introduced in Bombay City and its suburbs by the Postmaster-General. Bombay, thus adding to similar schemes operating in Bengal, Assam, Delhi and Simla. The Staff Co-operative Societies for the sale of foodstuffs ceased to function in the United Provinces, but those in Madras Circle, Ahmedabad, Poona and Nagpur continued to flourish.

Increase in Traffic

The volume of traffic continued to increase largely as a result of war activities. The number of postal articles handled was 1,730 million as against 1,241 million in 1938-39, while the number of telegrams transmitted was 29.8 millions as against 16.4 in 1938-39. The number of effective trunk calls, excluding service calls, rose from 2.25 million in 1938-39 to 4.2 millions in 1944-45. The number of telephone exchanges rose from 2,600 in 1943-44 to 2,800 in 1944-45. The total monetary transactions of the Department, which amounted to Rs. 512 crores, showed an increase of Rs. 82 crores over the previous year and Rs. 210 over 1938-39.

The post-war plan, recently approved by the Policy Committee on Posts and Aviation, contains proposals to bring India into line with advanced countries by providing a post office for every village in India with a population of 2,000 and over. The plan provides for the estab-

lishment of 9,000 new rural post offices and 530 new urban offices within the next 15 years.

Inflationary tendencies in the country were reflected in various figures, like the volume of traffic in money orders and postal orders. In the year preceding the war, the number of money orders issued was 40.4 million of the value of Rs. 74.3 crores. In 1943-44, the figures were 57.6 million and Rs. 146.8 crores, while in 1944-45 they had further risen to 64.4 million money orders of the value of Rs. 172.8 crores. The value of money orders shows an increase of 133 per cent. over 1938-39 and 18 per cent. over 1943-44.

Anti-Inflationary Drive

The anti-inflationary drive produced satisfactory results; the amount invested in Savings Certificates rose from Rs. 10.8 crores in 1943-44 to Rs. 19.4 crores in 1944-45. The total balance in the Defence Savings Bank Account during the same period rose from Rs. 3.5 crores to Rs. 8.5 crores. The balance in post office Savings Bank Accounts likewise rose from Rs. 64.2 crores to Rs. 80.2 crores. The aggregate increase under these three heads was about Rs. 30 crores over the previous year.

The Indian Postal Order system of transmitting money is becoming increasingly popular. The total amount transmitted by means of these postal orders increased from Rs. 23.23 lakhs in 1938-39 to Rs. 65.36 lakhs in 1944-45. Transmission of money by British Postal Orders showed a balance in India's favour of about £76,000. British Postal Orders which were sold in India were of an aggregate cash value of £493,800 while those cashed in India were of a value of £569,710. The corresponding figures for 1943-44 were, outgoing £212,920 and cashed in India £500,610. The increase in postal orders sold in India for payment abroad was due to the presence of a large number of troops serving in India.

The general improvement in the war situation was reflected in more and better air mail services between India and the United Kingdom. Inward mails from the United Kingdom were, however, carried for a part of the journey by sea. With the liberation of Italy and France, the air mail service from India to Italy was established in August 1944; and to France in December 1944. Restricted letter mail service was resumed between India and some parts of Italy and the Vatican City State, Greece and Crete, Belgium, France, Corsica, Bulgaria and Holland. Parcel post service to unoccupied China and Eritrea was also resumed.

DEMANDS OF NON-GAZETTED P. AND T. EMPLOYEES

S EVEN unions of the non-gazetted employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Federation of such unions have served notices on the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, stating certain demands of the employees and communicating their intention that the employees shall cease work if their demands are not conceded. The names of the unions and of the Federation are: (1) the Indian Telegraph Association Ltd., (2) the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union, (3) the All-India Telegraph Union, (4) the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Union, (5) the All-India Telegraph Workmen's Union, (6) the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union, (7) the All-India Telephone Revenue Union, and (8) the Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Unions.

The Government of India have had under their consideration most of these demands and they have already indicated to the unions the action they have taken or propose to take.

Grant of Relief

There is, however, in the opinion of the Government of India, one question raised by the unions which requires separate consideration, enquiry and adjudication, namely, the question relating to the adequacy or otherwise of the reliefs already granted by the Government of India to the non-gazetted employees in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, governed by the new scales of pay introduced since 1931.

The Central Government has, therefore, referred this trade dispute between the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and its non-gazetted employees for adjudication under Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules to Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha. The Order of Reference has been published in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary*. The matter for adjudication is whether taking into consideration the various forms of relief already granted by the Department to its non-gazetted employees, such of the employees as are governed by the new scales of pay, require any further relief pending the findings of the proposed Post-War Pay Commission and if so, the nature and extent of the relief required.

Mr. I.S. Puri, C.I.E., Director of Finance, Railway Board, has been appointed to officiate as Financial Commissioner of Railways in place of Mr. A.C. Turner, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.B.E., I.C.S., when the latter proceeds on six months' leave ex-India early in April.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL PRICES TO BE CONTROLLED

THE Government of India have viewed with concern the recent steep rise in the prices of copra and coconut oil. Some of this rise is no doubt seasonal but should have been offset by the recent increased shipments from Ceylon, some rise may also be due to the short shipments from Ceylon in 1945 and the unfounded assumption that the shortage would continue. This assumption is not in accordance with the facts, for there is every reason to believe that shipments during 1946 will be far greater than during 1945 and will be added to substantially when the Far Eastern markets are again available. Besides, the Ministry of Food have offered to make up to India the quantity of the 1945 allocation which could not be shipped on account of difficulties regarding tonnage.

There appears to be no doubt that the recent increases in the price of copra and coconut oil are substantially due to speculation.

Since copra and coconut oil are of vital importance to the country's economy, both as food and as industrial raw material the Government of India are no longer justified in allowing the market to take its own course. The Government of India have, therefore, decided that measures should be immediately taken to control prices and with this end in view, are now in communication with the Provincial and State Governments concerned.

Decisions will be arrived at very shortly and meanwhile, the Government desire to warn all those who may hereafter purchase at the present unreasonable levels that they will do so at their own risk.

BRITISH CIVIL AVIATION EXPERTS

(Continued from page 424)

British Commonwealth and the U.S.A. In January 1943, he was selected for planning the application of wartime technique to post-war civil aviation. As a member of the Civil Aviation Radio Advisory Committee to the Minister of Civil Aviation, and of the U.K. delegations to five Commonwealth and International Conferences on Radio for Civil Aviation, he brings to India a wide knowledge of the subject.

PROTECTION TO INDUSTRIES DURING TRANSITION PERIOD

In a Press Communique issued in December 1945 the Government of India advised all intending applicants for protection or assistance to furnish as complete information as possible on certain points pertaining to their industry. It has since been decided that it would assist the speedy disposal of cases if, in addition, information on the following points is also furnished in such applications, preferably in a tabular form:—

1. Total production of the applicant firm every year since it commenced production.

2. (a) The process of manufacture employed by the applicant firm, the raw materials used and the sources from which the raw materials are obtained;

(b) Analysis of the cost of production of the applicant firm (i) before the war; (ii) at present. The scale and volume of production by the applicant firm before the war and at present should also be stated.

CLAIMS FOR PROTECTION FROM ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIES

In addition to the claims from certain industries already referred to the Tariff Board, the Government of India have decided to forward applications received from the following industries to the Board for investigation:—

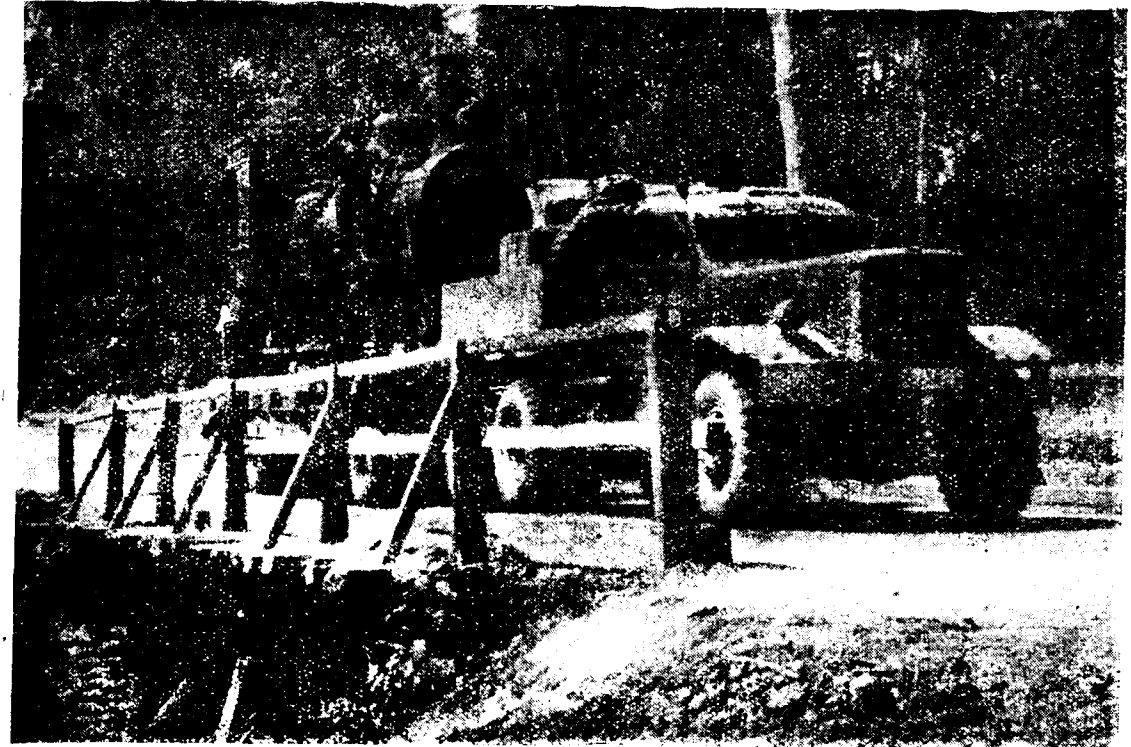
Glucose, all Abrasives other than Grinding Wheels, Hurricane Lanterns, Cocoa Powder and Chocolate, Aluminium, and Preserved Fruits.

Firms or persons interested in any of these industries or in industries dependent on the use of these articles, who desire that their views should be considered by the Tariff Board, should address their representations to the Secretary to the Board, Caltex House, Ballard Estate, Bombay 1.

INDIANS LIBERATED IN JAPAN

The next-of-kin of 57 Indians, who were liberated from prisoner-of-war camps in Kobe and Tokyo about the middle of October, 1945, have been informed of their welfare. These rescued Indians hail from Bombay, Hyderabad (Sind), Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Lahore, Ramnad District, Karachi, Delhi, Sholapur, and Surat. One of them is from Shanghai.

The messages sent by the rescued to the next-of-kin brought "news from the dead" to many families.



A full-size steam locomotive for opening up Burma and getting urgently needed supplies to the troops is being carried by road by Army Transportation Service.

MILITARY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE'S WORK IN BURMA

TRIBUTE to the work of the Military Transportation Service in the reconquest of Burma has been paid by the Government of Burma, which makes special mention of the achievements of the Indian Engineers, Royal Engineers and the East African Engineers.

When the triumphant advance of the 14th Army began early last year the Burma railways were practically in ruins. The tracks were covered with bomb craters and overgrown with jungle. Bridges, stations, marshalling yards and locomotive sheds—all were devastated.

At this time Rangoon had not yet been attacked by us from the sea and the Army was presented with the unusual task of carrying railway bridging spans and locomotives over the hill road from Ledo to Kalowa, and thence by river down the Chindwin to Mingyan, to reach the nearest railway.

In itself the carriage of these heavy loads over such a road was a great achievement. The skill and determination of the men who did it was typical of the spirit that performed such

prodigies of railway reconstruction and repair of rolling stock so that trains could run again and carry those stores vital to the campaign.

The Burma Railway Board, in a letter describing in detail the services rendered by the Army, stated that the honours of success should be divided between the officers and men of the Royal Engineers, the Indian Engineers and the East African Engineers.

Praising the efforts of the Army, the Board says: "We, have been the beneficiaries of its sacrifice and service, are fully appreciative of them and desire to express our very sincere thanks."

Most of the engineer transportation units responsible for the rehabilitation work were Indian Railway, Docks and Inland Water Transport Units. Hence in the final analysis much of the credit is due to those in India who formed and trained these units and instilled in them those qualities of discipline, efficiency and comradeship which are characteristic of all Indian units.

NEW ADJUTANT-GENERAL IN INDIA

Maj.-Gen. R. A. Savory

MAJ.-GEN. R. A. SAVORY, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C., Persia and Iraq Command, has been appointed Adjutant-General in India in succession to Lt.-Gen. R. B. Deedes, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., who is retiring. Maj.-Gen. Savory has been granted the acting rank of Lieutenant-General.

Commissioned into the 1st Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1914, Gen. Savory, on the outbreak of World War I, was transferred to the Indian Army, joining the 14th K.G.O. Sikhs (now the 111th Sikh Regiment). He served in Egypt, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Persia and Siberia, was wounded twice and won the M. C. and two "mentions".

In between the wars he was twice mentioned in despatches—on the North-West Frontier in 1930, and in Waziristan in 1937. He also saw action in Kurdistan in 1923.

On the outbreak of World War II he was commanding the 111th Sikh Regiment and early in 1940 went to Egypt as Commander of the 11th Indian Infantry Brigade. The first "kill" of this fine fighting formation was at Sidi Barrani when it captured Nibetwa the stronghold on which the success or failure of the campaign depended. For his part in this phase of North African campaign Brigadier (as he then was) Savory was awarded the D.S.O.

"Brig's Peak"

Early in 1941 the Brigade took part in the fierce fighting for Agordat and Keren in East Africa. One of the towering features of Keren owes its name to the then Brigadier Savory. Impossible to capture as it seemed, he decided that it must be taken. It became known as "Brig's Peak."

Success flowed and ebbed about it, but it was eventually taken and held and proved of great strategic importance in our ultimate success at Keren.

After a further spell in the Western Desert Brigadier Savory went, in October, 1941, to East Africa as G.O.C. troops in Eritrea.

Three months later he was commanding the 23rd Indian Division on the Assam-Burma frontier during the confused period when the Japs drove north through Burma. In June, 1943, he

was transferred to G.H.Q. as Inspector (later Director) of Infantry.

During the two years he held this post, there was a considerable expansion in the Indian Army, and much of the success of the training and organisation of the new Infantry intake was due to his planning and skilful direction of policy.

In September, 1945, Gen. Savory was appointed to command the Persia and Iraq theatre.

NEW R.I.N. CHIEF

On completion of his three years' term of office on March 22, Admiral J. H. Godfrey, C.B., was relieved as Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy by Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, K.C.B.

Vice-Admiral Miles was formerly Deputy Director of the Staff College and at the outbreak of war was Director of the Tactical School. He was captain of H.M.S. *Nelson* for two years and was promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1911 and to Vice-Admiral in 1944.

Naval member of the Military Mission to Moscow during 1941-43, he became head of the Mission. He became Flag Officer Commanding, Western Mediterranean Fleet, in July 1944.

In the last War, Vice-Admiral Miles, who will be 55 in May, saw service in submarines and destroyers.

PENSION AND GRATUITIES FOR PRE-WAR REGULAR SOLDIERS

Good news concerning pensions and gratuities for pre-war regular soldiers is given in an announcement, issued from General Headquarters on March 20. Some pre-war regular soldiers will be absorbed into the post-war Army but others, discharged on or after May 8, 1945, for reasons beyond their control will, unless existing terms are more favourable, obtain full mustering out concessions under Pension Regulations for the Army in India.

These concessions will compensate pre-war regular soldiers for loss of their employment and pensionary prospects.

Emergency Indian Commissioned Officers will draw mustering out concessions as for subedars. Pensions of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and non-commissioned officers will be assessed on their war substantive ranks. Pre-war pensioners who were re-employed since September 3, 1939, will not be entitled to the concessions.

NEW G.O.C.-IN-C., EASTERN COMMAND



Lt.-Gen. F.I.S. Tucker

THE man who helped smash the Axis in North Africa—Maj.-Gen. F. I. S. Tucker, until recently commanding Lucknow District—has been appointed G. O. C.-in-C., Eastern Command, in succession to Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, India Command's new Chief of the General Staff.

Maj.-Gen. Tucker has been granted the rank of Lieutenant-General. He is the man who led the 4th Indian ("Red Eagles") Division to victory in the Western Desert—a victory which started with the break-through at El Alamein, continued to the turning of the Mareth Line and culminated with the defeat of the German Army in Tunisia when Gen. Von Arnim surrendered to the "Red Eagles".

In the First World War, Gen. Tucker served in Mesopotamia, India and Persia. Between the

was he fought on the North-West Frontier, commanding a Gurkha battalion in the operations of 1937-38.

In 1940, Gen. Tucker became Director of Military Training at G.H.Q. and in October 1941, he left this appointment to raise the 34th Indian Division. His next command was the 4th Indian Division.

In October 1944, he became chairman of an important frontier commission in India. He was appointed G. O. C., Ceylon in January 1945, later, with Fourth Corps in Burma, helping to wipe out the fleeing Japs on the Mandalay-Rangoon road.

Gen. Tucker is succeeded in Lucknow District by Maj.-Gen. A. C. Curtis.

64,000 SERVICEMEN DEMOBILISED IN JANUARY

About 64,000 men and women were released from the Indian Armed Services during January. The total of releases since October 1 last year to the end of January now amounts to more than 300,000 and represents 34.4 per cent. of the target of 850,000 releases for the period October 1, 1945 to May 31, 1946.

Of the official figures for January releases, 1,971 were accounted for by the Royal Indian Navy and 61,739 by the Army. The latter figures include 50,767 released through demobilisation centres and a reduction in strength of 10,800 from other causes.

The total decrease in the strength of the Indian Army since October 1, 1945, to January 31, 1946, amounts to 298,141. This includes 181 W.A.C. (I) officers and 447 Auxiliaries. During January, 172 members of the W.A.C. (I) returned to civil life, the figure for the W.R.I.N.S. being 55. Since demobilisation started 194 W.R.I.N.S. officers and Auxiliaries have left the service.

The total release figures for Indian Army Officers and men are now 4,952 and 292,561 respectively.

A Press Note issued by the Railway Board (Railway Department) on March 21 said:

Traffic surveys are being undertaken by the Agency of the G.I.P. Railway Administration for broad-gauge lines from Manmad to Nardhana, a distance of about 79 miles and between Diva and Dasgaon, a distance of about 93 miles. These surveys will be known as Manmad-Nardhana and Diva-Dasgaon Railway Surveys respectively.

FORCES' DISCIPLINE AND WELL-BEING

THE subject of my short talk tonight is the discipline and well-being of the Forces.

Unrest in certain of the Armed Forces in India has undoubtedly caused misgivings in people's minds and my object in speaking to you tonight is to help you to see things in the right light.

The word 'strike' has been loosely used. The correct word is 'mutiny' and this refers to any connective act of a few or many persons, subject to naval, military or air force law, against the legal authority of the Service. Any attempt to whitewash collective disobedience by using the civil term 'strike' is damaging to the discipline and stability of the Armed forces, and can only react unfavourably on

By Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C, India.

A Broadcast from A.I.R., New Delhi, on February, 25.

law and order generally. The use of the term 'strike' is dangerous in that it suggests something less serious than 'mutiny' and implies that the armed forces can be excused if they indulge in such direct action as is legally open to those in civil employment.

It matters not what form collective disobedience takes—whether negative—such as refusal to work or refusal to eat; or positive, such as a demonstration march or an act of violence. Such acts are all mutinous, though obviously they can and do vary in degree.

The milder forms of insubordination are infectious and easily lead to violence.

Appeals are often made that there shall be no so-called 'victimisation' of those guilty of mutiny. In so far as this means that there will be no collective punishment of a body of men, it is true that there will be no vindictive action or indiscriminate retribution. But I never have made, and never will make, any promise that ringleaders and others individually tried and found guilty will not be punished. On the contrary, they will be. To do otherwise would strike at the root of all discipline, and would be quite unfair to well behaved Servicemen who form the vast majority. To refrain

from awarding punishment where such is due would put a premium on insubordination.

It is all too readily assumed that recent mutinous acts are due to grievances, and the implication is that grievances can only be rectified as the result of acts of ill-discipline. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I do not deny for a moment that grievances may exist in the Services, as is inevitable in any large organisation employing hundreds of thousands of men.

Some of the men's wishes cannot be met. To give example—it is not possible to pay every one in the R.I.N. and R.I.A.F. at the same rate as in the R.N. and R.A.F., just as it is not possible to pay every one in the British Navy and Air Force on the same scale as, for instance, those in the U.S. Navy or Air Force, without affecting the whole economic structure of the country and creating similar demands in every branch of government service.

We have as a matter of fact strong Inter-Services Committees sitting at the moment to look into conditions of pay, accommodation, travel, etc. of all three Indian Services.

Legitimate grievances can be and are being rectified continually and as quickly as possible. As you know, I am myself touring constantly and when I see anything wrong in any one of the three Services I do my best to put it right without delay.

Welfare of Servicemen

Enquiry into reasonable complaints is normal service procedure, and I rely upon every officer under my command, of whatever service, to see that this is properly carried out. I claim to know what my men are thinking and it has been my practice in the past, as it will always be in the future, to ensure so far as lies within my power good treatment and due consideration for the men serving under my command. Collective acts of insubordination hinder rather than help me and my commanders in our efforts to effect this.

The unfortunate and erroneous impression appears to exist that the normal life of a sailor, soldier or airman is full of burning grievances. This is just not true, but because they are normal and not sensational, we hear little of the many things on the other side of the slate, such as the very great efforts which have been and are being made to improve the lot of the Servicemen.

There is also an astonishing assumption in some quarters that the people at the head of affairs do not really care, and are not interested in seeing to the welfare and treatment of the men. How much happier we should all be if we assumed the opposite, which is in fact the truth.

Discipline

I am aware that politics have had something to do with recent regrettable happenings in the Services. In my position as C-in-C, I have nothing whatever to do with politics, and I will not countenance political intrigue in the Armed Forces in India. To do so would be a great disservice to India both now and for the future.

India has been well served by her Armed Forces. The secret of this service has been a sense of public duty based on discipline and mutual confidence between all ranks from the highest to the lowest. Discipline is not a negative quality, but a positive spirit; and any attempt to undermine this discipline will be firmly resisted, not only in the interest of the Armed Forces themselves, but also of the future of India.

We are going through difficult and emotional times. Self restraint and cool heads are essential in all of us.

RECRUITING FOR THE POST-WAR INDIAN ARMY

Recruiting for the post-war Indian Army has now been resumed. Men are required for all branches of the Army, including technical trades. Those who join will be paid provisionally at the existing rates until the pay of the post-war Indian Army has been announced, after which they will be brought on to the new rates.

Normally, recruits should be over 17 and under 23 at the time of their enlistment but, in special cases, men up to 25 years of age, and 35 in the case of enrolled non-combatants can be accepted.

Enrolment will be for 15 years' combined Colour and Reserve service, not less than five years of which will be spent with the Colours. Enrolled non-combatants will continue to be enlisted for five-year periods.

Boys of 15 years of age may also enrol on the existing boys' pay rates. Provided that their service is satisfactory, they will be mustered as soldiers on attaining the age of 17 years.

FUTURE OF INDIAN ARMED FORCES: REPORT DENIED

THE India Office contradicted officially on February 28, a report from the London correspondent of a Delhi newspaper to the effect that a detailed and confidential memorandum, containing recommendations for the future of the Indian Armed Forces, in view of the recent mutinies had been prepared in the India Office for submission to the Cabinet.

The report was described as "completely untrue" and it was stated that no such memorandum had been prepared or was under contemplation.

Since certain specific recommendations were referred to in the report and a question was asked in the Central Legislative Assembly, the Government of India wish it clearly to be understood that there is no intention:—

(1) Of reintroducing the distinction between martial and non-martial classes.

(2) Of stopping recruitment of "non-martial communities" to the R.I.N. and R.I.A.F.

(3) Of suspending or delaying the nationalisation of the officer ranks of the R.I.N. and the Indian Army or of preventing Indian officers, qualified to do so from holding higher appointments.

(4) Of insisting that 25 per cent. of R.I.N. crews shall be British.

(5) Of changing the policy already announced regarding consultation with the Defence Consultative Committee.

Engineering and traffic surveys will be carried out by the agency of H. E. H. the Nizam's State Railway Administration for a broad-gauge connection from Kurduwadi to Latur, a distance of about 85 miles.

Kurduwadi is at present connected to Latur by a narrow-gauge track which is part of the Barsi Light Railway. This Railway originally ran from Latur in the Nizam's Dominions to Pandharpur, a well-known place of pilgrimage in the Sholapur district of the Bombay Province. In 1927, the line which met the G.I.P. broad-gauge line at Kurduwadi, was further extended from Pandharpur to Miraj, where it joined the M. and S. M. Railway's metre-gauge track.

The Kurduwadi Latur section runs through cotton country and enters Nizam's territory at Kalamb Road Station.

FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL AID TO INDIANS IN CHINA

THE Government of India have appointed an Indian Attache to the British Consulate-General at Shanghai to ensure that continuous attention is paid to the needs of the Indians there. This is in addition to the measures of repatriation and immediate relief which the Government of India have already taken as the result of two visits to Shanghai by Mr. Menon, Agent-General for India, soon after its re-occupation.

Mr. Menon also investigated allegations of Indian collaboration with the Japanese in China and reached the general conclusion that, in spite of tremendous pressure, very few Indians were actively pro-Japanese.

The Indians in China, who are mainly centred in the Shanghai area, number about 2,000. Of these, a large majority, almost exclusively Sikhs, were employed as policemen and watchmen in the Shanghai International Settlement before the war. The rest, mostly Sindhis, Gujratis, Parsis and a few Peshawris, were employed in various business houses.

Dismissed by Japanese

The majority of the Indian policemen were dismissed from service by the Japanese who also refused to permit the Swiss Consul-General assisting the Indians financially. The Japanese held that as India, in their opinion, was an independent country, the Swiss Consul-General had no right to extend relief to Indians as British subjects and that it was Japan's province, as the leader of the Asiatic countries, to look after the interests of the Indians as fellow Asiatics. Japan did nothing for the stranded Indians except to dragoon some of them into joining certain organisations sponsored by Japan and to parade them as willing collaborationists.

While it is true that Indians were not interned like other British subjects during the Japanese occupation, their condition in reality was in many ways worse than that of interned British subjects. They were deprived of their usual income from business or employment and denied aid from their kinsmen in India. Lack of proper food and housing facilities in the difficult days of Japanese occupation impaired the health of the community and the diseases of malnutrition, especially pulmonary tuberculosis, took a heavy toll.

Soon after the re-occupation of Shanghai by the Allies, the British Consul-General got in touch with the British Ambassador in Chungking and asked that an Indian official of high standing be deputed to Shanghai to investigate conditions on the spot and recommend remedial measure. The Government of India deputed Mr. K. P. S. Menon, who paid two visits to Shan-

ghai, and his investigations extended over a period of a month and a half.

The immediate relief measures undertaken were: payments in cash, medical aid and supply of warm clothing; and repatriation of all those who desired to return to India. The Government of India made a first grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for financial assistance pending repatriation but, as ships were not available until December 1945, and prices continued to soar, this initial grant was supplemented by a further grant of Rs. 2,60,000. To disburse this sum, the Agent-General set up an Indian Advisory Committee on non-communal lines under the Chairmanship of Mr. N. B. Doodha, a Parsi who has been about 50 years in China and had risen to be a Commissioner in the Chinese Postal Department. According to the principles laid down by this Committee, single persons in need were given a grant of Rs. 50 in October and Rs. 75 in November 1945, while families were granted higher amounts according to their actual needs.

A Ladies Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Menon, wife of the Agent-General, supervised the distribution of clothing. The Indian Red Cross gave a grant of Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of warm clothing.

Provision was made for free medical relief and the Government of India deputed two Indian doctors, Captain Bhowmick and Lieutenant Acharya, both of the I.A.M.C., to Shanghai. The authorities of the Shanghai General Hospital gave facilities for the treatment of outpatients and placed 30 beds in the Hospital at the disposal of these doctors.

Voluntary Repatriation

Under the voluntary repatriation scheme, by the middle of December 1945, when the last of four ships left Shanghai, about 1,200 Indians, men, women and children, were enabled to return to India—550 by the s.s. *Duneria*, 160 by the Hospital Ship *Tjichilenka*, 220 by the s.s. *Lothian* and the rest by the s.s. *Glenairn*.

Relief measures were not confined to Indians in Shanghai. Captain Bhowmick visited Hankow, which had been bombed by the Japanese on several occasions. There were about 125 Indians in the city and they were also in sore straits. Twenty-three of them, who wanted to return to India, were included in the repatriation scheme. Captain Sathe, Secretary to the Agent-General, visited Peking and Tientsin and reported on the condition of Indians in these cities. Their number was small and they were found to be comparatively better off and not in need of immediate aid. Information available about the small number of Indians in Dairen, Harbin and Mukden shows that these scattered groups are not in distress.

INDIA'S TRADE AGREEMENT WITH S. AFRICA TO BE TERMINATED

Dr. N. B. Khare's Statement in Council of State

SPEAKING in the Council of State, on March 12, the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Member for Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, said:

Sir, the House is aware of the grave uneasiness in the country caused by the proposal of the Government of the Union of South Africa to introduce new land legislation which is to make the Pegging Act permanent. I would, therefore, like to make a brief statement on the latest developments in this matter.

As the House might have noted from proceedings of the adjournment motion passed by the other House (Central Legislative Assembly) on the subject on February 4, our High Commissioner had been instructed to carry on certain negotiations with the Union Government. We have now had a report from our High Commissioner on the results of his discussion with the Union Government. Our main instruction to our High Commissioner was that he should urge upon the Union Government to discuss the Indian question at a conference with Indian representatives with a view to exploring some alternative settlement and that, pending the results of such conference, the legislation should be postponed.

Personal Representations

Our High Commissioner made personal representations to the Prime Minister of the Union Government to this effect. It is with very deep regret that I have to state that the Prime Minister has rejected these proposals. There is thus little doubt that the Union Government have decided to proceed with the draft Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill. The door seems to be banged against further negotiations.

The Government of India have always recorded their protest against statutory segregation of Indians and they cannot, therefore, consistently with their moral responsibility for the welfare of their nationals in the Union acquiesce in this discriminatory legislation which will gradually relegate the large and progressive Indian population in the Union to a position of permanent inferiority.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1946.



The Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare.

In view of the attitude of the Union Government and their decision to proceed with the legislation, the Government of India have conveyed to the Union Government a message on March 9, that the Government of India now consider themselves free to take counter measures against South Africa.

As such counter measures are likely to affect India's trade relations with the Union, the Government of India have also informed the Union Government that they propose to give the prescribed notice for the termination of India's commercial agreement with South Africa. Formal communication of such notice is being made.

A Press Communique issued by the Railway Board (Railway Department) on March 19 stated,

Colonel H. W. Wagstaff, C.S.I., M.C., Member (Staff), Railway Board, will be proceeding on retiring leave in the middle of July this year. Khan Bahadur Z. H. Khan, Director of Establishment, Railway Board, has been appointed to succeed him.

MONUMENT TO 25TH INDIAN DIVISION

M AJ.-GEN. G. N. Wood recently unveiled a monument to the 25th Indian—"Ace of Spades"—Division, which he commands, in Taiping (North Malaya), writes an Army Observer.

As the General Salute was sounded by buglers of the Royal Garhwal Rifles, the Union Jack fell away to reveal a six-foot high figure of Christ mounted on a tall plinth. The plaque, which was made in the Division's I.E.M.E. workshops, bore the following inscription:

"To the Glory of God and in memory of the 25th Indian Division which restored freedom of worship to this church".

Addressing the gathering, General Wood said: "On this sacred and joyful occasion I speak for more than 20,000 men of the 25th Indian Division—men of diverse races, tongues and creeds. Many tasks have fallen to our lot since we came among you in September—to establish law and order, to restore employment to repair the damages of war, to feed the hungry and to heal the sick—but one task came first of all, to restore liberty of worship and re-open the churches.

"It was with the desire to commemorate these blessings that your soldier friends have erected this memorial."

Referring to the inscription he said: "We hope it will recall to you all, and perhaps especially to the children in years to come, your soldier friends who found peace and happiness among you, long after they have departed to their homes in Britain and India."



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INDIAN
INFORMATION



The No. 4 Squadron of the Royal Indian Air Force is among the units included in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces for Japan. Here camouflage paint is being removed from the Spitfires of the Squadron.

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Annual Meeting of Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association	443
Finance Member's reply to Budget Debate	451
Sir Akbar Hydari on Work of Planning and Development Department	460
Export of Hides and Skins: Commerce Member's Statement in Central Assembly	471
H.E. the Viceroy's Visit to Jaipur	478-479
Sir Gurnath Bewoor on India's Air Transport Policy	481
Sir Jogendra Singh Reviews Agricultural Situation	485
Muslim Representation in Central Services: Home Member's Statement in Central Assembly	509
Working of Control of Capital Issues Scheme	517

COVER PICTURE: South Indian Village Weavers.



The British Cabinet Mission held their first Press Conference in New Delhi on March 25 in the Committee Room of the Council House. Picture shows (R. to L.) Mr. A.V. Alexander, First Lord of Admiralty, Lord Pethick-Lawrence and Sir Stafford Cripps sitting at the conference table.

THE BRITISH CABINET MISSION IN INDIA

LORD Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, accompanied by the other two members of the British Cabinet Mission, Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, and Mr. A.V. Alexander, First Lord of Admiralty, arrived in Delhi by air from the United Kingdom on March 24.

En route the Cabinet Ministers alighted the previous evening at Karachi where they stayed at Government House for the night. Leaving Karachi the following morning they arrived in Delhi the same afternoon. At the Palam aerodrome the Ministers were received by H.E. the Viceroy and high civil and military officers. Those present included Sir Edward Benthall, Sir Mahomed Usman, Sir Archibald Rowlands, Mr. G.E.B. Abell, Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey and Col. D. H. Currie.

On March 25, the Cabinet Mission held a Press Conference in the Committee Room of the Council House, New Delhi. Lord Pethick-Lawrence, addressing the conference, said:

"It is a great pleasure to me and to my colleagues, Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. Alexander, to visit your country at a time of such crucial importance in its history. I was myself last in India in 1926 and I then made many friends with whom I have since kept in constant touch. Sir Stafford Cripps is well-known to you from his visit in 1942 and his earlier unofficial visit in 1940. Mr. Alexander has not before had the pleasure of visiting your country, but he is a good friend of India with a deep and sympathetic interest in your problems. The Viceroy, while continuing to carry the full load of his normal responsibilities, will join with us as our colleague in the discussions with Indian leaders for which the Mission has come here.

"With one or two exceptions all the results of the provincial elections will be known by the end of the next ten days. We shall therefore begin our consultations a week from to-day. In the meantime I and my colleagues will be engaged in bringing ourselves up to date with

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1946.



Lord Pethick-Lawrence and Mr. G. S. Bozman, Secretary of the Information and Arts Department, and Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. A. S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer, photographed on their way to the Committee Room in the Council House

the situation, and in conferring with His Excellency the Viceroy and with the Governors of Provinces who are coming to Delhi to see us. We are looking forward to our meeting with the Executive Council tomorrow evening.

"You all know the general purpose of the discussions on which we shall be engaged. It was stated by Mr. Attlee, our Prime Minister, in his speech in the House of Commons on March 15. The discussions now to begin are preliminary to the setting up of machinery whereby the forms under which India can realise her full independence status can be determined by Indians. The objective is to set up an acceptable machinery quickly, and to make the necessary interim arrangements.

"Mr. Attlee in his speech which, in the subsequent debate, was shown to represent substantially the views of all parties, made it quite clear that if Indians should decide that they desire, under their new constitutional arrangements, to be outside the British Commonwealth of Nations, H.M.G. recognise their right to take that decision. We believe ourselves that India will find great advantages in remaining

within the free association of the British Commonwealth. But it is a free association, and we have no desire to press India to stay within it against her considered judgment.

"The issue of freedom and self-determination is therefore settled in principle. We have now to work out in co-operation the means by which Indians can themselves decide the form of their new institutions with the minimum of disturbance and the maximum of speed. The Indian States, which have a great part to play in India's future, must clearly be invited to join in this task. We are encouraged by the knowledge that many of the Rulers share the general desire for the immediate attainment by India of her full freedom.

"In the meanwhile it is most desirable that a more representative Government having full popular support should come into being at the Centre so as to bring the country through its period of transition. It is of the greatest importance that the transfer of responsibility should be smoothly and efficiently carried through. This is primarily an Indian, but also a British interest, and it will be a fresh source of pride to India and to Britain if we can demonstrate to the world our ability to make a smooth and peaceful change of so far-reaching a character. It is to that end that we have come to play what we hope will be a helpful part.

Appeal to Press

"Our talks will not be concerned with the question of whether India shall determine her own destiny—that is already decided—but with how she will do so. My colleagues and I look with confidence therefore to you, who represent the great Indian Press of all shades of opinion, to exercise with helpfulness and restraint the far-reaching influence which you have in public affairs. There is no doubt that there are difficult questions which must be solved. During our talks we shall all need patience, tolerance, and a spirit of compromise; and your co-operation in achieving and maintaining this helpful spirit of co-operation will greatly assist our task. I have no doubt that success in our joint task is attainable provided that all of us set the good of the Indian people above any other interest, and that we let nothing interfere with our determination to solve the problem.

"You already know the programme which we have arranged for the beginning of our discussions. We shall be collecting the views of representatives of the Provincial and Central Legislatures, of the leading all-India parties and organisations, and of Indian States. We have of course followed closely the statements of policy of the main parties and the important



The Press Conference in progress.

utterances of Indian leaders, but there are many matters which we shall need to discuss before we can feel that we have obtained a full appreciation of all points of view. These interviews will occupy a great deal of our time until about the middle of April, and our programme after that will depend on developments.

"There are two matters connected with our programme that I should like to mention today. We are receiving a great number of requests from organisations and individuals all over India who wish us to hear their views in person. I must make it quite clear that I and my colleagues have come here for the single purpose which I have already described to you. We have no wish to deny a hearing to anyone, but it is quite impossible for us to meet all who would wish us to see them. We shall therefore limit ourselves to seeing those who are judged to be best able to help us in our task.

"Moreover I, as Secretary of State, shall not be able to give interviews on matters outside the work for which the Cabinet Delegation have come here; all such matters must be dealt with by the Government of India or the

Crown Representative in the normal way. I fear that we shall have also to disappoint the great majority of the many kind people who are sending us social invitations. They will, I am sure, realise that we have a very heavy programme and that it is necessary to devote all our energies to the task in hand.

"My colleagues and I do not propose to hold Press Conferences on regular dates, but from time to time when we feel that we can usefully meet you we shall invite you to come. Mr. Joyce, who is well-known to many of you, is Principal Information Officer to the Delegation, and he will hold more frequent conferences to keep you in touch with developments. I am sure you will appreciate that during our visit we shall be unable to give exclusive interviews for publication to any individual correspondent. We are anxious that all sections of the Press, and the representatives of broadcasting organisations, should be treated with complete impartiality, and the only satisfactory way of achieving this is of course by the Press Conference procedure. But we hope we shall have opportunities of meeting you informally and off the record.



The Secretary of State for India leaving Council House after the Press Conference.

"We cannot, of course, at this meeting express any views either on the shape of the machinery that should be devised for determining a solution, or on the merits of any particular constitutional plan. These are matters which must await the discussions with Indian representatives.

"We have come with only one fixed intention, and that is to play our full part as representing His Majesty's Government in helping Indians to achieve their independence. Beyond that we have open minds and are not committed to any particular views.

"But that does not mean that we come in a hesitant or indecisive frame of mind. We come to enable Indians to take their place and play their full part amongst the great nations of the world; and with the determination to bring our discussions to a decisive and friendly conclusion we hope with the goodwill of all the inhabitants of this great country.

"We shall now be happy to try and deal with your question."

All classes of telegrams are again admitted to and from all parts of China excepting Chefoo to which telegrams are not admitted at present.

"INDIA ON THRESHOLD OF VERY GREAT FUTURE"

"AS my colleagues and I set foot on the soil of India we bring to the people of this country on behalf of the British Government and of the British people a message of cordial friendship and goodwill. We are convinced that India is on the threshold of a very great future, when in the exercise of her freedom she will stand for the preservation of civilisation in the East and bring her great influence to bear in the councils of the nations."

Thus said Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, in a statement to the Press at Karachi on March 23.

"We have come with but one purpose in view. It is, in conjunction with Lord Wavell, to discuss with the leaders of India and her elected representatives how best to speed the fulfilment of your aspirations to take full control of your own affairs, and thus enable us to complete the transfer of responsibility with pride and honour to ourselves.

"The British Government and the British people desire without reservation to consummate the promises and pledges that have been made, and we can assure you that in our negotiations we shall not seek to provide for anything that is incompatible in any way with the sovereign dignity of India. We have, then, with all our Indian associates, a common objective to the achievement of which all our energies will be devoted in the coming weeks. The precise road towards the final structure of India's independence is not yet clear, but let the vision of it inspire us all in our renewed efforts to find the path of co-operation. I am confident that we shall face our task together in faith and with determination to succeed."

FIRST LORD AT TROOPS' PARTY

Mr. A.V. Alexander was unanimously voted the "life and soul of the party" when he unexpectedly dropped in at the monthly gathering of the All India East Anglian Association.

Walking in the Viceregal Gardens, the First Lord of the Admiralty heard a party in progress at the swimming pool—and went across to investigate. He chatted to many officers and men and in an informal speech said he did not know that he, too, was eligible for membership of the club as he owned a cottage in East Anglia.

Later, Mr. Alexander sat down at the piano and for over two hours played and sang sea shanties and old English songs, in which the officers and men joined.

NO READY-MADE SCHEME FOR NEW STRUCTURE

Mr. Joyce's Talk with Pressmen

ADDRESSING a Press Conference in New Delhi on March 27, Mr. A. H. Joyce, Principal Information Officer to the British Cabinet Delegation, said:—

This is the first opportunity I have had to say how very delighted I am to meet again so many old friends among you with whom I have worked on my previous visits to India. I want to say also a special word of greeting to those of you whom I have not yet had an opportunity of meeting personally. These are busy days for all of us, but I am looking forward to a chat with each one of you just as soon as it can be managed.

First, I should like to say a word about the Cabinet Delegation's immediate engagements. This morning the Delegation was again in conference with the Viceroy, and the Secretary of State had a talk with the Food Member and the Director-General of Food. The Secretary of State, though primarily concerned with his colleagues with constitutional matters is thus keeping himself fully informed of the famine situation. This evening the Secretary of State is seeing Sir John Thorne, the Home Member. Early tomorrow the Ministers are holding another meeting with their advisers. The Ministers and their private secretaries have now moved to the Military Secretary's House where I understand they are being made very comfortable. When I saw the Secretary of State today he said that in spite of the warnings he had received that the journey out and the sudden change of climate would prove very trying, he has never felt better in his life, and that the draw of India has got him already.

Meeting with Governors

The Governors of all the provinces are arriving tomorrow morning, and arrangements have been made for the Cabinet Delegation to meet them later that day and also the following morning. These meetings will give the Ministers an opportunity to hear at first-hand from each of the Governors their appreciation of the situation in their own provinces. The Ministers will no doubt also have talks with some of the Governors individually.

As you know, the Cabinet Delegation, with H. E. the Viceroy, met the Executive Council last evening. I understand that it was a very helpful meeting at which the Secretary of State explained His Majesty's Government's attitude and

the purpose and objective of the Mission, and the views of the Council were put forward by the Vice-President, Sir Edward Benthall. A general discussion followed, but it would not be correct to assume that the merits of any particular constitutional solution were considered. At the present moment, and for some time yet, Ministers will be engaged in getting the fullest possible picture from all points of view.

The Secretary of State and his colleagues are most gratified by the full publicity which the Press has given to the statement made at Monday's conference, and also by the helpful treatment given editorially.

Purpose of Visit

Lord Pethick Lawrence is anxious, as are Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. Alexander, that there should be no misapprehension whatever that the Delegation has come out with a ready-made scheme in their pockets for a new constitutional structure. They emphasised that there is no question of any specific plan being in existence or being withheld. The whole purpose of their visit is to give every possible assistance to the representatives of India themselves to find a way of fulfilling India's aspirations. I know that the Secretary of State and his colleagues have found that their long parliamentary and political experience has proved to them that the best and the only lasting form of settlement is settlement based on consent. They feel this principle to be equally valid both in relation to the final constitutional structure and to an interim government at the Centre.

In view of the public interest here in the various points raised in the Debate in Parliament on the 15th March, I have arranged with the Press Information Bureau of the Government of India to make available the full Hansard report to-day.

I should like to come to an arrangement convenient to you about keeping in touch with future developments. Let me say, first of all, that, as you know, the Ministers themselves will meet you whenever it is possible for them to do so, but this may be difficult during the period of preliminary discussions. If it would suit your convenience, therefore, I have it in mind to arrange to issue through the Press Information Bureau of the Government of India items of news from day to day, and to ask you to be good enough to come and meet me here as often as we find that informal conferences of this kind would be useful. Intimations of these meetings would be sent to you in advance. I should like to know whether this suggestion meets with your approval and, if so, I suggest that we might provisionally fix another conference for next Monday, April 1st.

(Continued on page 442)



The Cabinet Ministers met Governors or Provinces in New Delhi on March 29. These pictures show the Ministers with the Provincial Governors.



CABINET MISSION AT WORK AT THE VICEROY'S HOUSE: H.E. the Viceroy with the three Members of the British Cabinet Mission, their advisers and secretaries busy at work in the Council Room at the Viceroy's House on March 30.





Sir Stafford Cripps snapped lighting the Secretary of State's cigarette in the Council Room of the Viceroy's House.

The Government of India have kindly arranged for the Principal Information Officer, Mr. A. S. Iyengar, and his Deputy, Mr. Sharma, to be in constant touch with us at the headquarters of the Mission at the Viceroy's House. They with Mr. Newham and myself, will do our very best to facilitate your task.

Finally, may I add one personal word to make my position quite clear? I have been charged with the responsibility for arrangements on the publicity side on behalf of the Cabinet Delegation, but all facilities for carrying out my work are being provided by courtesy of the Government of India. My position is merely to carry out the instructions and to reflect the views of His Majesty's Ministers. This has been my task under Labour, Conservative, and Coalition Governments, and my status is therefore, wholly that of a public servant and not that of a politician. I feel it to be a great privilege to be associated with this Mission and to be here on such an historic occasion, and I am looking forward to co-operating with you in the service of the best interests of India.

The Provincial War Relief Fund Appeal Committee, C. P. and Berar, have contributed a further sum of Rs. 10,000/- to St. Dunstan's Fund for the Blind and of Rs. 5,000/- to King George's Fund for Sailors.

WELFARE TRUST FUNDS FOR WORKERS

THE creation of Welfare Trust Funds for industrial employees was discussed at the eighth session of the Standing Labour Committee, held on March 15 and 16 in New Delhi with the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, in the chair. A proposal that the Funds should be financed by the employers on the basis of a certain percentage of the profits and administered by a committee consisting of representatives of both workers and employers was examined. The question whether welfare schemes should be made compulsory by Statute for all classes of employers was also discussed.

Other items discussed by the Committee were: the desirability of Central legislation for unregulated factories, amendments to the Trade Disputes Act, the extent of unemployment likely to occur in industries, the attitude of Employment Exchanges during strikes or lock-outs and the Mine Workers' Charter proposed by the I.L.O.

Representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments, Indian States, and employers' and employees' organisations attended the meeting. Lala Kirpa Narain, Mr. Shanti Lal Mangaldas, Mr. Bhagwandas C. Mehta, the Hon'ble Mr. H. D. Townend and Rai Bahadur Syamnandan Sahaya were the delegates on behalf of the employers and Messrs. N. M. Joshi, N. V. Phadke, V. B. Karnik, A. K. Mukerjee and R. R. Bhole represented the workers.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR BUSINESS VISITS TO U.S.A.

It has come to notice that Indian businessmen on business visits to the U.K. and intending thence to travel to the Continent or to the U.S.A. frequently omit to provide themselves with the requisite foreign exchange facilities before leaving India. Such foreign exchange cannot be obtained by them in London without the prior approval of the Exchange Control Authorities in India.

Travellers who fail to take the precaution of securing the necessary foreign exchange before their departure from India are thus put to considerable inconvenience and held up in U.K. until they have obtained sanction from India after satisfying the authorities in regard to the necessity of the journey.

Travellers to the U.K. who propose visiting the Continent or the U.S.A. are, therefore, advised to apply to the Reserve Bank for the requisite facilities before departure from India.

"GREAT WORK OF MERCY IN TIME OF WAR"

Viceroy's Tribute to Indian Red Cross and St. John

PRESIDING over the annual general meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Association (Indian Council) and the Joint War Organisation held at the Viceroy's House on March 29, H.E. the Viceroy paid a tribute to the "great service to humanity" rendered by these organisations in the recent war and said, "Such service has made the Red Cross and St. John symbols of kindly human dealings between man and man which I hope will continue in these disturbing days of peace."

H. E. Lady Wavell, who is the Lady President, was also on the dais. Among those present were Sir Patrick Spens, Chairman of the Executive Committee, St. John Ambulance Association, and Chief Commissioner of the Brigade; Sir Ganga Kaula, Vice-Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society; and Maj.-Gen. Sir Gordon Jolly, Chief Commissioner of the Joint War Organisation.

H. E. the Viceroy said:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen—I am glad to welcome here all the delegates who have come, many from great distances, to attend this meeting. Their presence is evidence that they recognise the importance of the Bodies which they represent, and the fine work they have done in the recent war.

Outstanding Achievement

"There are three great organisations represented here: the Indian Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Association, and the Joint War Organisation which was formed from these two bodies—father, mother, and war-baby, so to speak; but the war-baby has grown into a very large, energetic, and rather independent child.

"You have heard from Sir Patrick Spens, Sir Ganga Kaula and Sir Gordon Jolly an account of the work done by these organisations during the last year. All that I propose to do is to pay a tribute to some of those who have made such an outstanding contribution to this great work of mercy in time of war—it is obviously impossible to mention more than a few of the achievements of the organisations and of the workers—and to make a few remarks on their peacetime future.

"Obviously the first persons to thank are the great body of subscribers and workers in India, who have so generously given in kind or in service to alleviate the sufferings and to increase the comfort of those who have fought in this war, and also of some of the civilians who have been victims of it. It is only the large numbers



H.E. the Viceroy, accompanied by Lady Wavell arriving to preside over the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association at the Viceroy's House on March 29.

of those who have been willing to help and contribute which have made these benefits possible.

"In Europe I would mention specially the workers of the Indian Comforts Fund, led by Mrs. Amery, who worked daily in London, Blitz or no Blitz, and brought comfort and life to so many by the despatch of Red Cross parcels to the Indian prisoners of war. The bulk of these parcels were paid for by the Indian Red Cross.

"I should like to bring to notice the work parties all over India who, week in and week out during the war worked for service hospital, convalescent homes, and hospital ships. I hope that such work parties will continue their work in peace for the needs of both civil and military hospitals, though necessarily on a reduced scale. I suggest that the organisation of such work should be considered before the existing work parties disperse.

"In the East, the brutal indifference of the Japanese prevented aid being provided to prisoners of war earlier, though the Indian Joint

War Organisation did everything that was possible. They were able to bring immediate hope and relief after the Armistice by dropping Red Cross parcels from the air to prisoners' camps before the liberating troops could reach them. The Joint War Organisation also provided 200,000 garments for men, women and children, which were distributed to those who needed them in Malaya, Singapore and Siam. A lakh was also sent in cash for the relief of displaced Indians in Siam. I should mention here the tremendous energy and courage which Lady Louis Mountbatten displayed in visiting so many hospitals and prisoner of war camps during the period immediately after the Armistice, often at considerable risk.

"I hope that you will all have noticed and will remember the fine example of goodwill and unity, which was shown at this period by the pooling, in the South-East Asia Command, of the resources of the Joint War Organisations of India and of the United Kingdom and of the Red Cross Society of Australia, to give the maximum benefit in the various areas. The co-operation with the Red Cross of the United States was also very close.

Gift from U.K.

"No work of the scale and value done by the societies could have been successful without efficiency and imagination at the top. We must remember the unfailing readiness of the Chairman and Office-bearers of the Indian Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association to co-operate with each other and with the Joint War Organisation, whose beginnings were so ably planned by General Sir Bertrand Moberly, and so greatly expanded and developed by General Sir Gordon Jolly during his fruitful and energetic Chief Commissionership. In this he was faithfully assisted by the Regional Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of the Joint War Organisation both in India and overseas; by the Honorary Treasurers and Secretaries; and by all those who directed and organised the work in the Centre and in the Provinces; and above all, by the vast body of helpers who did the executive work, including 1,100 members of the Women's Voluntary Service of India who gave such valuable service in the hospitals. There are obviously many others who deserve a tribute by name and by achievement.

"I must mention the magnificent gift by the British and Scottish Red Cross Societies of £110,000 which will be used for the benefit of the Indian members and ex-members of the armed forces. This generous sum was given as a tribute from the people of the United Kingdom to the gallantry of India's fighting men; it will be used for the after-care of the permanently disabled.



The Store and Packing Room in India House, London, where food parcels were packed regularly by Indian ladies for Indian prisoners of war.

"The war has for so long occupied our thoughts that it is inevitable that I should have spoken at some length about the work of the Joint War Organisation; but the two parent bodies—the Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance—have of course continued throughout the war to render the many valuable services which they have always rendered in peacetime. The distribution of milk, which is being done by the Indian Red Cross, and the work carried out in Eye Camps by the St. John workers, are excellent examples of this kind of service, and there are many others of great and increasing importance to the health of the country: maternity and child welfare scheme; training in nursing, first-aid, hygiene, etc.

"The success of this work has been due to those who have laboured to keep it going throughout the war when money and stores, always so badly needed, were being necessarily directed to the Joint War Organisation. I should like to mention the name of Sardar Bahadur Balwant Singh Puri who has done so much to keep the work of the peacetime organisations up to its usual standard in the face of great difficulties.

"I am sure you will all have realised the additional strength that the Indian Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Association have derived from working together during the war.

and from having a central directing organisation. I feel that we must consider this lesson earnestly; and that if the Indian Red Cross and St. John Association wish to accomplish work on any large scale for the good of the Indian people in peace, as they have done in war, then some machinery to direct big schemes in a big way must exist—a nucleus of trained personnel to plan, develop and direct, so that the time of those who serve and the money of those who subscribe may be used to the best advantage for the good of this great country.

"On the closure of the Joint War Organisation it is proposed to put its remaining assets into a Trust, and to use them for the benefit of those for whom the two Joint War Organisation appeals were made.

"I will say no more. I feel how inadequate are any words I have said to render thanks for this great service to humanity, given in response to need and with no differentiation between races or ranks. Such service has made the Red Cross and St. John symbols of kindly human dealings between man and man, which I hope will continue in these disturbing days of peace. I do not think that there is any more hopeful sign of the possibilities of bringing together all nations in international co-operation in the future than the example of the great Red Cross Organisation, which is represented in all civilised countries and has such high ideals: ideals which are so closely in accord with the traditions of Indian life and teaching."

Work of St. John Ambulance Association

"With the spectre of famine hanging in front of us, trained St. John members may have many a testing duty to perform in the months that lie ahead," said Sir Patrick Spens, Chairman of the Executive Committee, St. John Ambulance Association, and Chief Commissioner of the Brigade, addressing the meeting.

Sir Patrick Spens stated that last year the formation of 76 new units carried the strength of the St. John Ambulance Brigade to 733 Divisions. Due, however, to the disbandment of 41 units, including 26 Nursing Divisions interested mainly in war duties, the effective total of Divisions at the end of the year was 692, with a strength of over 19,000 men, women, boys and girls. A pleasing feature was the creation of 31 new Cadet formations which increased the Cadet strength to 110 Divisions. This included a Division for Juvenile offenders in the Naini Central Prison and he would like to see more such divisions formed in similar institutions in all the provinces.

Sir Patrick said he was proud to be associated with the fine body of men and women who



An Indian Red Cross transport delivering supplies received from India at a base in the Middle East.

were devoting so much of their time to the alleviation of suffering." Divisions in Bengal, which included a large number of Policemen, rendered first aid to thousands of persons at fairs, festivals and other large congregations. In another instance, first aid was given to 45 casualties of a railway accident.

The great value of St. John training in workshops and factories, where accidents were often liable to occur, was illustrated by the fact that the trained employees of the B. B. and C. I. Railway rendered aid to nearly 30,000 cases during the year, and those of the G.I.P. Railway to about 10,000 cases.

"We should be very happy," said Sir Patrick "if every factory large or small made it a point to have a majority of its employees trained in first aid."

The Lahore and Ferozepore Railway Nursing Divisions and the Delhi Lady Burdon Division sent volunteers to assist at the Eye Camps organised during the last few months by Col. A. M. Dick in Bahawalpur State. Hundreds of persons suffering from various eye diseases attended these camps.

Dealing with war service, Sir Patrick referred to the work of the Nursing Divisions in Bombay, Calcutta and elsewhere in helping the Army medical authorities in British and Indian military hospitals. Over 33 members worked each month at the British Troops Convalescent Hostel at Camac Street (Calcutta) which had cared for over 6,000 patients since its inception. The 54-hour continuous duty on the thrice-weekly hospital train between Siliguri and Darjeeling was also continued in 1945.

Women of the Brigade had manned transport units in Bombay, Poona and Deolali. The Bombay unit last year covered about 100,000 miles in transporting over 43,000 patients, the Poona unit covered over 74,000 miles in conveying nearly 47,000 patients and the Deolali Unit's mileage was about 20,000. These units, which were to be disbanded shortly, had left a great tradition of service since their inception in the early years of the war. They transported well over a third of a million sick and wounded.

In addition, Nursing and Transport Divisions in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Poona had attended to repatriated prisoners of war and civil internees who passed through Indian ports before returning to their homes in this country the U. K. or other parts of the Empire. At short notice help was given in furnishing and equipping transit camps.

Sir Patrick said he was convinced that St. John's trained personnel were making and could make a really useful contribution in improving the health of the people. Not least important may be the opportunities for increasing their active work in Indian States.

In conclusion, he thanked Their Excellencies for their deep interest in the work of the association and Brigade and paid special tribute to the work of Sir Bennett Hance, Miss E.E. Hutchings and Sardar Bahadur Balwant Singh Puri, the Secretary-General.

Role of Red Cross in Famine Relief

"In reviewing the peacetime activities of the Indian Red Cross during last year, I would first of all refer to our most vital work, namely, famine distress relief, and I am glad to be able to say that our Milk Distribution Service initiated in September, 1943, was continued with unremitting vigour," said Sir Ganga Kaula, Vice-Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society.

The Milk Distribution Service which was inaugurated by the Indian Red Cross Society to mitigate famine conditions in Bengal, Cochin, Malabar and Travancore, said Sir Ganga Kaula, was continued in response to persistent popular demand even when the food situation improved in 1944 and 1945. The practical demonstration to the masses of the nutritional value of milk and



Volunteers of the Transport Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bombay, repair a damaged wheel. They know how to change their car tyres and do minor repairs.

the "milk consciousness" which was awakened were encouraging considerations which weighed against any sudden termination of this beneficent service.

Giving details of the service, Sir Ganga Kaula said that in Bengal alone about 125,000 children and nursing and expectant mothers were receiving milk in the latter half of 1945. Supplies were made available to famine relief emergency hospitals and maternity and child welfare centres as well, throughout the province. Canteens also distributed some 3,800,000 multi-vitamin tablets generously provided by the Friends' Service Unit.

Inter-communal Committees

In Orissa, over 3,000 feeds were given daily through 90 canteens and definite improvement was noticed specially in weak, rickety and underfed children. Before the discontinuance of the service in Malabar in September, 1945, a total of over five million feeds had been given and over 1,800,000 multi-vitamin tablets distributed with very satisfactory results.

Similarly, in Cochin, about 40,000 people were being served. A total of 480 tons of condensed and powdered milk had so far been provided to Travancore and distributed through inter-communal committees at about 400 centres to needy people, children under five and nursing and expectant mothers. In addition, multi-vitamin tablets, of which 640,000 were supplied, proved of immense value.

The Red Cross Milk Service through which over 6,035 tons of milk had been distributed, had made the name of the Indian Red Cross a household word in many parts of the country, especially in Bengal, where it had been possible for the



Lady Louis Mountbatten addressing the Lady Burdon Nursing Division during her inspection of the Lady Burdon and Hannah Sen Nursing Divisions in Delhi, last year.

Provincial Branch to launch a comprehensive programme of expansion in the mofussil on which Rs. 16 lakhs were being spent in the first two years. The formation of Red Cross Branches in Cochin and Travancore was also the direct outcome of the milk service in those States.

"The food crisis with which India is now faced will require Red Cross assistance in the alleviation of distress, and our Managing Body is considering the role which the Society can usefully play," said Sir Ganga Kaula. "Let us hope and pray, however, that the vigorous efforts of Your Excellency's Government to import in time adequate supplies of foodgrains will avert the catastrophe."

Aid for other Countries

Sir Ganga Kaula said that the Indian Red Cross were deeply grateful to His Excellency for a special grant from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund which, together with contributions from other sources, enabled the Society to contribute Rs. 85,000 for civilian relief to sister societies in Belgium, Burma, China, the Netherlands, Greece and Yugoslavia. Indian Junior Red Cross gift for war-affected French juniors and Polish children totalled Rs. 17,000, while another donation of Rs. 20,000 was sent in response to an

appeal from the League of Red Cross Societies on behalf of children in war-ravaged countries. The financial assistance rendered to sister societies since the beginning of the war now totalled about one million rupees—a positive gesture of international goodwill, so essential for winning and establishing universal peace.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau, said Sir Ganga Kaula, had helped to create interest in the planning of schemes for maternal and child health under Provincial Governments and have thus supplemented their efforts.

Lack of qualified staff to conduct such health schemes had been a serious handicap in the expansion of these services. Over a quarter of the total income from investments under the Lady Chelmsford League Fund was spent on training. Four scholarships of Rs. 500 each were also awarded to women medical graduates taking the special course in maternity and child welfare at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.

The Committees of the Lady Reading Health School and the School of Nursing Administration who reviewed the existing training of health visitors and outlined proposals for inaugurating public health nursing, had recommended to the

Government of India the establishment of a College of Nursing which would introduce public health education in the training of nurses, midwives and field workers so that promotion of health and prevention of disease may receive necessary attention both in hospitals and field services.

The Managing Body of the Society had given its full support to the proposal and had earmarked a sum of Rs. 1,84,000 for the provision of scholarships for training of candidates at the College and for post-graduate training abroad. Sir Ganga Kaula hoped that the scheme would materialise before long and thus offer opportunities to educated young girls to obtain adequate training to help in the development of nursing services in the country.

Under the able guidance of Sir John Sargent, the Junior Red Cross movement had made remarkable progress since 1938. Membership increased by about 55,000 last year and now the total was over 830,000. The extension of Junior Red Cross into institutions for young delinquents, undertaken as a novel experiment in 1943 had made headway and the United Provinces Government had welcomed it in their reformatory School and Juvenile Jail.

The educational campaigns for the prevention of blindness and tuberculosis had been continued and requests for increased financial assistance for the former indicated a more determined urge to fight the scourge of blindness.

Red Cross Existed in India Over 2,000 Years Ago

In his speech to the meeting, Major-General Sir Gordon Jolly, Chief Commissioner of the Joint War Organisation, revealed that the Geneva Red Cross with its white background was in existence in India more than 2,000 years ago!

General Jolly said: "Criticism has sometimes been levelled at the Red Cross as being an alien emblem symbolic of one religion—Christianity. This is not the case: The Red Cross was adopted by the founders of the movement because the Convention was drafted and signed in Switzerland and the Red Cross on a white background, which is the Swiss Flag, reversed, was adopted in honour of the Swiss founder of the movement and the country to which he belonged.

"The emblem of the Cross has been used in India from time immemorial and crosses have been excavated in most of the old sites, including Mohenjodaro. It is not generally known, however, that the Geneva Red Cross with its white background is itself indigenous to India. Among my treasured possessions has been a piece of carnelian, ornamented with a red cross on a white



Gen. Sir Gordon Jolly and Sardar Bahadur Balwant Singh Puri examine a relic (piece of carnelian half-inch square) ornamented with a Red Cross on a white background, which was discovered at Taxila in the Punjab. Gen. Jolly has presented the relic to the Indian Red Cross Society.

ground. This was dug up at Taxila in the Punjab and Archaeological evidence shows that it was fashioned there in the 3rd century B. C., more than 2,000 years before the founders of the Geneva Convention adopted this device as their emblem. In view of its great historical interest to the members of the Red Cross movement in India, I am giving it to the Indian Red Cross Society. By permission of Their Excellencies it is on view here today."

The gift, a half-inch square, displayed in a glass case, was seen by a gathering of about 500 Red Cross workers and guests who attended the meeting.

General Jolly said that during the war the work of the Indian organisation in Europe and the Middle East was only less than that of the British and American Red Cross bodies. In Persia it assumed the sole burden of Red Cross work, serving British and Indian troops alike, while in the East the 14th Army, from start to finish, was served by the Indian Red Cross. Two functions of the Indian Red Cross Welfare Service deserved special mention. These were the Search for Missing and progress reports on the wounded and sick. For the former, lists of the missing in battle were sent out from G.H.Q. to



The first team of Indian Red Cross women workers sent overseas by the Indian Red Cross Organisation to attend to the comforts and amenities of Indian patients in the various military hospitals. All the six members of the team were trained in India. (Below) A Red Cross work party at Sangli (Deccan States).



Red Cross hospital workers and these interrelated wounded and sick comrades who had been in the same action and reported results. In this way, large numbers of missing persons were traced by Red Cross Searchers. Progress reports were personal accounts of a patient's condition written by the workers for the next-of-kin.

An idea of the expansion of the War Organisation Supply Department could be obtained from the figures of stores expenditure. In the first full year of the War Organisation's life, it stood at Rs. 13,756; in the fifth year that figure had been multiplied 87 times. General Jolly thanked the Railway Board for transporting all Red Cross supplies in India free of cost.

A Red Cross army of voluntary workers, organised in over 900 parties throughout India, produced two million sewn or knitted comforts and dressings for the wounded or sick. They were the least articulate but probably the most useful group of Red Cross workers. Only once were they known to have indulged in mass complaints. That was when their output was threatened by the sudden introduction of Government control of textiles! Fortunately, with the active help of the Master General of the Ordnance the necessary raw materials were soon made available and the ladies settled down once more to their beneficent task and mutiny was averted.

General Jolly mentioned that pocket-size books packed in tins were dropped by air on Field Ambulance or Casualty Clearing Stations and these books, which were both in English and in the vernaculars, helped to relieve the tedium of front-line patients.

Gen. Jolly paid a warm tribute to Lady Louis Mountbatten "whose magnificent work for Indian prisoners of war will never be forgotten."

Civil Relief Unit for Andamans

He mentioned that a small Red Cross Civil Relief Unit which had been sent to the Andamans had now completed its work. After the recapture of Burma the Indian Red Cross work asked to continue its work and also co-ordinate all Red Cross work in the Netherlands East Indies. Col. Basu, Commissioner with ALFSEA, remained Red Cross Adviser to the Forces in South East Asia throughout the year.

A ten-ward cable message scheme was introduced to establish contact between prisoners of war in the East and their relatives in India and the West. At the same time Red Cross Information Bureaux, set up in Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Kalyan, dealt with a vast number of enquiries from prisoners of war about their relatives and vice versa. Altogether, (continued on page 492)

TUBERCULOSIS MENACE

Lady Wavell on State Responsibility

"The time has now arrived," declared Her Excellency Lady Wavell addressing the Annual Meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of India held in New Delhi on March 27, "when public opinion will demand much greater activity on the part of the State."

Referring to the Bhor Committee Report, Lady Wavell said, "Consequent on the increasing strength of public opinion in matters of health, and specially on the publication of the Committee's Report, it is to be anticipated that various Governments and Administrations of India will assume the responsibility for the prevention of tuberculosis and treatment and rehabilitation of sufferers from this disease."

"Notwithstanding this," Her Excellency added "the care and after-care of the sufferer, the education of the public, the research, and the co-ordination and direction of the education of workers will, for many years to come, make great claims on the Association."

Training of Workers

The Annual Report presented by Major-General R. Hay, Chairman of the Association, recorded all-round progress during 1945. Four more Associations were affiliated to the Centre, bringing the total to 34.

A feature of the Report is the training of tuberculosis workers. Post-graduate refresher courses have been organised in different parts of the country. Thirty-two doctors received post-graduate instructions during the year and four Health Visitors qualified, while 12 are undergoing training at the moment. Arrangements exist for admitting doctors for practical training in the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli, and the New Delhi Tuberculosis Clinic.

The affiliated Associations have also been doing useful work. There are 124 Tuberculosis Clinics and 70 Hospitals and Sanatoria with 4,384 beds in India. The Report, however, points out that this number "is grossly inadequate for a country like India where the average number of deaths from tuberculosis is in the neighbourhood of 500,000 and the number of open cases is about 2,500,000."

The increased demand for the reservation of beds in the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli, is an indication of the popularity of this Institution, says the Report. The New Delhi Tuberculosis clinic has continued its role in the prevention,

(Continued on page 458)

RS. 5 CRORES REDUCTION IN INDIRECT TAXATION



Sir Archibald Rowlands.

Finance Member Announces Relief Measures for Poor Man

IN accordance with his undertaking in the Central Assembly on March 5, in his reply, to the general budget debate that he would "carefully review the whole field of indirect taxation and see whether any, and if so which, relief can be granted" to the "man in the street and particularly the man in the village street", the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member to the Government of India, in winding up the debate on the Finance Bill in the Assembly on March 27, proposed a series of further reductions in indirect taxation. These are:

(1) Reduction of the postcard rate from 9 pies to 6 pies. This will mean a loss of Rs. 167 lakhs of revenue in 1946-47.

(2) The Finance Member in his budget speech had announced the reduction of duty on kerosene from 4 annas 6 pies to 3 annas 9 pies per Imperial gallon—a reduction of 9 pies. It is now proposed to double the reduction which will amount to 1½ annas. The loss to the Treasury thereby will be Rs. 141 lakhs.

(3) The excise duty on betelnut will be reduced to 1½ annas per lb. (with a corresponding reduction in the customs duty) from the

present rate of 2 annas per lb. This will entail a loss of revenue in the coming year to the tune of Rs. 55 lakhs. It is also proposed to increase the suggested grant of Rs. 3 lakhs, for enabling better marketing of betelnuts by the producer, to Rs. 5 lakhs.

(4) The Finance Bill proposed that the duty on cinematograph films should be made a specific duty charged on footage, instead of the *ad valorem* duty which it is at present. As it was represented to the Finance Member that this change would work as hardship to the indigenous film industry in importing raw film, it is proposed to reduce the new rates of customs duty on unexposed films from 6 pies to 3 pies per linear foot.

Political Considerations

The Finance Member said: Sir, this debate seems to have conformed to the pattern of past debates on the Finance Bill. In order to prepare myself for this, my first commitment to the arena of debate on the Finance Bill, I naturally took the precaution of looking up the reports on previous Bills, which struck me as being unnecessarily long, largely irrelevant and almost completely unreal. The debate on this occasion has also been largely irrelevant to the Finance Bill itself and, I submit, almost completely unreal. I fully understand the air of unreality which has surrounded debates on this Bill in the past, and that the whole debate has been obsessed by politics. I also think I can appreciate the obsession by politics that has characterised most of the debates—not only that on the Finance Bill on other matters as well,—in recent years.

I remember discussing this question with one of my colleagues on the Public Accounts Committee. I asked him why it was that he and some of his colleagues found it so difficult to judge any question on its merits but reverted always to political considerations; and I remember being very much struck by his reply. I do not recollect perfectly whether it was Pundit Maitra—whose absence, I personally think, has lessened the value of these debates—or my Hon'ble friend Prof. Ranga; I think it was Prof. Ranga. He said: "You do not understand; if you are inside a cage it does not matter how you are treated; all you want is to get hold of the key." And that, I believe, does summarise the position.

I think the debate this year has, as I have said, been more completely unreal than any previous debate. I could not help feeling sympathy

for most of my Hon'ble friends on the opposite benches. They, like me,—the old hands at any rate—had looked up their previous speeches; they refurbished them and brought them up to date; and those who were new hands had borrowed some of the oratorical gems of some of the giants of the past like the late Mr. Satyamurti and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. But alas, when they came to the budget discussions they found that the march of time had produced an atmosphere in which mere oratorical flowers would wither and die,—indeed had withered and died.

If I may change the metaphor, they reminded me of a body of men behind a battering ram which was brought forward once again to assault that door made of English oak, which had so resisted them in the past. The result was inevitable. If you rush at an obstacle which gives way easily—as this particular door has done on this occasion—all that happens is that you lose your balance; you fall head over the apex—as we say politely—and you all fall down.

Economic Merits

In the confusion thus created the budget proposals were at first not too unfavourably received. Indeed, some of my Hon'ble friends on the opposite benches showed a disposition to approach them on their economic merits. But the rumour that this may happen reached Bombay; peremptory orders were received that nothing of the sort was to happen.

Now, Sir, I would be the last to claim that the present constitution of this Assembly is a model of democratic institutions. I also submit that it is not democratic to have a system whereby members of a legislature can claim proudly for themselves that they are elected representatives of the people, but are not to be allowed to determine themselves the issues which arise in the House itself, but have to submit them to an extraneous body who have not been elected by, nor are responsible to, the electorate. That is not in my judgment democracy; that is putting the 'mock' into democracy. It is pure fascism, pure Nazism.

So far as the opposite benches are concerned, the Opposition has been again entirely political. In view of the imminent political changes they found it almost impossible to make the charges ring true. I will give three examples of the length to which my friends and critics on the other side have been driven in trying to find economic ground for rejecting the Finance Bill.

I will first take Mr. Masani, one of the leading debaters of the other side. He said that he was pretty sure that the reasons why I had

reduced the income-tax in relation to men of moderate means was deliberately determined by the fact that they would be able to buy more British goods imported from abroad.

MR. M. R. MASANI (Congress): Will the Hon'ble Member yield for a moment? If he will look up, he will find that I said nothing of the kind. I said what the effects of the proposals would be.

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: I did not say so, it was implied.

MR. SRI PRAKASA (Congress): You said that it was "bloody".

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: I did not say it was "rubbish". If you like, I will say "bloody rubbish".

MR. SRI PRAKASA (Congress): British goods are rubbish.

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: It was alleged that the real purpose of the visit of the President of the Board of Trade to Delhi at the present moment was to see that I carry out his orders to reduce the income-tax so that more should be spent on British goods.

MR. M. R. MASANI (Congress): I did not know that he was here.

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: You knew he was coming when you made the speech. I did not know what Lord Pethick-Lawrence was going to do except that the responsibilities of the 1935 Act would be left to me to carry out on his behalf! As for Mr. A. V. Alexander, unless his presence was to inform me that he was First Lord of the Admiralty and that there was such a thing as the British Navy which would blow me to smithereens if I did not toe the line.

Over-Population

Mr. Karmarkar, in reply to an interjection of mine and not a prepared statement, attributed the over population of this country to the British connection. Well, Sir,...

MR. D. P. KARMARKAR (Congress): "Will the Hon'ble Member yield for a moment, because the Hon'ble Member has misunderstood me. I was reading from a summary of the report by Mr. Pepperall and amongst other things he mentioned as the possible causes of the deterioration in cattle the following comments . . . But my principal contention was not that the British connection was responsible for the increase in population. It was only because Mr. Pepperall mentioned in his report that the increase of the population is also . . ."

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: I was referring to the human population and not the cow population.

The Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition was driven into what appeared to me to be a logical contradiction in his eagerness to find reasons for condemning, on economic grounds, the Finance Bill. He twitted me with the fact that I had brought forward no proposals for nationalising the Reserve Bank of India, whereas the British Government had done so. Well, I submit with respect that the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition cannot have it both ways. He cannot represent that we on these benches do nothing else but carry out orders from Whitehall and, at the same time, that we defy them. I have no doubt that the Reserve Bank will be nationalised in the near future. I thought the real reason why it was not nationalised in the first instance was that the Legislature was not prepared to commit to the sole charge of an irresponsible Executive, an institution which plays such an important part in the economic life of India.

Well, Sir, these are the kind of arguments which, I submit, demonstrate conclusively that the case presented against this Finance Bill is purely hollow.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Congress): Question.

Economic Arguments Negatived

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: Granted. I ask, Sir, could political moonbeams shine more brightly or political prejudice and perversity proceed further than this? I cannot hope to cover all the speeches. I must concentrate on some of the most important points raised.

I will begin with my Hon'ble friend Diwan Chaman Lall, who, at the beginning of his speech, startled me. I thought for a moment that he was going to deal with the Finance Bill purely on financial and economic grounds. But I was rapidly disillusioned and disappointed. With the help of his distinguished unofficial financial adviser, for whom I have considerable admiration myself, he did, indeed, produce some economic arguments, but they were negatived soon afterwards by flights of fancy into the political and statistical fields. It was not very difficult for me to distinguish between those parts of the speech that had been suggested by his distinguished economic adviser and those which he had written himself.

There were two main charges which he brought against me. The first was that I had left my successor an impossible task by leaving him with an uncovered revenue gap of Rs. 44 crores. It would have been Rs. 70 crores if I had not appropriated—I am sure he would regard the word misappropriated as more appropriate—certain sums from the War Risks Insurance funds, and this gap would, therefore, have in-

creased to Rs. 144 crores next year—I mean the year after the coming year,—as the result of the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax. If my friend would like a nicely balanced budget and if he succeeds me and would like to consult me, I could show him how he can balance next year's budget! There are other ways of robbing. But I refrained from doing so to give my successor a chance. Defence expenditure, which at the moment stands at Rs. 244 crores, ought to show a drop of some Rs. 140 crores.

Excess Profits Tax

He featured in his speech the action of the Government in abolishing the Excess Profits Tax. Well, I dealt with the question of the Excess Profits Tax at some length in my reply to the general debate on the budget and I want to make two further points. Firstly, the United Kingdom, by keeping the Excess Profits Tax on too long after the end of the last war, lost £1,000 million and I do not think they are going to repeat that mistake. He went on to say that while I had done something to buttress the financial structure for my successor by incorporating the surcharges into the basic rates, I had failed to take other obvious measures which would have produced the same results. He twitted me, for example, that I had deliberately refrained from introducing the Estates Duties Bill which had been on the stocks for some time. With that willingness to oblige that my friend recognises in me, I produced the Bill within two days, with, I suspect embarrassment and discomfiture to at least one of his colleagues.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Congress): Not at all.

Estates Duties Bill

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: I am glad to note it, Sir. He went on to suggest that the Estates Duties Bill would produce Rs. 300 crores a year. That is certainly a flight of fancy. The best estimate we can make is that the Bill will, in its initial application, produce about Rs. 10 crores. All taxes when they are introduced start off at a low level and progressively produce more and more. But until India becomes much more wealthy than it is at present, I cannot see it producing anything like Rs. 300 crores, particularly if agricultural land is not included.

He then went on to suggest that I ought to nationalise the match industry and the tobacco industry. I have not been very long in my present job and there are several other things I have to attend to besides dealing with the business of the Assembly, but, quite apart from that, my own study of the history of match and tobacco monopolies in other countries does not suggest to me that it would be an improvement, either

in the quality of the matches or the tobacco, or produce more revenue than the present system. This is a matter which ought to be considered in greater detail and I have no doubt that my successor will take it up. But to suggest that by doing so he could increase the revenue in the case of matches by Rs. 26 crores a year and in the case of tobacco by Rs. 75 crores a year, is another flight of fancy put forward merely to find some grounds to attack the Finance Bill.

Income-Tax and Evasions

He also suggested that, if the Income-tax Department had been more efficient, it could have raised during this war an additional Rs. 700 crores. Well, no one will deny that the Income-tax Department is beaten, and beaten badly, by certain anti-social rich elements in the country, who deliberately set out not merely to avoid but also to evade, taxation. I would remind my Hon'ble friend opposite that he refused last year to co-operate with the Government in giving them additional powers which would have made these evasions more difficult. However that may be, I would accept that a great deal of tax evasion has been going on and the Income-tax Department has been progressively strengthened to fight that, and, with a little more support, I think in a year or two it will be in a good position to take on even the worst tax-evader. In any case, to suggest an increase of Rs. 700 crores is, I think, an exaggeration by at least 90 per cent.

Economic Activity

The second change (and there seems to be some point in this, if I may say so) against me and the Finance Department was in relation to the extent, or lack of extent, of the provision which I had made to replace the economic activity which had been engendered during the war by the very high Defence expenditure. He represented (and it was a view which was shared by other Members as well, one of them being Mr. Masani) that the result will be widespread and wholesale unemployment.

Let us examine the position, Sir. He said that there will be a drop of nearly Rs. 600 crores in Defence expenditure next year. In so far as it relates to Defence expenditure, we all rejoice in it. But last year's budget and the previous year's budget included an inflationary gap of some Rs. 250 crores. If we get rid of this Rs. 250 crores, we are left with approximately Rs. 350 crores. That Rs. 350 crore gap ought to be filled. But, taking into account the grants which the Centre is making to the Provinces and the Provinces' own expenditure which comes to about Rs. 144 crores, we are left with a gap of about Rs. 200 crores which has to be filled.

The Military authorities have been consistently spending over Rs. 100 crores a year on buildings and, now that military building has entirely ceased, the materials and the labour will be available for being diverted to civil building purposes. But even if we do not achieve a Rs. 100 crores target, and reach, let us say, about Rs. 75 crores, we are still left with a total gap of Rs. 125 crores. I would expect that if industry is as efficient as it claims to be, it could at least do something to fill in the vacuum. But even if they do not, the position, while admittedly unsatisfactory, will not be wholly disastrous.

Is it a Rich Man's Budget?

The most general charge brought against the Finance Bill (and it is not confined to one section of the House only, even some of the nominated members joined in the charge) was that this is a rich man's budget. The charge fell under two headings. First of all, if I had omitted to tax the rich, I had done practically nothing to the poor except reduce by one pice the price per bottle of kerosene; and secondly, that, on the expenditure side, I had done nothing to improve the lot of the poor man.

As for the first point, I dealt with it at some length in my reply to the General Budget. I made it plain that, in my judgment, the best interests of the average poor man were served by the rapid industrialisation of India by improving the economic activity and the national income. I would only add four other things.

As a proof that the first charge is not a genuine one, I would point to the fact that amongst my bitterest critics are the representatives of the Ahmedabad millowners and the landholders of the United Provinces. If it had been a richman's budget, they would not have attacked it with such ferocity. Secondly, as I said in the Budget Debate, I have introduced the Estates Duties Bill, which is obviously aimed at the rich. Thirdly, that I have ignored the fact that there is all the difference in the world between the taxation of industry and the taxation of the shareholders. The amount of tax a shareholder pays is what he draws from the industry and, if he is a rich shareholder, he will draw and pay a pretty good sum. The moderately prosperous man will pay, under my proposals, more than half his income to the State and, if he is really rich, he would pay practically 95 per cent. I do not call that being very tender for the rich. Fourthly, the percentages of direct and indirect taxation in 1938-39 were 23 and 77 per cent respectively. That is, in 1936-37 the income-tax payer contributed 23 per cent. of the total revenue of the country and the indirect taxpayer, who comprises by and large the average man and the poor man, contributed no less than 77 per cent. In my budget, the direct taxpayer

will contribute 55 per cent. as against 23 per cent. before the war and the indirect taxpayer will contribute only 45 per cent. as against 77 per cent. before the war.

To Benefit the Poor Man

Now as to the second point, that on the expenditure side there are no schemes for the benefit of the ordinary man, practically the whole of the Rs. 50 crores advanced to the Provinces by the Centre are in respect of schemes which will serve the economic and social well-being of the average man. Added to this, the Provinces themselves will spend, next year, Rs. 30 crores on similar schemes. Again, a very large percentage of the Rs. 58 crores to be spent directly by the Centre on such schemes will benefit the average poor man. I claim, Sir, never in the history of India has anything like so much money been provided in a single year for the ordinary people, whom my friends opposite are pleased to call the masses.

Amongst my most formidable opponents on this point were two members of what, in ruder and cruder days, an adviser to a ruler described as "the monstrous regiment of women" and whom we, in these more courteous and softer days, refer to as the Hon'ble Lady Members. I am thinking, of course, of the Viceroy of the Radical Democratic Party who sits behind me and whose speech I enjoyed as obviously she did herself and indeed, the rest of the House, and Mrs. Swaminathan, whose passionate advocacy of the poor man and the poor woman I entirely share. But having regard to the well-known amenability of the gentler sex to male persuasion, I hope that what I have said will induce them both to go into the lobby with the Government.

Remissions in Taxation

In any event, before making up their minds perhaps they will wait to hear what I have to say in my speech about my suggestions in fulfilment of the promise I made in the reply to the budget debate, that I would consider whether I could make any remissions in the indirect taxation field.

Before I come to that, I must refer to certain other points of importance that have been raised: though I do not claim that I shall cover them all and I shall be accused of selecting those points which it is easiest to answer and avoiding those which it is most difficult to avoid. If that be the case, it will prove that in the very short time that I have been in the House I have come to possess some little political technique.

My friend Diwan Chaman Lall referred to the urgent necessity of coming to a settlement of the sterling balances. There I entirely agree with him. He also raised the point that, in any

settlement, the British assets in India should not be excluded; and I can say that, as far as I am concerned, nothing will be excluded: in any case I am not certain that I shall be here, as I have said.

My friend, Mr. Neogy, raised again the question of the financial settlement. He had nothing very much new to say, and I have very little new to say in reply. The one point which has worried him, I know, and others in this House, was whether this financial settlement—the code of accounting procedure which carries out the principles underlying the sharing of the expenditure between the two governments—has been carried out in fairness to India; and he reiterated the demand for a special committee of this House to investigate the matter.

I do not think Government has anything to hide at all; but as an alternative to appointing a special committee, I would suggest that the best course would be that the Public Accounts Committee, who after all are a great deal concerned with the expenditure, might be empowered and authorised to spend, say a whole week, on the subject before or during the next session. If I were here I would accept that proposal, and I do not think that the House would find it in any way less effective. But while suspicion is there, I think it would be a good idea if, in fact, the matter were closely investigated.

Development of N.-W.F.P.

Next I come to the sole representative of that picturesque town or province of the North-West Frontier—Mr. Ghani Khan. I refer to him for two reasons: first of all, he made, if I may say so, one or two very useful suggestions, which I will come to in a minute; but his speech came at the right moment, to refresh a flagging House,—in fact he kept us about two minutes after the normal period of adjournment. I was very interested and struck by his statement that he would would not defend 3,000 miles of coastline with a handful of discontented sailors and an armful of charming W.R.E.N.S. I entirely agree with him.

But in the more serious part of his speech, he entered a plea for more money to spend on the development of the North-West Frontier. Speaking for myself, if a proper scheme is put up, I would regard it as money well spent if my friend could persuade the men who are men in that part of the world, to convert themselves to normal pastimes and from violent to non-violent pastimes. I would like to parody what a great poet once said—Great things happen when men and mountains meet—I would like to add—Great things happen when men and money and mountains meet.

Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmed raised again his triple King Charles' head,—he wanted to get rid of the stock exchanges, he wanted to get rid of the bullion exchanges and he wanted to get rid of the commodity markets, how, I am very conscious myself that there are many things in all these three institutions that need attending to; and, had it been my lot to stay in office, I would have hoped to have persuaded this House to help me in that process. But my successor will find that some work has been done in that direction, and he will have no difficulty in persuading the House to take what I regard as the action that should be taken. But to abolish the stock exchange, and abolish the bullion exchange and abolish the commodity markets is, I think, going a little too far even for the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University.

Then he was very exercised about the bullion tax which had been introduced in this year's financial proposals. The sole object of that bullion tax is not to make money for the State—though if there is any money going, I do not see why the State should not share in the process—but to prevent unhealthy speculation; to save from heavy losses the less skilful operators; and, in other words, to produce an orderly reduction of the price level of bullion once imports are resumed, to the world level, to suit the conditions of supply both by exports and the internal supply.

Interest on Savings Bank Deposits

Then, my friend Mr. Jaffer, amongst other things, sought renewal of a plea which has often been made on behalf of the Muslims of this country, that the interest on savings bank deposits of Muslim depositors should be handed over to the Muslim ministers to be used in the interests of Muslims. The difficulty which has been brought up against such a proposal in the past is this: that Government has no authority itself to pay over the interest into somebody else's hands, unless that somebody else gives Government a specific authority. Now, a difficulty exists only to be got over, and I am prepared to discuss with him a scheme for a trust to be established, to which Government will hand over this accumulated interest, on condition that the trustees would undertake to indemnify Government against any individual claims for interest that may be raised by the depositors. That seems to me to be a sensible way out.

My friend, Mr. Tyson, who is difficult to control himself, and therefore does not like control, put a question to me: he said that I had proclaimed with pride in my budget speech that we had removed some 150 controls: he said quite rightly that that does not mean very much unless he knew what percentage that 150 bears to the whole number of controls. I do not know whether

he will be surprised, disappointed or relieved to know that there are only 130 controls left.

MR. GEOFFREY W. TYSON (European Group): Relieved.

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS: I am relieved at his relief. I assure him that no one wants to keep on controls, least of all anyhow the Secretariat, where the necessity for them no longer exists. I entirely agree with what Mr. Griffiths said yesterday that these controls are a fruitful source of corruption. But while things are in short supply and while there is this black marketing still going on (although I admit that sometimes control creates a black market) it is impossible to withdraw them all. But the process of withdrawal is proceeding weekly, and I hope the time is not far distant when they will be reduced to a handful.

Control of Capital Issues

But I myself don't think you can get rid of controls in planned economy. I do not believe, for example, that it is wise immediately to withdraw the capital issue control, but I would accept this, however, that the main function of the capital issue control is now altered. It was established primarily as an anti-inflationary device. I think that the necessity for it in that respect is much less potent and urgent than it used to be. On the other hand, I do think that India, which has now got unlimited capital resources, although they are much greater than people used to think, should not be free to alter the basis of capital issues and to use those resources on schemes which are purely speculative and money-making. I think the resources should be canalized into those channels which will enure to the economic and social advantage of the country. At the same time Government is not entitled, I think, to withhold consent to the capital issues merely because it is not ready with its plans in respect of a particular industry. A revision of the control is, however, justifiable and is now proceeding.

I think Mr. Morris, together with Mr. Tyson, gave expression to some anxiety about the functions of the Investment Board. The function of the Investment Board is really more or less what I indicated about the capital issue control.

The Leader of the European Group made a long, interesting and, for him, a strangely non-violent speech. He dealt with the necessity of eradicating corruption in the public life of this country and I entirely agree with him. In fact the proposals he made bear a strange resemblance to the recommendations made by a committee on the administration of Bengal of which I had the honour to be the Chairman.

He also pleaded for an improvement in the administrative machine. I think there is no doubt at all that, now that the emphasis of Government is moving away from police *raj* and revenue *raj* to social services, which are the chief concern of governments in progressive countries, the time has come to overhaul the Government machinery from top to bottom. As a matter of fact, some work has already been done in that direction in the last 12 months. An officer has been appointed on special duty for examining the distribution of duties as between the different Government departments and a Central piece of co-ordinating machinery, which in my judgment is now badly needed, has been set up. I do not think it is perfect and there is a great deal more work to do. Its administration is not merely a question of organisation but methods as well. I think we have done the layout and I agree that the procedure of Government requires a thorough overhaul.

Interests of the Common Man

Now, Sir, I come to the end of my speech. I am now going to deal with the promise that I made at the end of my reply to the budget debate when I claimed that my budget proposals were in the interests, not of the rich, but of the common man. I admitted that they were psychologically defective in that the man in the street, and particularly the man in the village street, could not see the inwardness of them and I therefore undertook to see whether some further remission of indirect taxation could not be made in the direct interests of the common man without causing too heavy damage to the revenue.

I would like to emphasise that what I have got to say is in no way the result, as has been suggested, of a pact between Nawabzada Liaquat Ali and myself. It is quite true that he discussed the matter with me. I told him what I had in mind if the Finance Bill proceeded to the clause stage; but what I told him I have also told members of the Congress Party in the lobby. The Muslim League if I may say so, adopted a statesmanlike attitude to the proposals. I do not say that they were satisfied with them but I think that, when they heard that they were more or less along the lines suggested to me, they said they would approve of them.

The first thing I want to say has two points—first not to damage the revenue too much, and, secondly, to ensure that the remission goes direct to the beneficiary and is not intercepted by the middleman or the exploiter.

Now, the first thing I shall deal with is the postcard. Now, whatever else may be attributed to me when I leave India soon, I hope I shall at

least get credit for having, at long last, reintroduced the half-anna postcard. That will cost about Rs. 167 lakhs, allowing for a certain amount of diversion of letters to the cheaper postcard.

Now, I have not introduced an amendment to the Finance Bill to provide for that for two reasons. First of all, it is not necessary for it to be done by legislation and secondly the cheaper postcard cannot be introduced for technical reasons until the press have provided a sufficient quantity of them. This, I expect, will not happen until July 1 but there it is. If the House chooses to accept it, there is the acceptance by Government of the half-anna postcard.

The next thing is that I was oppressed by the fact that possibly the reduction of the kerosene duty by nine pies was not enough. I did a little arithmetic and I found that it worked to a lower percentage than the reduction in the petrol duty. What I propose to do is to double that reduction of nine pies to 1½ annas. That, I think, will at least be passed on direct to the poor man who uses kerosene and there is no possibility of its being exploited *en route*. That will cost me Rs. 141 lakhs.

Match Box at Half Anna

Another inflammable subject is matches. That also enters largely into the domestic use of the poorer people of this country. Well, what I am aiming at is a satisfactory box of matches at a cost of half an anna. It is not possible to do that immediately. We recognise the difficulties of the manufacturers in India. They have not had all the materials and they are lacking in some essential parts but I anticipate no difficulty in arranging that they will, in the not distant future, put on the market a satisfactory box of matches at a cost of half an anna. That will probably cost me Rs. 1½ crores.

I have now told you the remissions that Government propose to accept. The next thing that I will deal with is the betelnut. Now, there has been a strong plea for the total abolition of the excise duty on betelnut. I am afraid, I do not accept that. I believe it is a very suitable article for an excise, and this country will require more and more revenue, although as time goes on, I hope to see an even greater movement in the direction of making the direct tax-payer pay more and the indirect tax-payer pay less. Nevertheless, I do not think any country circumstanced as India is can afford to neglect any source of revenue so long as it is not oppressive and too regressive.

My intention was, of course, that the duty on betelnut should be passed on to the consumer.

Nobody can be positive as to what is going to happen to a tax when you impose it. You can make a pretty good guess. The probabilities are that it is largely determined by the supply and demand of a particular commodity, but as was anticipated with the betelnut, the excise duty was to be passed on to the consumer. In spite of that, it was intercepted by the middleman.

Betelnut Tax

Now, I think the answer to that is not to abolish the betelnut tax at all, but to improve the bargaining position of the producer *vis-a-vis* the middleman. I had proposed in my budget speech to allot Rs. three lakhs a year to that end. I propose to increase that by Rs. 2 lakhs. I believe myself that when that is done, the producer will get a fair price. But there is a difference in view between myself and Prof. Ranga on this point and partly as suggested by him and partly as a challenge to him to see who is right, I propose experimentally to reduce the duty by half an anna and make a corresponding reduction in the customs duty. That will cost me Rs. 55 lakhs, plus another five lakhs for better marketing and better production.

Lastly, the conversion of the *ad valorem* duty into a specific duty on cinema films resulted in there being too high an increase on the average unexposed film. I propose to reduce the six pices that was included in the Finance Bill to three pices and that would cost me Rs. 24 lakhs as compared with what I anticipated.

Salt and Tobacco

The other two things which I have to consider are salt and tobacco. I have said that some glamour might attach to my name by introducing a cheap postcard; as against that, it would be nothing to the glamour I would achieve by abolishing the salt duty as my last act as a Financier. But I would regard that as an act of pure irresponsibility, as I am handing over to my successor. It brings in Rs. eight to nine crores a year and its abolition would probably never be passed on to the consumer who buys his salt in small quantities. It will be intercepted by other people. In any event, it is open to my successor, if he feels strongly about it, to abolish it himself. But I would regard it as irresponsible myself to abolish it and deprive him of a revenue or put him in the position of having to take an unpopular act and levying it again. I would make this suggestion to my successor; I believe the revenues of Government-controlled salt can be increased by better arrangements made for marketing which would produce nearly as much as the present tax produces. That would, however, take some time to work out and that may

be a solution which I commend for the consideration of my successor or successors.

The other one is tobacco. Tobacco all over the world is a very useful source of revenue. It is eminently a commodity suitable for taxation. It is a continually expanding source of revenue, but it has a depressing effect if you push it beyond a point. It is true that tobacco can stand quite a lot of tax and it is one of our main single sources of revenue, which has been in operation for three years, and it is now producing Rs. 20 crores a year. I do not think it ought to be reduced and I do not think there is any truth in the statement that the tax is meant to crush the industry.

Here I should like to pay a very high tribute to the work of the Excise Department in relation to this excise, which they have developed with skill and, if I may say so, with great sympathy in relation both to the producer and to consumer. I know there are still some administrative difficulties, particularly in relation to the small producer and I am sure Mr. Greenfield would always be willing to meet any difficulties under that head.

Sir, I come to the end of my speech. I would like to end by recalling the statement once made by that great English statesman and politician, Edmund Burke. He said, "to tax and to please: any more than to love and be wise, is not given to men." I do not claim, therefore, that my taxation proposals will please all. All that I claim for them is that they are honest; that they have not been dictated either by Whitehall or by my alleged love for the rich, and that they are proposals which have been made according to the best of my judgment which will enure to the best advantage of India in the present circumstances.

TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION MEETING

(Continued from page 450)

diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. Home visitors and contact examinations were continued; health visitors and nurses were trained.

The Association took the important step of appointing on it Corresponding Members from other countries with a view to securing the benefit of contact with the best work and workers abroad.

Among last year's donations were Rs. 24,780/10 from the R.K.O. Radio Pictures Ltd., Bombay, to the Association and Rs. 3,624/9 to the Union Mission Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Arogyavaram, making a total gift of Rs. 28,405/3.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1946.

BILL FOR LEVY OF ESTATE DUTY IN BRITISH INDIA

Measure Introduced in Central Assembly

A Bill "to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty in British India" was introduced in the Central Assembly on March 21 by the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member to the Government of India.

The object of the Bill is to impose an estate duty on non-agricultural property to assist the Provinces in their post-war development by fortifying permanently their revenues and enabling them to improve, *inter alia*, the existing social services.

The draft Bill largely follows the lines of the Estate Duty Acts of the U.K. so far as the charging clauses are concerned. So far as the machinery of assessment is concerned, it is an adaptation of the provisions of the Court Fees Act of 1870, dealing with probate duties levied in the shape of court-fees.

Rates of Duty

The distribution of the proceeds of the proposed duty among the Provinces and the rates of duty to be levied have been left out of the present Bill. The intention is to distribute the proceeds of the duty (after deduction of the cost of collection) among the Provinces in furtherance of their post-war reconstruction plans. The exact basis of distribution is a question which will have to be considered in consultation with the Provinces concerned. When a decision is reached, the result will be embodied in a separate Central Act. The rates at which the duty is to be levied will also be fixed from time to time by separate legislation.

It is not possible to estimate even approximately the probable yield of the new duty as much will depend upon the rates in force for the time being.

In spite of wartime taxation, enormous private fortunes have been made during the war, aggravating the great inequality which already existed. Apart from providing funds for the expansion of social services, there is manifest justification for the measures, which will be a first step in the process of reducing the great disparities of wealth, which is a prominent feature of Indian economy, and thereby moving towards a more equitable distribution of the national income.

Death duties in one form or another constitute an important element in the schemes of

taxation of most progressive countries. In 1924-25, the Taxation Enquiry Committee considered the question of introducing them in this country and recommended the imposition of an estate duty by Central legislation. Before, however, the recommendation could be acted upon, the entire Indian Constitution came under review, beginning with the appointment of the Statutory Commission in 1928, and ending with the passing of the Government of India Act, 1935. Under this Act, legislation on duties of succession in respect of property other than agricultural land falls in the Federal List and similar legislation in respect of agricultural land in the Provincial List.

There is, however, a distinction between a succession duty strictly so called and an estate duty. The estate duty is levied because property as passed by death and the duty is graduated with reference to the total amount of property so passing. The succession duty, on the other hand, looks not to the size of the estate left by the deceased but to the size of the separate shares received by the beneficiaries, and as the windfall element increases with the distance of relationship to the deceased, it is often graduated further on that principle.

The question therefore arose whether an estate duty of the kind levied in the United Kingdom and recommended for adoption in India by the Taxation Enquiry Committee was within the competence of the legislatures, Central or Provincial, under the new Constitution. A reference was made to the Federal Court who, by a majority, expressed the opinion that such a duty did not fall within any of the legislative lists. Parliamentary legislation was accordingly undertaken and as the result of a recent statute an estate duty in respect of property other than agricultural land can now be levied by the Central Legislature, the proceeds being distributable to the Provinces according to principles to be formulated by a Central Act. The Provincial Legislatures can levy a similar duty in respect of agricultural land.

As already stated, the draft Bill largely follows the lines of the Estate Duty Acts of the United Kingdom so far as the charging clauses are concerned. Estate Duty will be charged according to the principal value of all property which passes on the death of any person whether by the disposition of the deceased, or by a settlement made by others. The governing principle is that the title of the State to a share in the accumulated property of the deceased is an anterior title to that of the interest to be taken by those who are to share it.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI REVIEWS WORK OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SPEAKING in the Central Assembly on March 22, during the general debate on the Finance Bill, the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, said:

I wish to make a few observations about the Planning and Development Department. During these days of oratorical festival I had hoped to escape the need for making a speech but my Hon'ble friend Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon approached me as the Assembly was closing the other day and said he was going to attack the Planning and Development Department and had various very cogent things to say and that I should be in my seat.

As a good servant of this House, I was in my seat when the Hon'ble Member spoke and took copious notes; but Sir, although the Hon'ble Member has the face of a cherub he has the perceptions of a tank and like the tank he blundered from one inaccuracy into another as I shall presently hope to show in regard to the working of my Department. (An Hon'ble Member: Because he was discussing the Planning Department).

Industrial Panels

His first criticism was about the panels, about the 26 or 29 panels constituted to make plans for the different industries. He said that in their constitution there was no approach made to organisations or industries interested. That is a completely inaccurate statement, call it a terminological inexactitude, if you like. Every panel has been constituted after a good deal of consultation by Sir Ardeshir Dalal who himself has an unrivalled knowledge of Indian industries. They were appointed by him. You have got to look only to the constitution of any of these panels to see that they are composed of men who at some sacrifice to their ordinary avocations attended them and have done a very good job of work. I thought it was no good just saying that they had done a good job of work. I thought I should try and get the facts about one of the more important panels, facts about its constitution and its work and I have got them here.

I will tell the House about the Steel Panel which is one of the more important panels. The Steel Panel is composed of the following five people—Sir Padamji Ginwala of Scob, Sir J. J. Ghandy of Tatas, Mr. Bashir, Representative of the Re-rollers, Mr. Hain of Bralthwaites, and

Mr. Frank Parr, late Steel Commissioner of the Government of India.

During the period April to September last, the following action was taken by this Panel. Questionnaires were issued to all the primary and secondary producers in the country, to all Provincial Governments and States, 140 re-rolling mills in the country, 52 European and Indian Chambers of Commerce, all the refractory manufacturers, and structural engineering firms, wagon building firms, shipbuilding and ship repairing firms, to all Central Government Departments, who had post-war schemes in which iron and steel could be used. Some of the re-rolling mills in Bombay and Calcutta were visited, the Mysore Iron and Steel Works in South India, and the representatives of the Government of Madras were examined regarding their post-war plans.

Since the return of the two members from abroad, the Panel has held 23 meetings, visited the works of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, the Mysore Iron and Steel Works and others too numerous for me to mention. On February 20 this year, it met representatives of Provincial and Indian State Governments and their industries committees and discussed the provisional recommendation of the Panel. During this month, it is proposed to hold further meetings before finalising the report which it is expected will be submitted to the Government before the end of this month.

Consumers' Interests

What I have said about steel applies for most of the other panels so that I do not think that the Planning and Development Department can be accused either of not having constituted these panels or of working them without the assistance of those best suited to advise. The speaker who followed him, my Hon'ble friend, the gallant and learned Lieut.-Col. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, lamented the preponderance of business interests and deplored the absence of any regard for the consumer. Apart from the fact that that again is not correct, it shows the complete absence of co-ordination in the policy in this matter which has been put forward on behalf of the Muslim League Party.

Now, Sir, as an example of the interest displayed by the Government of India with regard to consumers' interests, I would draw attention to the communique issued when we passed orders on the cement industry. It was thought that one way of protecting the consumers against excessive prices was to prevent

a monopoly developing in the industry and several licences have therefore been deliberately given to interests other than A.C.C. and Dalmia. I do not think I need labour this point any longer, of course, except to say this, that if we, in India, want industrialisation, the consumer like any other citizen will have to pay for it. You cannot industrialise a country without the taxpayer to some extent paying for such industrialisation.

MR. T. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER (European Group): Question.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: You do not know.

MR. P. J. GRIFFITHS (European Group): You have other methods.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Look at Australia. All I wish to say is that there should be a mean drawn between how far you should protect the consumer and how far you should assist industry.

The second point which my Hon'ble friend raised was that they are not fully informed of the activities of the Planning and Development Department. I cannot help that. We have issued any amount of communiques and Press Notes and they have all been appearing in newspapers. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Member reads them. Any number of documents emanate from my Department and copies of the same are all placed in the library of the House. For example, last year, Sir Ardeshir Dalal issued a statement of Government industrial policy. Most of the queries which the Hon'ble Member raised are answered in this book. This is in the library of the House. I really cannot help it if Hon'ble Members make allegations without first ascertaining facts.

Location of Industries

The next point of objection which he raised was about the location of industries. He said that the location of industries had been decided upon without reference to Provinces. Now, Sir, that again is a complete terminological inexactitude. If Hon'ble Members had read the pamphlet, "Statement of Government Industrial Policy" which was issued before the panels began to work, they would have seen in Paragraph 15 the following statement:

"The Government of India propose without delay to enter into discussions with Provinces and with the Indian States in the light of the policy stated above and are confident that it will be possible to evolve a machinery which will enable an agreed policy to be implemented in practice in a spirit of friendly co-operation on the part of all parties concerned."

That policy is being followed at the present moment in the industries in respect of which

orders have been passed about the creation of additional capacity, so that, I do not know really why the Hon'ble Member made that particular statement.

Then, Sir, another statement which he made was that these decisions were taken without deciding whether the location would be suitable at these centres. This is altogether absurd. I may tell the Hon'ble Member that there have been three industries in which matters have come to a point when orders could be passed; of these one is cement. Does my Hon'ble friend really think that we have given permission for the erection of additional factories without making enquiries as to what are the most suitable places for their location. I can assure you, Sir, that that is not the case.

Cotton Textiles

The other one is cotton textile. There the Government were advised by the representatives of the industry. Is it likely that they would put up a plant for the location of so many thousand spindles here and so many spindles there without taking into consideration coal, water supply and other facilities? I do not want to take up much of the time of the House, and without going into details, I can assure my Hon'ble friend that if at any time, he wishes to have information as to the reasons for the location of this or that cement factory or this or that cotton textile mill, I shall be very happy to provide him with such information.

I have omitted one point. He wanted that the reports of panels should be placed in the library of the House. As soon as we have done with them, I shall certainly do so, though judging from the lack of knowledge of the activities of the Department, I do not think that mere putting copies of panel reports in the library of the House will increase the knowledge of the Hon'ble Member to any great extent.

MR. K. C. NEOGY (Congress): Sir, if I may interrupt the Hon'ble Member, is it a fact that at least in one case a panel has not met although it was appointed more than a year ago, and the chairmanship is practically going abegging still?

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Yes, Sir; it is the Panel on Paints and Oils.

MR. T. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER, (European Group): Is the Hon'ble Member aware that in this House we asked his predecessor to give us these publications and let us know what was going on in these various planning committees and so on, and it was refused?

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Because we would not understand them.



Making rubber from castor oil has been one of the successful experiments at the Institute. Here, a research worker is showing the finished castor oil rubber (called Factice) as well as a small tyre made of it.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: I did not say that the Hon'ble Members do not understand them; all that I say is that they do not read them. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Neogy has spotted a weak chink in my armour; but he knows perfectly well the reasons why the prospective chairman of the Paints and Oils Panel has not taken charge of his work. I do not think this is a proper place to discuss the reasons for that.

My Hon'ble friend from the deserts of Sind said that a businessman should be allowed to "proceed normally" and there should be no interruption in the free play of his wishes. I think that Hon'ble gentlemen opposite know what happened to the country before controls were started and when businessmen were allowed to act normally.

I do not think that there would be any large body of support in this House in favour of the view that when the public fisc is to be charged with the expenses of increased industrialisation that the State should have no hand in regulating



The Harcourt Butler Technological Institute.

The Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Calcutta, named after Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., a former Governor of the United Provinces, was started in 1921 for technological training and research. At present, the Institute has two sections, the General Research Section and the Oil Section. In the General Section, there is an up-to-date laboratory for applied chemistry, containing a number of demonstration and experimental plants. The Oil Section's equipment includes a collection of apparatus for testing oils, fats, waxes, soaps, paints, varnishes and other allied products. There is also a model oil mill equipped with modern machinery. The Institute offers its students courses of study in general as well as oil research. An interesting post-war innovation of the Institute is its training of demobilised Indian soldiers in cottage industries connected with oils and fats.

The manufacture of Factice yields a liquid by-product and this apparatus is to find out further uses for it. Uses already discovered are as a solvent for oils and as a base for perfumes.

An open-air demonstration class for demobilised soldiers at the Institute. They are being taught how to make bars and cubes of soap.



This experiment in the Oil Section of the Institute is being carried out for extraction of oil from Balsam ("Gulmedi") seeds.

and restraining the normality of business methods. But the policy of Government in this matter as regards control was again stated by my predecessor Sir Ardeshir Dalal in paragraph 14 of this document whose perusal I would commend to the House.

"In a planned economy (and I imagine, said Sir Akbar, the country needs a planned economy) it is impossible to do without controls. Government consider that such controls should be the very minimum required. They propose that apart from licensing, controls should be undertaken to achieve the following objects."

And I should like to read the first of these objects which I think will commend itself to the House.

"To secure a balanced investment in industry agriculture and the social services. It will be necessary after the war (this was written, said Sir Akbar, while the war was on) to ensure that the available capital resources are utilised on a balanced plan of agricultural, industrial and other development and that inside the field

of industrial development a balance is kept between manufacture of capital and consumer goods. Agricultural development will be undertaken wholly under the auspices of the State. That is because the bulk of the holders of land are poor and cannot themselves finance, at any rate initially, improvements such as contour-bunding and irrigation by lift pumps. In many cases it will be possible to recover the cost ultimately."

I need not go through all the objects. So that it is no use my Hon'ble friends urging that the businessman should be allowed to proceed normally; because if this country wants a planned economy there must be control in the interests of the very consumer for whom Sir Ziauddin Ahmed spoke with such eloquence the other day.

Co-ordination of Plans

Then, Sir, he fired off another charge that there was no co-ordination between the Planning and Development Department and other departments of the Government of India; that in fact the Planning and Development Department did not see the plans of the other departments who acted as they thought fit. I am afraid that again is completely and utterly incorrect. The appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal marked a change of policy on the part of the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. NEOGY: (Congress) His resignation also marked another change.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: I am coming to that and I will explain. Before his appointment and the constitution of this department it was felt that reconstruction (as it was then called) could best be carried out by each of the executive departments of State, whether it was War Transport or Posts and Air or anything else. And those departments got going with their plans. Then it was felt, in view of the general interest shown in the country in favour of having some co-ordination plan of development, that that could best be achieved by having at the centre a Minister who would draw the threads together and present Government from time to time with the different sections of the plans. And that is what Sir Ardeshir Dalal set himself to do.

Ever since his appointment no plan of a Government department has been sanctioned without it having been first discussed with the Planning and Development Department and later by a Committee of the Executive Council which was at one time called the Reconstruction Committee of Councils and which is now called the Co-ordination Committee of Councils, of which the Planning and Development Member is the Vice-President and on which on most

occasions H.E. the Viceroy himself presides. So there is no question of lack of co-ordination in so far as the different units of the Government of India are concerned.

But then my Hon'ble friend might have said, "What about the Provincial plans, their five-year plans?" The fact is that every Province has submitted its five-year plan covering the whole gamut of Provincial activity—agriculture health, irrigation, and all the numerous activities to the Central Government in the Planning and Development Department. Some of the Provinces have finalised their plans, with others the plans are still provisional. The intention of Government, as I think I announced in answer to a query the other day, is that before many weeks have passed they would consider the amount of money which should be granted to the Provinces for the specific purposes which the Central Government approve in their several five-year plans; and in doing that to allot, according to our judgment, priorities as between the different objectives,—health, agriculture, irrigation works and so on.

One of my Hon'ble friends opposite pleaded for particular emphasis being given to rural uplift. Of course there is no question that if these plans materialise—as I hope with the aid of money which the Centre is going to give them they will materialise—the principal beneficiary will be the rural population because the greater portion of our population is in the villages and not in the towns. So that there again—to come back to my point—in so far as the Provinces are concerned there is no lack of co-ordination as between the Centre and them.

Industrial Development

I will just come to a point raised by Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmed before dealing with Sir Ardeshir Dalal's resignation. What Dr. Sir Ziauddin said was that Government in their planning have only seen to the profits which an industrialist would get, that means to say that we were interested only in those industries which are likely to yield good dividends. In this connection I would like to read out again from the same document what the Government's view is:

"Government attach particular importance to the development of those industries which constitute the foundation of modern industrial life, such as the iron and steel industry, the heavy engineering industries, the machine tool industry, the heavy chemical industry and so on. But while the development of these industries must take high priority, it must form part of a balanced plan in which due place is given to consumption goods industries."

And in the same report a list of 20 industries, which Government call 'basic,' has been given which we consider important and should be established in this country. If private capital is not available for the establishment of such industries, Government have expressed their intention that they will come in with State assistance. I have only to recall to the House the answer I gave to a question the other day in which I announced the coming of a mission from the United Kingdom to advise us in the matter of the establishment of an aircraft industry in this country. I do not think that there is any reason for the charge that we have only gone in our planning for the safe and profit-making industries and not for what is necessary for the country as a whole.

A Remarkable Achievement

Sir, the question of Sir Ardeshir Dalal's resignation has been repeatedly mentioned in this House in order to make every one's flesh creep, and also connected with it has been the resignation of Dr. Vakil, and it has been implied that the reasons for both the resignations were not dissimilar. That, Sir, again is entirely incorrect. Sir Ardeshir Dalal, with whom I was associated almost from the very day that he joined office here, resigned for personal reasons. There were no other reasons, but personal reasons.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: What were those personal reasons?

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Now I ask you, you have yourself seen the statement of what was done under his charge by the Department, you have yourself seen the statement which he issued to the Press and to which wide publicity was given.

It was a remarkable achievement for the 18 months that he was in charge of the Department. Do you feel that a man who had struggled, as he did, for 18 months and was bringing what he had done to fruition, was likely to throw that away and not see the fruits of his work. That is not psychologically correct. There were no other reasons but reasons which he himself gave which were personal. Dr. Vakil resigned for completely dissimilar reasons and if you wish for further information, you will get a chance when I reply to a question in the House on his resignation. I do not think I need say very much more.

Mr. MOHAN LAL SAKSENA (Congress): What about Dr. Vakil's statement?

MR. PRESIDENT: Order, order. Hon'ble Member's time need not be taken up now by other matters.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: If you will permit me two or three minutes more, I would like to

end up on a note of appeal. About 25 years ago when I was still a very young man I happened to attend a function in honour of the late Lord Sinha. At that function a great friend of India, Mr. Montague, said, "I look forward to the day when Indians shall walk the highways of their own land conscious that they are the masters of its destinies".

Sir, we are on the eve of being able to do that after 25 years. Now, I ask, Sir, whether the sort of statements made, wild statements, statements which are not based on facts,—whether such statements should be made by legislators who will soon be members of a sovereign legislature? I think not, Sir.

CANADA SUSPENDS 300 PRICE CEILINGS

The Canadian Government have recently announced relaxation of their economic stabilising programme by suspending some 300 prices ceilings and easing wartime controls which had rigidly curbed general wage and salary increases. They have also revised their policy of import subsidies, which will henceforth be confined to a relatively short list of items.

As a consequence, and with a view to facilitating the import of goods from Allied countries in which war conditions have given rise to high prices, a new procedure for the pricing of imported goods has been announced. According to the new procedure, the sale price of non-subsidised imports will be based on current costs of manufacture plus a reasonable margin to provide for necessary incidental expenditure.

The new procedure, which is applicable to 16 Allied countries including India, would be of special advantage to Indian exporters and manufacturers, who will no longer be handicapped by Canadian price ceiling which hitherto have in some cases been below current costs of production.

IMPORT OF SCRAP

The Government of India have, for some time past, not been allowing import of brass scrap and ingots and copper scrap in view of material available with Disposals authorities. It has now been decided to consider applications for the import of this material provided they are backed by firm offers from exporting countries at prices which would enable sale in India within the ceilings fixed by Government.

Importers concerned are advised to address their applications to the Non-Ferrous Metals Officer, Industries and Supplies Department, North Block, New Delhi.

CAPITAL GOODS—INDUSTRIAL PANELS—COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Planning Member's Statement in Central Assembly

SPEAKING in the Legislative Assembly on March 13 on a cut motion moved by Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai "to censure (a) the Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration; (b) on the administration of the Centrally Administered areas and (c) to discuss their planning and development policy," the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, said:

Sir, I rise to answer that part of the cut motion which relates to planning and development policy. In his remarks the Mover confined himself to the alleged failure of the Government to procure for Indian industrialists the capital goods they wanted; and coming as he does from Ahmedabad, I imagine that his reference was more specially to the lack of capital equipment in the cotton textile industry.

Sir, I would like to explain that in October 1943, before the establishment of the Planning and Development Department—a point to which my friend Sir Azizul Huque has referred, but I will give you a few further facts—a letter was addressed to all the appropriate chambers of commerce and industry, asking them as follows: "I am therefore to request you in the interests of the industry to communicate to the Government of India without delay the industry's or your requirements of capital goods for delivery during a period of say two years after the end of the war for (a) replacement of worn out machinery and (b) normal development of the industry."

Cotton Textile Industry

As Sir Azizul Huque pointed out, the reply to this communication was not at all satisfactory except in the case of the textile industry. I am not blaming the various industries at that time for not having sent more extensive replies. We were then in a rather critical period of the war and the industries were fully engaged in churning out war orders and I do not blame them, for they could not sit down with their depleted staffs to work out plans of post-war reconstruction; but while I do not blame the industry, the blame should also not rest on Government. We gave them such a picture as we then could and asked them to provide the information.

I am glad to say that so far as the cotton industry was concerned we had by that time

constituted the Cotton Textile Control Board and through their help we were able to give the United Kingdom a rough idea of the capital goods which the industry might require. We gave fairly full details and the total bill came to Rs. 37 crores. I do not think therefore that Government could be blamed for not having taken as early action as they could in letting known the wants of our industrialists to the United Kingdom.

Industrial Panels

Then we come to the period of the starting of the Planning and Development Department under Sir Ardeshir Dalal. This was the picture he found—very little response from the industrialists as to what were their capital requirements—the only industry about which he was able to say anything was the textile industry. In order to get a move on, he did two things. He constituted about 26 panels. Under each panel various industries were grouped. These panels were composed of experts, businessmen and so on. They were given definite targets as to what was necessary to be done. For example, in the case of cotton textiles, the target was that the production had to be increased from 5,000 million yards to 7,200 million yards.

At the same time with the encouragement of H. E. the present Viceroy we approached the great Indian industrialists and said to them—if you want to go to Europe and America to survey conditions there and look for possibilities for obtaining capital goods or machinery required for starting new industries we will give you the necessary facilities. That was in 1944. The industrialists did not go till some time in the middle of 1945.

We also sent a delegation of Indian industrialists to Australia and the reason was that we felt that Australia was a country which in its industrial development had to overcome some of the difficulties which face our own country. So, we sent a different team of industrialists there. Though the war was still on and it was difficult to obtain passages, we also gave facilities for travel to the United Kingdom and to the United States to any serious minded industrialist who wanted to go and negotiate either for the purchase of machinery or for getting technical expert advice in respect of any new schemes which he had.

Therefore I do not think that you can blame Government for not having taken as early steps as we possibly could to help Indian industry in the matter of the procurement of capital goods to the greatest extent. My Hon'ble friend has

quoted the example of Russia but Russia in 1928 and India in the middle of a war in 1943-46 are two quite different propositions. Russia had no lack of experienced manpower and they were at peace. We were at war and we did not have sufficient manpower. Another important consideration is that Russia, when it started on its five-year plans had a strong dictatorship which was able to make its will felt over all sections of the people. I do not think it is a correct analogy to compare Russia of 1928 and India during the last three years of war. I think, Sir, I have said enough on this point.

Planning Policy

Now, on the general question of the policy of the Planning and Development Department, Sir Ardeshir Dalal soon after he left issued a statement which was widely published in the Press surveying what had been done under his leadership during the 18 months when he was in office. I think anybody who knew, as I know the difficulties under which he worked will realise that he, assisted by the Departments of the Government of India and, if I may say so, the Finance Department, did an extremely good piece of work. I am not going to take up the time of the House on it, because the whole thing is in print and I can let Hon'ble Members have a copy of Sir Ardeshir Dalal's statement as to what had been done during the 18 months that he was in office. (An Hon'ble Member: Why did he go out?) That point does not arise. I think, when you have read it, you will consider it a very creditable achievement.

I now take up the story after the time Sir Ardeshir Dalal left a few weeks ago and my own responsibility began. I found that a great number of the panels had reported or were on the point of reporting their conclusions. And the action we have taken is to hurry up the work, present the reports to Government and get the Government decisions on them. I hope that it may be possible to finish this work by the end of next month.

I would remind the House that in answer to a question the other day or in answer to a speech of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Griffiths, I revealed that we were now taking action in the matter of fixing priorities as between the various schemes of development; so that the Central Departments as well as Provincial Governments would know how much money would be available from the Centre for the various schemes under the different headings: health, agriculture and so on. I hope that this work will soon be concluded, so that when our successors come into office they will find, I hope, the plans going forward with the money earmarked for them. Of course, these will be five-year plans and all the

money will not be given in the first year, so that our successors will, in consultation with the then Provincial Governments, be able to alter the decisions in this or that respect either from experience or because of changes in policy.

I do not think I need say much more. Please remember that the planning and development policy of this Government has been fashioned in concert with industrialists and public men. They are serving on most of our panels. It is not a policy evolved in the purlieu of the Secretariat, but it is something which has been fashioned by a man who is a great industrialist himself and in consultation with those available and best suited to advise in this connection. Sir I have nothing more to say.

Ordnance Factories

MR. VADILAL LALLUBHAI (Congress): May I, Sir, ask a question or two from the Hon'ble Member? I quite realise that Sir Akbar is in charge of this Department only for the last two months. In the second part of their report, the Reconstruction Committee have said that they have no data about their own Ordnance factories.

MR. PRESIDENT: What is the question which the Hon'ble Member wants to ask?

MR. VADILAL LALLUBHAI (Congress): The Hon'ble Member said that the industrialists did not give him the data and I was saying that he has not got the data of his own factories.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: I can explain that in a minute, Sir. In the first place, I do not complain about the textile industry; I rather praised them. It is one of the three industries which really did give us the data. But on the point about Ordnance factories, the reference in the report is to this. At the time the report was written, it was not known what would be the strength of the Army in peacetime. How much of the production of the Ordnance factories would be necessary to continue making munitions of war? What Ordnance factories, if any, could be set free for turning over to civil production and so on? That was the reference and not anything else. We had the technical data, but at the time when that report was written, we had no knowledge, or at least we had no decisions as to what the strength of the Army in peacetime would be and therefore what would be the load from the Army side on these Ordnance factories.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Congress): How is it that no adequate care was taken to consult either the agricultural interests or the artisans, that is, cottage industry of the people? You suggested at the time of the Standing Finance

Coir manufacture is an important cottage industry of Travancore. Here coir is being sorted by women workers.



Committee that a special panel should be constituted for cottage industries, but nothing has been done. I would like to have some information on that.

MR. PRESIDENT: If it is within the province of the Hon'ble Member, he may give the information.

MR. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI (Muslim League): I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is this within the rules of debate that after the speaker has uttered his utterance of the day, we can go on cross-examining him?

MR. PRESIDENT: We do not cross-examine at all. If there is any cross-examination it will be done outside this House. But if questions are asked to elicit information for the benefit of the House I do not think there should be any serious objection to them.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Sir, data are being collected for the following cottage industries: paper making, calico printing, gur making, basket making, coir manufacture metal industries, pottery, sericulture and silk-weaving, gold-thread industry, carpet making, cotton ginning, tobacco and tanning industries.

It is very difficult these days to get together bodies of people for constituting all sorts of panels. As I said before, there are 26 panels already and the data for many of these cottage industries are being collected. Once the data are collected the Government of the time can constitute a panel or a Committee to take steps to see how that particular cottage industry can be encouraged.



A pressed bale of coir fibre is being removed from the hydraulic press.

PLANNING FOR PROSPERITY IN ORISSA

Mr. B. G. Gokhale's Broadcast

ADEQUATE food and clothing, full employment, healthy conditions of life and a modicum of comfort for the common man—this is the aim of the Provincial planning authorities in Orissa, according to Mr. B. G. Gokhale, Adviser to the Governor of Orissa.

Broadcasting from the Delhi Station of A.I.R. on March 9, Mr. Gokhale traced the history of the province and said:

The World War started soon after the province (Orissa) came into existence and the infant province has not yet got over its teething troubles. It inherited three different systems of administration from Madras, Bihar and Central Provinces. The unification of laws, administrative procedure and revenue systems has not yet begun. The province is possibly the poorest and the cheapest run province in India. The Provincial Government is still without a habitation of its own. More than half the province consists of Partially Excluded Areas. Over 20 per cent. of the population is officially classed as backward. Communications are extremely unsatisfactory. The rivers are mostly unbridged. But what is perhaps worse; the province virtually consists of four land-locked islands surrounded by the Bay of Bengal on the south-east and by 30 different provinces and States on all other sides. Here, with a vengeance is a country crying for planned development on a regional basis. But before I go on to planned development, let me give you a little more of the background.

A One-Crop Province

Orissa is practically a one-crop province—depending on a rice crop which is exposed to the vagaries of floods, drought and cyclones. While the rivers are raging torrents bearing death and destruction during the rains, there is insufficient water for rabi cultivation during the cold weather. Advocating development of the Mahanadi Valley, famous Madras Engineer, Sir Arthur Cotton, wrote in 1858 as follows:—

"And then observe a district like Orissa, one dreary alternation of unmitigated drought or flood, without a single indication of improvement in any respect."

The river valleys of Orissa are still undeveloped. But the people are anxiously watching for development of which great

hopes have been raised during the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's recent visit to Cuttack.

What with floods, drought and cyclones, there is hardly any year in which relief operations are not necessary in some part of the province. With a peasantry generally on the verge of starvation, the cattle are stunted and impoverished, stall feeding is unknown. Cow-dung is largely used as fuel and the soil devoid of calcium has been completely impoverished. The best imported Haryana cattle from the Punjab quickly deteriorate in Orissa. No wonder the milk supply is either inadequate or non-existent in many places. Most of the fish from the Chilka goes to Calcutta as local people cannot afford it. Deep sea fishing is unknown. Estuaries, well stocked with fish, cannot be exploited on account of bad communications and lack of refrigerating arrangements. No wonder that out of 10 children under 15 years of age, who were recently examined for deficiency diseases, less than 7% were found to be in good state of nutrition.

Health and Education

Turning to public health, there is no town in the province which has got both pipe water supply and drainage. Mosquitoes are abundant and malaria takes a very heavy toll. Available statistical information, for what it is worth, indicates that Orissa very nearly heads the list in death rate in the whole of India. Infant mortality is appalling. Diseases like Filaria, Leprosy and Yaws complete the picture. Malnutrition and disease have combined to sap the vitality of the population and one could hardly blame these who take to opium to drown their sorrows.

Primary education is in the hands of teachers who are paid less than ordinary coolies. Facilities for higher education are very poor. The Utkal University is in its infancy and has no habitation of its own. It will be many years before the university is sufficiently well equipped with facilities for higher education—let alone industrial and scientific research. Organised industries hardly exist. And although the people have still preserved their artistic talent and craftsmanship—Cuttack is famous for its silver filigree work which is admired all over the world—finance and marketing arrangements are wanting to encourage workers and prevent exploitation. The provision of cheap electricity is a crying need to promote industrial development.

I have painted this grim picture—which is incredible unless seen—not because I like to dwell on it but to give the background against which post-war plans have to be laid. With obvious limitations of finance, trained personnel and manpower, our plans for the first five years period had to be fairly elementary. The problem was not how to discover items for inclusion in our plans but how to pick and choose and omit schemes which were attractive but too ambitious to be tackled in the first five year period. Rates of pay in Orissa are extremely low, and, with every other province launching out on ambitious schemes of development, it was obvious that we could not expect to get very much in the way of trained personnel. We have therefore concentrated on sending our students abroad and to other parts of India for various kinds of training so that on their return, the pace of development may be quickened.

Secondly, we are concentrating on increasing the supply of nourishing food to the people, including protective foods and vitamins so as to replace their pathetic contentment by a little vitality and ambition. We hope to improve public health and provide some of the towns and villages with pure drinking water supply and drainage. We further hope to encourage the growth of industries, including handloom and cottage industries, so as to increase the revenues of the province and make it feasible for us to pay for education, public health and other nation-building activities for which we now depend on doles.

Official and Public Co-operation

I am glad to say that our plans represent a truly co-operative effort on the part of non-officials and officials who combined to produce a synthesis which is likely to command the highest common measure of acceptance in Orissa. It is only by popular support that a plan of this kind can ever succeed. We had the benefit of advice and guidance from several eminent non-official ladies and gentlemen who kindly served on our Planning Board. His Excellency Sir Hawthorne Lewis, Governor of Orissa, himself presided over this Board and his inspiration and guidance were ungrudgingly at our disposal.

We are deeply indebted to Sir Ardeskar Dalal, the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands and other Hon'ble Members and officials of the Government of India who have consistently sympathised with our difficulties and encouraged us.

The province of Orissa is so situated and so poor that little or nothing can be done without

the utmost co-operation from the Centre, the Orissa States and the neighbouring provinces. We on our part are doing our best to invoke and facilitate such, co-operation. I gratefully acknowledge the generous response which has already been made by the Rulers of the Orissa States, the Hon'ble the Resident, Eastern Agency, and the Political Agent, Sambalpur. Thanks also to a new orientation of thought and the very sympathetic and liberal attitude which has been taken up by the Government of India, regional developments on the lines of the Tennessee Valley Authority now seem within the range of practical politics. We hope that before long the Mahanadi Valley Project will be put into execution. There is perhaps no other single scheme of this nature in the whole of India which will yield a greater dividend in the shape of human happiness and relief of human suffering.

War against Poverty

Rome was not built in a day; nor an Orissa be made to flow with milk and honey within the next five years. The neglect of centuries will take long to remedy. Prosperity like peace has to be fought for and paid for. The new war against poverty, ignorance and disease demands a total effort from all people and on all fronts. Orissa needs initiative and bold planning for the next 100 years. As observed by the Chinese Philosopher—

'If you are planning for one year, plant grain.'

'If you are planning for ten years, plant trees.'

'If you are planning for hundred years, plant men.'

"Orissa needs all the planning but above all, she needs plans to be put into vigorous execution without delay. The very effort to execute these plans will build up the strength of the people. I firmly believe that given wise leadership and an enthusiastic band of trained engineers and workers, a miracle could be wrought even during the next five years and solid foundations laid on which the happiness and prosperity of Utkal could be built up in due course".

The Chettur Delegation, sent by the Commerce Department last month to explore possibilities of developing Indo-China trade, returned on March 30 to New Delhi by air after completing its task in China.

Commerce Member on Free Export of Hides and Skins from India

Future of Shipping Policy

"HAVING regard to the economic sanctions which will be imposed against South Africa very soon and against the import of wattle bark, and having regard to the world situation to-day, we are quite prepared to allow free export of hides and skins as soon as possible and then to watch the situation for a few months as to what extent it may or may not really affect the position in India. If we find at any stage that Indian tanners are not able to get enough material within the country, we will have to step in and intervene, because while we are quite anxious that the interests of hides and skins merchants should not suffer, at the same time Indian development of manufacturing in the country should not also suffer."

So stated the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Huque, Commerce Member, in his speech on the Finance Bill in the Central Assembly on March 25, 1946.

He also referred to shipping and the carriage of salt from Aden, Port Said and the West Coast ports of India. Speaking on the future of India's shipping policy, he said, "We have been for some time trying our best to make it known to His Majesty's Government that in so far as India is concerned we should get first preference in any shipping acquisition from the U.K.; and we have been successful to the extent that we have been assured that in the matter of new shipping India will have first preference."

Salt, Shipping and Skins

The Hon. Member said:

There are only three points which have emerged out of the discussions, to which I have to reply: the first about our salt policy, the second about shipping and the third about hides and skins.

Now, Sir, as regards salt, it has been suggested—in fact I was a bit worried as to whether the speaker who was referring to it really meant or not—that not only Port Said but also Aden salt should be altogether prohibited. I was not quite clear what he meant. But I should make this position known to the House that the Aden manufacturers are all Indian manufacturers. They are not manufacturers who have come from other parts of the world but they are men who have gone there from India.

MR. M. R. MASSANI (Congress): Not all, but only partly.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: Mostly. Very little of outside men are there. This Aden salt for

many many years had the main market in Bengal. They were very hard hit during the war. In fact, if there was any one who was most hard hit in that part during the war, it was the Aden manufacturers and the Aden workers.

MR. AHMED EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER (Muslim League): They made a lot of money.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I do not know. And I do not know whether I should not include someone else also within such category. I should say that they were very hard hit, and owing to difficult shipping position they had practically no supply of ships. We have therefore allotted four ships to Aden. That is so far as Aden is concerned.

Port Said Salt for India

So far as the Port Said salt position was concerned, the situation developed in a manner which was utterly beyond our control. I think my friends sometimes completely forget past history. If they remember even an iota of historical facts they will remember that there was a terrible salt famine in Bengal in 1942 and 1943, and in a very large part round about. At that time we were desperately trying to get salt from anywhere—Port Said, Aden, and West Coast. Sir, unfortunately due to circumstances over which we had no control whatsoever, shipping was not available to the extent that it could otherwise be available to get salt from either Aden or from the West Coast. At the same time a very large number of military ships were available—it was necessary that they should have some ballast—and they were prepared to take any quantity of Port Said salt as ballast for their ships. Having regard to the salt famine in Bengal and round about, we thought it absolutely essential that that salt should be filled in as ballast in those ships. That is why these ships had this salt brought from Port Said which relieved the salt situation in India.

KHAN ABDUL GHANI KHAN (Congress): Why was no attempt made to get salt from the Frontier Province?

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: It would have been possible if the Frontier had some rivers which could carry salt to Bengal. But unfortunately the transport position is such that I cannot knock my head against the hard-hearted Frontier gentleman who just now spoke.

Sir, throughout 1945 the policy of the Government of Bengal, as also of the Food Department of the Government of India, was that at any cost there should be no recurrence of another salt famine. At that time nobody could see as to when the Japanese war would end, and by every report

it was understood that the shipping position would be more and more difficult in later months of the year. Much against our own wish the Government of Bengal suggested very emphatically and strongly that they should build up stocks of salt. Not only did they do that. They suggested that so long as salt was available, any quantity should be brought to Bengal from Port Said if salt was available there and if ships could be found which would take salt as their ballast. In fact it was due to their suggestion, much against our own personal wish in the matter, that 85,000 tons of salt came from Port Said in the first half and another 85,000 tons in the second half of 1945.

Position in 1946

That was an insurance against future difficulties in Bengal. Every insurance does not work in the way it is intended. As events turned out, the position was that the war with Japan was over. Having done all we could, we came to the other extreme. Bengal had got so much salt by that time that they were not prepared to take any more salt. That was the circumstance that was facing us in 1946. And the House will know that we have for the time being—at least for the next six months—stopped altogether any salt coming from Port Said to India. We have at present nine ships, some of which will touch Aden and we have allowed four ships to Aden for the next six months and five ships to West Coast ports.

That is the exact reason why we have allotted the ships as between Aden and the West Coast. We are quite anxious to develop West Coast; but I should like members to remember that in this matter of salt it is a question of personal wish or liking. There are people in certain areas of India who would like to consume a certain type and we cannot stop them, because we do not export or prevent people from bringing it; we have to give permission for the time being.

So far as the West Coast is concerned, I can quite understand that they have expanded rapidly during the war and they can now serve a large part of India; and in giving these five ships, their case was carefully considered. I can assure Hon'ble members of this House that the claims of the West Coast ports for salt transport from West Coast to other ports in India are being very carefully looked into; but the immediate arrangement is only a temporary make-shift arrangement and a short-term policy and the whole question will have to be reviewed as soon as the Bengal position eases itself, and it is possible to get more salt into Bengal

MR. AHMED E. H. JAFFER (Muslim League): Will five ships suffice?

SIR AZIZUL HUQUE: We have to consider not merely the bringing of the salt, but also ships which might be available to touch these ports. I hope my friend will also remember that the West Coast has the whole of India in command—in fact my friend's own district in Bombay, and Madras coast and the Frontier province—you cannot possibly expect that all ships which will go to Bengal must all be given to the West Coast or Aden; but in any case I am quite prepared to have the matter considered, subject to the fact that whether I will be here or somebody else is a matter over which I have no control for the time being.

As regards the shipping position, it is this: we have been for some time trying our best to make it known to H.M.G. that in so far as India is concerned we should get first preference in any shipping acquisition from the United Kingdom; and we have been successful to the extent that we have been assured that in the matter of new shipping India will have first preference. We have succeeded there.

And in so far as shipping from the United States is concerned, the position is not quite clear to us. First of all, the United States legislation about ships which will be sold by the United States to non-United States bodies is not yet quite clear. Some companies have tried their best to get shipping from the United States and Canada and they found that it will be ultimately better for them, from the point of view of financial liability and other matters, to get ships from the United Kingdom rather than from the United States.

Future Shipping Policy

Having regard to this position, we cannot proceed further in the matter. As regards the question of future policy, we have appointed a committee some time before; and I may say this Policy Committee was presided over by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the members of the Committee were Mr. Neogy, Mr. Master, Sir Halim Ghaznavi and Mr. Radcliffe; and that Committee, a few weeks ago, sent a preliminary report of its recommendations. We are considering the matter; but I think it will be realised that the future of shipping is ultimately dependent on the extent to which India can get a share of the world's trade of the future. It is no use developing and having ships, unless you are able to get a certain amount of freight and goods and passenger traffic, which is now taken by other ships of the world; and that question of adjustment is a matter which has yet to be settled before the shipping policy can be further developed.

In any case I can assure Hon'ble Members that we have taken every possible step to ensure

the interests of India, and we have made our views clear to H.M.G. Our representatives in trade and other representatives who have gone there are carefully watching the situation. We will take the earliest opportunity which will be offered to us.

As regards hides and skins, references were made to it. I can only say generally that having regard to the economic sanctions which will be imposed against South Africa very soon, and against the import of wattle bark, and also having regard to the world situation to-day, we are quite prepared to allow free export of hides and skins as soon as possible, and then to watch the situation for a few months as to what extent it may or may not really affect the position in India. We do not want to lose control over it. If we find that at any stage the Indian tanners are not able to get enough material within the country, we will have to step in and intervene, because while we are quite anxious that the interests of hides and skins merchants should not suffer, at the same time Indian development of manufacturing in this country should not also suffer. Our impression is that having regard to the new factor that has come in, namely, the likely stoppage of the import of wattle bark, the volume of hides and skins will possibly be much more than India can absorb for the time being; that is our estimate for the present.

Raw Hides Trade

DR. SIR ZIA-UD-DIN AHMAD (Muslim League): Raw hides and skins trade should not be destroyed.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: In any case I have supplied an argument which was not supplied by my friends the other day; we have decided to take our courage in both hands, and allow this thing to go abroad, subject to this over-riding factor that if at any stage we find that the Indian manufacturer is in any way hard hit by the export of a quantity which should not be exported or that he is not having enough materials for his manufacture, we must step in.

SIR ZIA-UD-DIN AHMAD (Muslim League): But something else may happen in the meantime.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: No one can say what may happen from time to time; but we have to guard against any eventuality; whether that eventuality is to be faced by me or by yourself, I do not know. But I think I will be guilty ultimately if I did not take all steps with a view to guaranteeing against that.

That is all I have got to say and I hope hon'ble members will realise that we are trying to do all we can in the matter of salt and of hides and skins.

EXPORTS TO FAR EAST

It is expected that shipping opportunities for commercial exports to the liberated Far Eastern territories may be available from the beginning of May. Exporters to these destinations are, therefore, informed that in regard to non-prohibited controlled commodities, they should submit applications for export to the Export Trade Controller at the port concerned with evidence of their previous shipments of the commodity applied for during the three years ending March 1942, in the case of cotton piecegoods, and three years ending March 1941 in the case of all other commodities, unless such evidence has been produced already.

As it will be necessary for steamship companies to know in advance the amount of cargo to be lifted to these destinations exporters should book their consignments with the steamship companies immediately after receipt of export licences.

Licences for export of quota-restricted commodities will be granted generally on the same general plan as for other destinations, except that in the case of Far Eastern territories the triennium ending March 1941 or 1942, as the case may be, will be taken as the basic period. Manufacturers will also be considered for licences for export to these destinations according to existing instructions as for other destinations.

INDIAN MEMBERS OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSIONS

The following gentlemen have accepted in their individual capacity, invitations from the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to become members of the various nucleus Commissions constituted at its first session:

1. Mr. K.C. Neogy, Commission on Human Rights.
2. Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, Statistical Commission.
3. Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Transport and Communication Commission.

The Commissions are expected to meet in New York towards the end of April.

The Council has also appointed Major C. Mani, I.M.S., Deputy Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, as member, and Dr. Chunilal Katial, Indian medical practitioner in London, as alternate, for the Technical Preparatory Committee for the Health Conference.

INDO-SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE PACT TO BE TERMINATED

WITH reference to the announcement made by the Hon'ble Dr. B. N. Khare, Member for Commonwealth Relations, in the Council of State on March 12, 1946, that the Government of India have informed the Union Government that they proposed to give the prescribed notice for the termination of India's commercial agreement with South Africa, the following are factual details regarding the Agreement and the trend of Indo-South African trade.

The commercial relations between India and South Africa in respect of import trade, are at present governed by the notes exchanged between the Governments of the two countries, in March 1938, which together constitute a temporary commercial agreement. The main provisions of the Agreement are as follows:

(i) "Articles, the growth, produce or manufacture of the one country, when imported therefrom into the territory of the other country, shall, in respect of customs duties and other taxes and charges levied on imports, and in all matters pertaining to the administration thereof, be treated not less favourably than like articles, the growth produce or manufacture of any other country; provided that the one Government shall not be entitled to claim the privileges or favours flowing from preferential treatment accorded, or to be accorded by the other Government exclusively to any of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations or to any possession or territory to any of them belonging or to any territory under the jurisdiction of any such member either as a Protectorate or as a Mandated Territory."

(ii) "In the event of either Government establishing or maintaining a system of licensing or quantitative regulation of imports, such system shall be so administered as not to discriminate against articles, grown, produced or manufactured in the other country, and the conditions under which licences or permits may be issued or obtained for the importation of such articles, shall be not less favourable than those applied in the case of like articles, grown, produced or manufactured in any other country."

(iii) "Notwithstanding the provisions of this Agreement, either of the two Governments may, where for any reason it is deemed necessary, prohibit or restrict the import of any article by the imposition of special duties or otherwise, provided that no such prohibition or restriction shall be imposed or maintained on like articles

imported from any other country in regard to which like grounds for the application of such measures exist."

The Agreement can be terminated by either Government giving three months' notice to the other.

In the pre-war year 1938-39, the value of India's exports to South Africa amounted to Rs. 149.2 lakhs and of imports therefrom to Rs. 34.7 lakhs. The balance of trade in merchandise (private) was in favour of the former to the tune of Rs. 114.5 lakhs. During the war, Indo-South African trade was highest in 1944-45 when India's exports to South Africa amounted to Rs. 1,187.8 lakhs, imports therefrom to Rs. 298.0 lakhs and balance of trade in merchandise (private) in favour of India to Rs. 889.8 lakhs.

The values of the principal articles exported from India to South Africa were as follows in 1938-39:

	Value in lakhs
Rice not in the husk	31
Groundnuts	8
Leather	2
Paraffin Wax	1½
Black Tea	2½
Gunny Bags	66¾
Gunny Cloth	11½

The values of the principal articles imported from that country were as follows in 1938-39:

	Value in lakhs
Coal and Coke	6
Barks for tanning	23

The following items made up approximately 90 per cent in value of the total export trade of India with South Africa in 1944-45:

	Value in lakhs
Cotton piecegoods (including twists and yarn)	277
Jute Bags and Cloth	129
Groundnuts	95
Paraffin Wax	73
Tea	33
Apparel, Haberdashery and Millinery	15
Woollen Carpets and Rugs	75
Linseed Oil	28
Sheep skins, tanned and leather unwrought	40

The values of the principal articles imported from that country during 1944-45 were as follows:

	Value in lakhs
Other nitro compounds and Explosives	19
Barks for tanning	45½
Other tanning and dyeing substances	15
Spirit	14
Copper Rods	26½
Diamonds	89½

FACILITIES FOR INDIAN STUDENTS IN BRITAIN

Sir S. Runganadhan's Speech at International Language Club

A club which offers to peoples from abroad a "home from home" and an introduction to English ways of living and to British members an opportunity of getting a "larger view" through friendship with peoples of a different national and cultural background celebrated its eighth anniversary and its success in promoting understanding between races in London recently. Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India, the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon and members of the Croydon Council were among the guests of honour.

The institution is the International Language Club, which is situated at Croydon, only 17 minutes by fast train from Central London.

The desire found in humanity to be friends is well illustrated by the growth of the organisation. When it was founded, it occupied only one house and had 10 resident members; to-day it has 29 houses and has 500 resident members.

From its inauguration—it should be remembered that during the six war years the Club could not function normally—its membership has exceeded 8,000, in which every country in the world was represented; since the cessation of hostilities it has had 730 new members, of which 150 have been Chinese.

During the war, one of the houses was completely demolished by a bomb and three others were badly damaged, but the objective of bringing to realisation a "world in harmony" is considered of such importance in Britain that priority was given to the house repairs by the authorities, so that the Club could immediately return to full activity. Nevertheless, the need for further expansion is already being badly felt.

International Language Club

The Club discourages cliques and class distinctions and young visitors, whether they come to Britain as students or apprentices, are equally free to enjoy the organisation's amenities. While many of the Indians who have availed themselves of the Club's advantages are attending University courses, the institution is also providing itself a "home from home" for those who have come to Britain under the various schemes for training them in British industrial methods. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc.—people who will be leaders of their peoples to-morrow—when they return to their homelands, take with them links of friendship with those innumerable other races. In this way the International Language Club is doing its

part towards achieving the great purpose for which it was dedicated—that the peoples of the world may find peace and happiness.

Speaking at the Club's anniversary dinner, Sir Samuel Runganadhan said he was full of admiration for the enterprise of its proprietor and for the energy and zeal with which he pursues the ideas and ideals which actuated its establishment and inspired its activities. Moreover, they at the India House owed a special debt of gratitude to Mr. Driscoll, who indeed proved himself a friend in need when at very short notice he most kindly arranged accommodation for a large number of Indian students who had arrived there unheralded and unannounced and who otherwise would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to find somewhere to lay down their heads.

Mr. Driscoll's idea and ideals, Sir Samuel Runganadhan said, which are implied in the title of his Club, to promote mutual understanding and goodwill amongst all students from overseas, whether from the Empire or from foreign countries, who come to this country is one that engages all our interests and merits our most cordial support.

More Indian Students Visit U.K.

It is especially true in case of my own young fellow countrymen, who are perhaps the oldest of overseas communities, as they are and have been the largest.

It is a far cry from the middle of the 19th century, when only very few Indians came to this country for educational purposes. In 1887 an unofficial census of Indian students in this country was made, and a total of 180 recorded. By 1894, 300 are recorded. Since then the numbers have steadily increased, until before the war the average annual number of Indian students in this country pursuing courses of study and further training in all branches of art, science pure and applied, engineering and medicine, etc., was round about 2,000.

During the year 1937-38, the latest year for which official statistics are at present available of students coming from homes outside the British Isles but within the British Empire, there were 2,848 full-time and 674 part-time; of students from foreign countries there were 2,248 full-time and 1,056 part-time. Thus the Indian student community in this country embodies in itself between one-third and one-half of all full-time students, both Empire and foreign, from overseas.

During the war the number of new arrivals at first dwindled and then practically ceased. But when peace came it was obvious that the flow would begin again and, as you know, during the current academic year it has almost become a



Sir Samuel Runganadhan (X) High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom, recently gave a reception at the India House to Indian students who arrived in England by the 'Georgie' for advanced studies at British Universities.

flood. Apart from the large number of private students who had been during the war debarred from coming here, the Government of India, in collaboration with Provincial Governments and most of the Indian States, launched in connection with their post-war proposals for reconstruction and development an important scheme for technical training of a large number of students, the main aim being to ensure that in due course the trained personnel required for industrial and technical development of the country would be forthcoming.

The scheme itself was a good one and its aims praiseworthy, and it is obvious that with industrial development in India proceeding as it is with ever-increasing acceleration, mills, works and factories would have to rely for their satisfactory operation upon a large number of well-trained technicians, chemists, engineers, physicists, and so on. But the scheme was somewhat hastily launched—and perhaps in the circumstances this was inevitable—and its inception and its prospects of success would undoubtedly have been increased if there had been fuller and earlier consultation, through my Education Department, with University and college authorities in this country. However, we have to take things as they

are and it was our duty and our earnest endeavour at the India House to do all we possibly could to ensure that the scheme proved a success despite the many and serious difficulties in the way.

Accommodation

I do not think that, despite all our warnings, it has yet been sufficiently realised in India that at the moment there is a very severe pressure on accommodation of British Universities and colleges throughout the United Kingdom. They are faced with a time lag of five or six years in case of home students, and with an ever-increasing number of applications from men and women from the armed forces, who are resuming or beginning University courses. In addition, they are under severe pressure from other competing authorities seeking admission for their special category of students, for example, the Colonial Office, British Council, and Dominion Governments as well as many allied and associated Governments.

One of the largest technical colleges in the country has, for instance, informed me that they cannot accept any more students in the departments of applied chemistry (including

chemical engineering), textile chemistry, textile industries and mechanical, electrical and municipal engineering and that this embargo will last for two years in many of these departments. The Vice-Chancellor of another University recently stated that he could fill each place in all his faculties three times over with home applicants only.

I think I can truly say that my Education Department, despite all the difficulty which I have emphasised above, rose nobly to their task, as I think you will agree when you hear the following figures: In all 1,300 applications for admission had to be dealt with and my Education Department were successful in arranging for the admission of about 700, including 50 women; of this number, about 320 places were secured for Government scholars, a larger proportion of whom were admitted for research and post-graduate courses.

But it was not only the matter of admission to a suitable course of study or training which presented difficulty. You all know—I need not remind you as it is a constant theme in newspapers—of what is known as the housing shortage. This, of course, accentuated as it was by the heavy damage done by enemy bombs and their sinister successors, has caused grave difficulties about accommodation not only in London but at most of the main University centres throughout the country.

Hostel for Indian Students

The problem was especially acute in London and you will appreciate the gravity of the problem when I tell you that on one occasion we had to make arrangements for the reception and accommodation of no less than 464 students who arrived at Liverpool and Southampton on the same day. In case of such unannounced and unexpected arrivals, Mr. Driscoll came to our rescue and with admirable promptitude and efficiency immediately made arrangements for their residence in this club. I have already expressed my gratitude to him for this action and I have no doubt that my feelings are shared by the students who found a roof over their heads and warm welcome to cheer them on their first night in a strange land. One batch of at least 100 students actually arrived on Christmas Day.

In consultation and with the co-operation of the University of London and with the sanction of the Government of India for the necessary expenditure, I have been able to establish a hostel for Indian students—two houses at Kensington Gardens Square. This has already been opened and I understand it will not be long before it can accept its full complement of about 60. In addition, the House Management Committee of the Indian Students' Hostel at 112, Grower Street, whose main buildings, as you are no doubt aware,

were unfortunately destroyed in 1940, have arranged with the University of London to take over two houses in Woburn Square, and these are being rapidly repaired and equipped and are expected to be available for students next month.

The accommodation position is also very acute in Edinburgh, and again on my recommendation and in consultation with the Edinburgh University authorities and with the sanction of the Government of India we have purchased a large house in the best residential part of Edinburgh, where it is hoped a hotel will be available for the residence of our Indian students there at a fairly early date. At other University centres throughout the United Kingdom, we are in constant touch with the authorities concerned about this question of accommodation, and I hope and believe that in due course we shall be able to make satisfactory arrangements for all our students.

Assurance to Parents

There has been, I gather, some discontent and criticism; I also know that there have been some rather alarmist rumours in India, which have been receiving considerable publicity, about the alleged plight of Indian students who have come here this year. I am accordingly most anxious to assure Indian parents and guardians who may have become anxious or uneasy as the result of these criticisms that the picture as we see it here is not nearly as black as they may imagine. I think in fact that the majority of students who have come this year would bear me out in this that on the whole, and despite certain inconvenience and perhaps austerities which in common with everyone else they have to endure, they are all settling down happily and comfortably to their particular course of study or training.

I can only repeat that the importance of the scheme is as fully realised here as it is in India and that we shall continue to do everything we can in our power to ensure that the main objects of the scheme are fully and properly realised and that in due course the material and cultural development of India will greatly benefit from the work of my young fellow countrymen who are now here preparing and equipping themselves for the tasks confronting them when they go back.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated March 30, the Government of India have declared the Indian tea export allotment for 1946-47, under the Indian Tea Control Act, at 413,902,349 lbs. This approximately corresponds with the quantity at present programmed for export during that year. This allotment represents 108 per cent. of India's standard export figure, as against 125 per cent. permitted by the International Tea Committee.

THE VICEROY'S VISIT TO JAIPUR

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Wavell recently visited Jaipur State and received a great ovation from the people. Laying the foundation-stone of the Jaipur Medical College, His Excellency said, "I had not realised until I came here that you already had so many specialist medical institutions; these will provide invaluable material for the students of this college; and the result will surely be an output of keen and skilful doctors".

The model town at Sanganer was among the places visited by Their Excellencies.



The Viceroy laying the foundation-stone of the Jaipur Medical College.

His Excellency and Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Jaipur with some villagers in the Sanganer model town.



Jaipur citizens accorded a rousing welcome to the distinguished visitors.



The students of St. Xavier's School greet the Viceroy. The boy near the car is reading out an address of welcome to His Excellency. (Below) The Viceroy being garlanded by a student of the school. (Left) The Viceroy examining some hand-loom products for which Jaipur is famous.



At Sanganer the Viceroy spent some time seeing the various processes in the manufacture of hand-made paper.





THE VICEROY IN ALWAR

H. E. the Viceroy during his recent visit to Alwar State inspected Alwar Jai Paltan at a parade (above) and decorated Subedar Madhey Khan (right) with the Order of British India.



SIR GURUNATH BEWOOR ON GOVERNMENT'S AIR TRANSPORT POLICY

SPEAKING on civil aviation during the debate on the Finance Bill, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Secretary of the Posts and Air Department, explained the Government's policy on air transport services.

Before the war, said Sir Gurunath, India had generally followed the policy of developing air transport services by private enterprise. This development was, however, only to a limited extent. It is unnecessary to go deeply into the question as to why the development was slow and limited. The principal reason was the inadequacy of the funds available for the development of civil aviation in India, and unlike other countries, India did not adopt the policy of heavy subsidisation of air services. What little progress had been made by the time war broke out was held up due to the conditions created by the war, which resulted in difficulty in procuring transport aircraft and spares for the existing aircraft. All manpower and all resources had to be devoted to the war effort.

Government's Plan

When Government undertook the preparation of plans for the post-war development of civil aviation in India, the question as to the agency to be adopted for the operation of the services was examined with great attention and in great detail. The first question was whether Government should assume sole responsibility for, and a complete monopoly of, all air services. This, after consideration, was rejected as being an impossible position to take, since it would mean that no individual could fly even in his own plane piloted by himself for his own purposes. The question was then considered whether the operation of air transport services, that is to say, services operated for the purpose of effecting public transport of passengers and goods and of mails should be the monopoly of the State, leaving private flying for business or pleasure to be operated by private persons.

The plan prepared by the Department examined two possible methods of operation (1) State operation, and (2) operation by private enterprise. State operation could be by a Department of Government subject to normal financial and other controls or by a Department of Government invested with autonomous powers of financial and other control, or by a statutory autonomous monopoly corporation with capital and other finance provided from public funds or partially or wholly by the issue of interest-bearing stock guaranteed by the State.

If operation was to be by private enterprise, there were two alternatives: (1) by a single monopolistic commercial organisation with its own capital operating under normal commercial principles of risk of loss and prospect of profit, or (2) by a limited number of companies duly licensed in this behalf.

There are certain advantages as well as disadvantages in having a State monopolistic organisation as well as in operation by either a monopolistic private enterprise or by a number of private enterprises. Views have been urged that complete nationalisation means serfdom; that nationalisation means bureaucracy and bureaucracy means stagnation. I do not wish, however, to deal with this matter on an academic or theoretical basis.

In our post-war plan, we detailed the different possible systems of agency for air transport and placed the matter before the Policy Committee. This Committee consisted of representatives of Departments of the Central Government, representatives of all Provincial Governments, representatives of Indian States, and a number of prominent non-officials representing persons interested in air transport. This Committee was generally of opinion that air transport services in India should be developed by private enterprise. Government themselves in arriving at a conclusion on this matter applied the following test, "What method would promote the most rapid and orderly development of civil aviation in India in the conditions envisaged at the end of the war?"

State Monopoly

Government as well as public opinion was anxious to see that India developed her air transport services as rapidly as possible in order to promote industrial, commercial and social development within the country, to enable India to take her proper place in international aviation and to build up a second line of reserve for Indian air force. The test applied therefore, was, as I have said, what would promote the most rapid and orderly development of air transport services in India.

If the State was to undertake the operation of all air transport services in India and to prohibit the operation of such services by any private enterprise, Government would have to undertake a very great task indeed for which considerable money and manpower would be needed. It was felt that in the event of a State monopoly, the rate of development would be slowed down due to limitation of capital and recurring expenditure and development would be

subject to the fluctuating conditions of Government finances. There would be many departments with plans for development clamouring for funds, and as air service is still regarded in some quarters as a luxury service, it was likely that civil aviation would receive a low position in the order of priority for provision of funds.

Air transport is still a comparatively new service. It is developing and changing very fast. Flexibility in management and imagination in development are essential. It was not quite certain that State ownership and management would provide such flexibility and such imagination. Financial and other controls are liable to be either too strict and thus prevent development or too loose and thus promote extravagance.

In a newly developing service only the best staff must be employed and the inefficient and semi-efficient should be ruthlessly expelled. This is not always possible under State management with its strict rules for fixation of wages and conditions of employment. Government were aware that private enterprise was ready and indeed anxious to come forward with men and all the money needed and to take reasonable risks.

With private enterprise, development can proceed simultaneously all over India, whereas under a monopolistic State management, services would have to be arranged in order of priority for development. India, as I have said before, had not developed civil aviation before the war and her air force had only developed during the war. It did not have therefore the necessary trained and experienced personnel and it would have had to borrow considerable personnel from outside. This would be much more difficult under a monopolistic State management than under private management.

At the same time, Government recognised that there might be cases where for the development of essential services State-ownership and management was the only possible method. There may also be cases in which it may be necessary for Government to take a financial interest in a private enterprise either with a view to assisting that enterprise or with a view to controlling from within the enterprise. After considering all aspects, the policy which Government adopted was announced in May 1945. This policy was as follows:—

Government's Policy

"The policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases, Government will take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the companies operating the air services and

appoint a Director on the Board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation, by the State itself, of any air transport service or services in particular cases and such operation may be by the Central Government, a Provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State."

Government were aware that a different policy had been adopted in the U.K. and in Canada, but they felt that the conditions in India were such that such a policy would not be suitable and would not achieve the object which they had in view, namely, the rapid development of civil aviation in India.

The decision of Government to promote the development of air transport by private enterprise does not mean that it would be unrestricted and unregulated. Government felt that control was far more important than ownership or management, *the control being in the public and in the national interests*. With a view to securing such power, Government brought in a Bill in the February Session of the Assembly in 1944. Under this Bill, the Governor-General in Council was given power to make rules "for the regulation of air transport services and the prohibition of the use of aircraft in such services except under the authority and in accordance with a licence authorising the establishment of services." This Bill was passed by both Houses of the Legislature and became law in March (18th) 1944.

Object of Licensing

Rules have accordingly been made for the establishment of a Licensing Board. Its powers and functions have been defined and the conditions under which licences will be granted have been detailed. These rules were first published with a view to obtaining public criticism, were modified as a result of criticisms received, and were finally published on January 23, 1946. They were laid on the table of both Houses (February 13, in the Assembly and February 18, in the Council of State) in accordance with section 5 (3) of the Indian Aircraft Act and have remained for the statutory period of one month.

The object of licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of service, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilise the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on orderly lines. I need not go into the details of the rules, but I would point out that the licence which is issued will provide, among others, for the following matters, namely, the places at which an aircraft may or shall land for traffic or other purposes, the conditions (diurnal, seasonal or meteorological) in which the service may be operated, the aircraft to be used, the observance of a schedule of air services approved from time to time by the Board and the maximum and minimum fares and freight

rates to be charged to passengers and consignors of goods and mails.

I would like to make clear here that the licence to be given would not be for an unlimited period. The rules provide that the licence shall be valid for such period not exceeding 10 years in any other case as may be fixed by the Board. It is clear, therefore, that there is no fear of creating an unlimited vested interest.

Sir, I think it is open to me to contend that when this House passed the Bill which gave power to the Governor-General in Council to make rules for the regulation of air transport services and the prohibition of the use of aircraft in such services except under the authority and in accordance with a licence authorising the establishment of the service, the House accepted in principle the operation of services by private enterprise. If all air transport services were to be operated by the State as a monopoly, there is no need for any Licensing Board, because Government do not need to grant licences to themselves.

I mention this because my friend Dr. Sir Z. Ahmad accused Government of doing these things by backdoor methods. But I do not stand on this ground. Government's contention is that the method they have adopted is the one to promote rapid and orderly development of civil aviation in India and that a State monopoly at the present time would slow down the development and, probably, lead to stagnation. I do not say that this should be the policy for ever. Conditions may change but Government's contention is that this is the best policy in the existing conditions. In this connection the House will be interested if I were to read the following quotation of views relating to control of industry.

Congress Manifesto Quoted

"For this purpose it will be necessary to plan and co-ordinate social advance in all its many fields, to prevent the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of individuals and groups, to prevent vested interests inimical to society from growing and to have social control of the mineral resources, means of transport and the principal methods of production and distribution in land, industry and in other departments of national activity, so that a free India may develop into a co-operative commonwealth.

"The State must, therefore, own or control key and basic industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public transport."

This quotation, Sir, is from the election manifesto issued by the Congress, and Government's policy does not seem to be in any way contrary to what is stated in the manifesto. As I have said before, Government feel in this matter that control is more important than either ownership or management, so long as that control is exercised in the public interest, leaving at the same

time free scope for initiative and progress to private enterprise. We anticipate that private enterprise in India will show real enterprise and we feel that this policy would be in the best interests of the country.

My friend, Sir Zia-ud-din Ahmad has referred to the case of the Railways. He apparently feels that the Railways under State ownership and management are more progressive and more attentive to public needs than under Company management. If one were to believe half what is said in the House in connection with the debate on the Railway Budget or in connection with questions asked, this would hardly appear to be the case. I do not, however, wish to go into that matter. I cannot say what the policy of future Governments may be. In view of what I have said, I believe my friend will agree with me that the policy which Government have now adopted is the best in the present conditions and in the conditions which we can anticipate in the near future, and if it is so, Government are content without going into the further question as to whether, if at all, or when air transport services in India should be completely nationalised.

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The Government of India have published in the *Gazette of India* of March 2, a set of rules to be made under Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. This Chapter which will come into force from July 1, 1946 makes it compulsory for every motor vehicle to be insured against the death of, or bodily injury to, third parties involved in accidents arising out of the use of the vehicle. In addition, risks to passengers travelling in public service vehicles have to be covered.

The draft rules, which are required for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of Chapter VIII generally, cover in particular the forms of the documents required, conditions governing the activities of co-operative insurance societies of owners of public service vehicles and the insurance of vehicles brought into British India by visitors to India.

Government are considering what arrangements can be made in respect of motor vehicles moving between British India and Indian States so as to cause minimum inconvenience to the owners.

Owners of motor vehicles are not required to take any action at present and Government intend to remind them of the necessity to insure at a later stage before July 1, 1946 when the insurance companies will have completed their arrangements.

POST-WAR ROAD DEVELOPMENT INDIAN DELEGATIONS TO I.L.O.

QUESTIONS relating to post-war planning of road development were discussed by the Standing Committee for Roads which met in New Delhi on March 16, under the chairmanship of the War Transport Member, Sir Edward Benthall.

The Committee was informed of the decision of the Government of India to accept full liability for the completion and maintenance of National Highways with effect from April 1, 1947, and if necessary from an earlier date in the case of approved works undertaken to alleviate unemployment, subject to the vote of the Legislature, and subject to agreement being reached with Provinces on control of road transport.

The total mileage will be approximately 18,000 of which about 15,000 will be in British India and 3,000 in Indian States. The capital cost is roughly estimated at Rs. 70 crores in 10 or 15 years and annual maintenance between two and two-and-a-half crores of rupees. The Committee approved the proposals in principle, subject to the vote of the Legislature.

Research Organisation

Proposals to set up a Central Road Research Organisation and to form a central pool of road making machinery for use on post-war road construction were explained to the Committee. The progress made with proposals to depute serving road engineers in India to study modern theory and practice in road construction, research, and organisation in countries such as the U.K. and the U.S.A. was also explained to the Committee.

The Committee approved expenditure from the Central Road Fund towards the cost of (1) an investigation undertaken into the economics of road development, (2) the Road-Lands Enquiry Committee set up to investigate problems relating to land acquisition in connection with post-war road construction, (3) extra establishment for post-war planning in certain Provinces.

Other matters approved by the Committee included certain items of road development in Madras, Bombay, the U.P., the Punjab, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and the Abu Administered Area; continuance of special establishment in the Punjab and Madras; grants for the operation of the Road Test Track at Calcutta; experiments on road construction in the Punjab, Bihar, C.P. and Berar, and the N.-W.F.P.; subsidies to the Indian Road Congress; and the Budget of the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (Roads).

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

THE Government of India have decided to send delegations for the Industrial Committees on Iron and Steel and Metal Trades convened by the International Labour Office, commencing from April 23 and May 2, 1946, respectively, at Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. The delegations will consist of:—

IRON AND STEEL COMMITTEE

Government: (1) Mr. J. Vesugar, Member, Indian Supply Mission in U.S.A.

Employers: (1) Sir Jehangir Ghandy and (2) Mr. P.R. Balakrishnan.

Workers: (1) Mr. Manek Homi and (2) Mr. V. G. Karnik.

METAL TRADES COMMITTEE

Government: (1) Mr. J. Vesugar, Member, Indian Supply Mission in U.S.A.

Employers: (1) Sir Jehangir Ghandy and (2) Mr. David Erulkar.

Workers: (1) Mr. Fazal Ilahi Qurban and (2) Mr. K. T. Sule.

The delegates representing employers and workers have been nominated after consultation and in agreement with the most representative organisations in the industries concerned.

REVISION OF RAILWAYMEN'S WAGES

Remarkable figures have been quoted in the recent speeches in the Legislature on the Railway Budget proposals. Certain proposals have been made by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in connection with improvements in the rates of pay and allowances.

The Chief Commissioner of Railways in his speech made a reference to the cost involved in their acceptance. The proposed increase in wages would add about Rs. 57 crores to the salary bill and the enhanced rate of dearness allowance suggested by the Federation would cost approximately another Rs. 21 crores. This would mean an additional annual expenditure of Rs. 78 crores, a staggering figure, even from present day standards.

If this enormous expenditure is compared with the estimated surplus for 1946-47, the net result would be a deficit of Rs. 66 crores and, to balance this and merely pay their way, Railways would be forced to increase the existing rates and fares by about 40 per cent.

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH REVIEWS AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Schemes to Step up Food Production in India

SPEAKING in the Council of State on March 21, on the motion that the food situation be taken into consideration, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Agriculture, Government of India, said:

I feel diffident to speak on this resolution, for it would have given me great pleasure if today I was supporting a policy of abundance. I do believe that with consistent drive we can raise India's production up to the standard required for its present population.

In reviewing the whole agricultural situation we find that there are three primary needs of agriculture without which it is impossible to raise crops to full maturity. Given good cultivation, the first need of agriculture is good seed; the second, the proper amount of manure and, thirdly, the requisite water supply. So, to help the provinces to provide these needs, we have granted loans amounting to nearly Rs. 5 crores and grants amounting to Rs. 4½ crores. I may say that it will need a great deal of leadership and drive both on the part of public men and the Government to provide, even for the already irrigated lands, the full supply of good seed, manure and water. Such leadership has so far not been forthcoming as men of light and leading are deserting the villages and settling down in towns. It is not so much a change in the tenure of cultivation that is needed as leadership in demonstrating and providing these essential needs of agriculture.

Extra Yield of Foodgrains

Regarding seed, we have given loans to the extent of Rs. 253 lakhs and grants of Rs. 87 lakhs. These are expected to produce 700,000 tons of extra foodgrains per year. I am afraid we have not been able to place seed growing on a proper basis. Seed growing, when it takes its proper place, will have to be in three stages: as a mother farm, then a State-controlled multiplication farm and then seed farms in every village under proper arrangements. It would be necessary for each village to have an adequate area under seed grown under the direction of men who have been trained to produce good seed.

I think there is great room for demobilised soldiers to be given land for seed growing by hiring it out from the villages. Till each village has its own multiplication farms, it would

never be possible to provide seed for the whole area available. I think the best way is to follow Prof. Hill's idea and to set up throughout India some 20,000 to 30,000 'groups', each with a Centre, the groups being units of about 10 villages or covering areas with a population of about 5,000. These groups should, in the first instance, be limited to those areas estimated at approximately 80 million acres which from consideration of water supply, etc. will give a maximum return over a five-year period. Demobilised soldiers and Emergency Commissioned Officers could be employed for this work.

Supply of Compost Manure

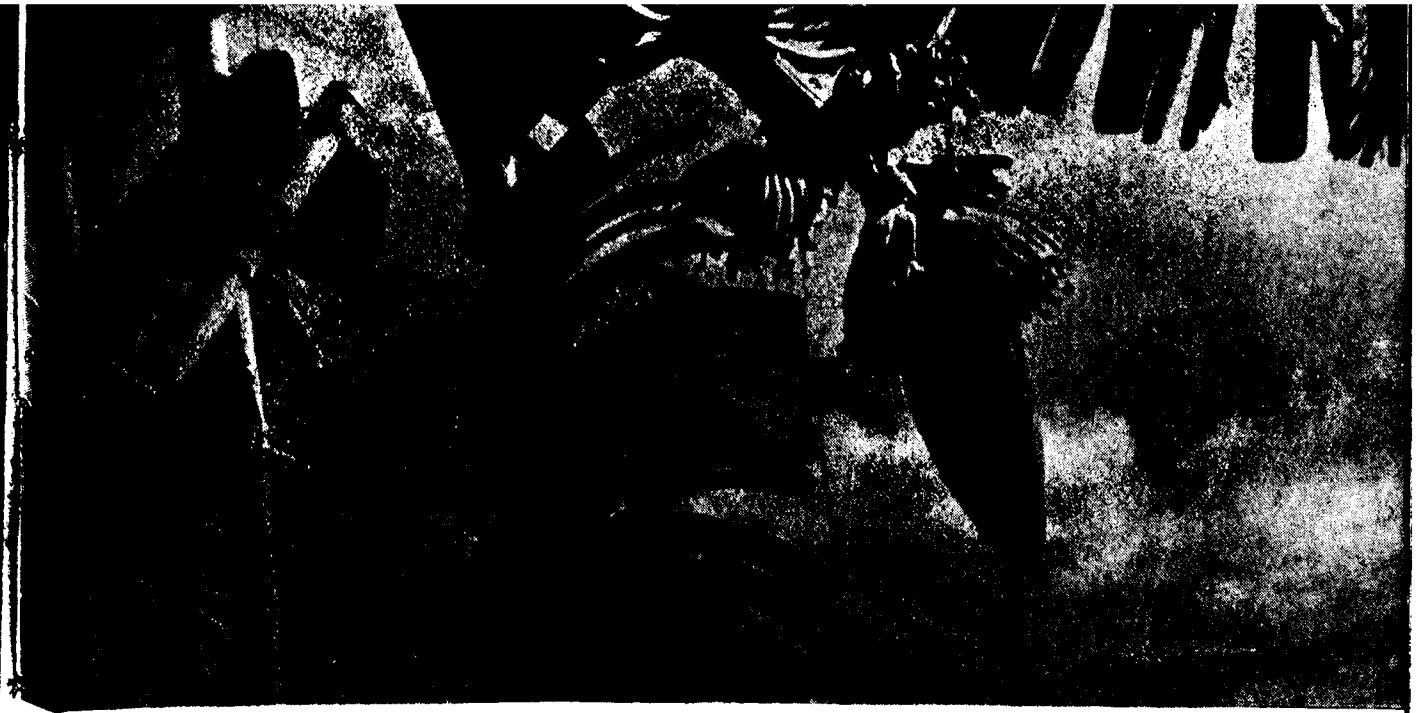
Then, again, India's greatest need is manure and it is my view that if we make use of all the manure that is available in the country, we can supply manure for the bulk of our irrigated cultivation. In this connection we have been drawing the attention of the provinces to provide for village forests so that these forests can supply fuel, and cattle yard manure could be saved for cultivation.

We have also taken up the question of composting town refuse in some of the towns and it is our purpose to take up 5,000 towns—big and small—available for composting. We have so far distributed something like 330,000 tons of town refuse compost and we expect to have every year 2 million tons compost from this source when all the towns are brought under the scheme which would be sufficient for 500,000 acres.

We have also arranged for the necessary transport of compost and I am now trying that this manure may be taken to the villages so that its use may be more generally recognised. In addition, we have recently started a scheme for the composting of village refuse by co-operative action among the villagers. In addition to improving the cleanliness and sanitation of villages, we expect an additional 50 million tons of manure to be prepared from this source, which would be sufficient for about ten to twelve million acres.

More important than the extra manure produced, the village kamdars are now training the farmers in improving the quality of the manure produced by adopting simple methods of urine conservation. We expect highly useful results from this work, since even a partial conservation and utilisation of cattle urine would help to double the percentage of nitrogen in our farm manure and add about one million tons more of nitrogen to the soil. We are also exploring the use of water hyacinth in Bengal by

Development of fruit industry is an important item in India's post-war plans. (Right) A grafted Rumani mango tree. (Below) A coconut palm.



composting, and if the work that is now in progress succeeds it will be a useful source of organic manure for the rice fields of Bengal, provided that the hyacinth seed which is very obstinate is satisfactorily killed in the process of composting.

Fertilizer Factories

In the matter of fertilizers, as against a quantity of 70,000 tons obtained last year, for the year 1945-46 we have been allocated 154,000 tons. A factory at Sindri, in Bihar, has been planned and will soon be under construction, and another factory for making fertilizers has been set up in Travancore. But it needs proper instructions for cultivators to use them to the best possible advantage. I may say that though compost manure and fertilizers show a great increase, they do not even now touch the fringe of the problem, i.e. adequate manure needed for all our irrigated areas. When we do that, we can definitely depend at least on 25 to 50 per cent. increase in production.

In the case of oilcakes, some ground has been covered and 262,000 tons of oilcakes have been distributed and I have every hope that this supply will be multiplied when all of our oilseed is crushed in the country itself and only oil is exported.

We have also taken up the question of increasing the water supply and have given loans amounting to Rs. 62 lakhs and grants of Rs. 145 lakhs for emergency and minor works. These grants provide for the construction of 34,500 wells, 4,500 tanks, 7,700 other minor works in addition to repairs to 4,600 wells and 2,000 old tanks. I am afraid some of the provinces have

been rather slow in carrying out the work, but it is expected that when these works are completed, they will add something like 700,000 tons of foodgrains per year to the annual production.

The greatest need of a dry country where rainfall is scanty is an assured supply of water, and during the year, Sir William Stamps, our Irrigation Adviser, has been examining the subsoil water supply available in some provinces and States. About 2,500 tube-wells have so far been sanctioned in the different provinces and these when completed will irrigate an area of about 800,000 acres. We have now with us Mr. Roscoe Moss, an American engineering expert, who has been going further into the matter of using deeper subsoil supply and his assurances provide another source of exploration.

Water Supply

We have agreed to give to the provinces 50 per cent. of the cost of a tube-well. I am now examining, in consultation with Provincial Governments, the question of going further and making available upto 50 per cent. of the cost of a tube-well to any private agriculturist who can show that he has sufficient area of land which he can water and that the subsoil supply of water is within reasonable limits. I hope to be able to announce the decision shortly. These tube-wells will naturally have to be according to the standard fixed by our experts and will have to be executed within a fixed number of

A banana tree.

months. The Department will do its best to procure the tube-wells, engines, etc. and the equipment for the sinking of the wells. Applications for these should be submitted through the provinces specifying the area that has to be irrigated.

Then, again, mostly in the Bombay Presidency for anti-erosion works, etc., loans amounting to Rs. 48 lakhs and grants amounting to Rs. 56½ lakhs have been made. They cover an acreage of more than one and a half million acres and they are expected to produce 200,000 tons of extra food a year.

Increased Yield of Food Crops

To sum up, during the war period which has just passed, we have by diverting areas from cotton into food crops and by other means put 9 million acres under food crops. These statistics are accurate except for the permanently settled areas as we have now proved by definite experiments carried out under separate arrangements, and the increased yields have gone to feed the increased population. We are now starting a Directorate of Economics and Statistics at the Centre. Sanction for this has already been obtained and Mr. Natu will be the first Director.

The present food situation has been causing great anxiety to the Government. Personally I feel that it is the responsibility of the Agriculture Department both at the Centre and in



A pine-apple and papaya garden.

the provinces to produce all kinds of food for our population, and it grieves me to think that we have done so little to make an abundant supply of food available. We are also planning to increase the supply of milk, fish, poultry, etc. and plans for these are under preparation. In the matter of research and for the provision of properly trained agriculturists, plans are under preparation for the starting of an Agricultural College and an Animal Husbandry College at Delhi.

So far we have done little to explore deep sea fishing. It is a source which has been greatly developed in some of the Western countries and I remember at one time Japanese trawlers were fishing in the Bay of Bengal. We are proposing to start a Fisheries Research Institute—one Marine Station and the other Inland Fisheries station, and I am at present trying to negotiate for the supply of trawlers and fishing tackle from countries where it can be obtained as soon as possible.

We are also arranging as soon as possible to have (1) a Rice Research Station in a selected rice growing area, with sub-stations if and where necessary; (2) a Central Potato Research Institute; and (3) a Central Pasture Research Institute. Potatoes give the highest yields and it is hoped that the area under potatoes would be increased to feed our increased population. Commodity Committees have been set up to develop the cultivation, marketing and utilisation of sugarcane and coconut, which have great food value. A bill for the constitution of an

Indian Central Oilseeds Committee is under the consideration of the Legislature.

Some work on fruit was done in the Punjab. Not only in the development of commercial orchards but also in fruit products it has made a great success. It is now proposed to start an Institute of Fruit Technology with a Fruit Institute to help India in the matter of fruit growing and making standard fruit products.

We have been trying to do all that we could within the resources of the provinces and the States and in this I have received every support not only from the Hon'ble the Finance Member but the unstinted support from His Excellency the Viceroy himself. All I can say is that Agriculture is slowly coming to its own. For the first time Government has recognised its responsibility to maintain remunerative prices for agricultural produce and to aid agriculture by such means as I have indicated above. In the meanwhile I feel that though production may be adequate, its distribution requires the selfless assistance from grain merchants who have for centuries handed the distribution of production. I am sorry to say that so far the grain merchants have not shown the way how procurement and distribution could be so arranged as to have supplies in all places as they were before the war. With inter-provincial trade and railway communications providing food even in the worst affected areas there was famine in money but there was no famine in foodstuffs.

IMPORT OF TRACTORS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

Position Explained

THE Government of India have been trying for the last two years to secure agricultural machinery—tractors and their associated implements—for speeding up the Grow More Food campaign in India.

During the war years the procurement of this machinery had to go through very complicated channels and a majority of it had to come from the U.S.A. under Lend-Lease operations. Some tractors and their associated implements were ordered in 1944 through the Lend-Lease organisation. These orders, for various reasons associated with war, could not be fulfilled by the supplying countries until towards the middle of 1945, and India obtained 80 tractors, 25 heavy ploughs and a small number of other implements. Another twelve were diverted from road-making programme in Assam. This meant that 87 tractors were without major implements.

Of these 87 tractors, 8 light tractors went into operation because implements for these either were in existence or could be secured locally and 59 tractors needed implements, particularly heavy plough for their proper utilization. For the year 1945 Provincial and State authorities needed 463 tractors and their associated implements. Of these, 261 were heavy tractors needing heavy ploughs, harrows etc.

Delivery Promised this Year

In view of the difficult world supply position, Government deputed a senior officer to try and secure as much of these requirements as he could in the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom. Tractors suited to Indian conditions are manufactured in the U.S.A. only and India has been able to purchase all these tractors required for 1945, whose ex-factory delivery has been promised during the period April—December 1946.

In so far as implements are concerned including heavy ploughs of which 322 were needed, all these have been purchased from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.A. The United States cannot supply more than 75 of the ploughs in the period April—June 1946. The ploughs will be supplied partly by the U.K., and partly by the U.S.A., both sets during the period July—December 1946 or January 1947. The United Kingdom has agreed to supply 133 heavy ploughs, which represents its maximum manufacturing capacity and the remaining have been purchased from the U.S.A.

FOOD DEPARTMENT TO GROW FOOD

The first Government Department to follow the example set by the Viceregal Estate, has been the Central Food Department which has ploughed up its flower beds and lawns on Mansingh Road and sown them with summer vegetables. When ready, the crop should meet a part of the demand of the Food Department staff for vegetables, which will be sold at cost price. It is expected that the experience gained will enable the Department to gain tables, sowings for which take place after the rains.

CRAWLER TYPE TRACTORS PURCHASED

A Press note issued by the Agriculture Department on March 13 stated:

The Government of India's attention has been drawn to an Agency message from London, regarding agricultural tractors and their implements ordered for India.

The Government of India deputed a senior officer to purchase 441 crawler type tractors from the United States of America and the implements required for these tractors from the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America.

All these tractors and the implements required have been purchased by this officer. The delivery from the factory of these tractors and implements is spread over the period April to December, 1946 and the implements would be forthcoming along with the tractors in order that these units can go into operation.

It is not a fact that 200 tractors have already reached this country. Neither is it correct that another 200 are expected by the end of April. Eighty Lend-Lease tractors were received last year but no tractors against the orders mentioned above, have yet been received.

Manufacturers of implements in the United Kingdom, Canada and United States of America are fully co-operating with the Government of India in making these supplies available.

VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN DELHI PROVINCE

1,000 Tons Extra Food Expected From Schemes

QUESTIONS were put in the Central Assembly on March 21 regarding the steps that Government have taken to bring all available land in the province of Delhi under the cultivation of vegetables or other food crops.

Sir P.M. Kharegat, Secretary of the Agriculture Department replying, said that schemes had been sanctioned for the immediate sinking of 500 pucca masonry wells on a subsidized basis and for the provision of 20 motor trucks to carry manure from Okhla and Badli to be distributed to growers both of food crops and vegetables on a subsidized basis. About 1,000 tons of extra food was expected from all the measures taken.

Sir Pheroze added: "Steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation about half of the Central Vista, i.e., some 60 acres and part of it has already been dug up for the purpose. Householders have been asked to bring as large an area as practicable of their compounds under vegetables. Special staff has now been appointed to go round to the houses and advise householders as to where vegetables etc. should be planted, of what types and when, and for the supply of seeds, manures, etc. The limiting factor in most cases is water. It is not possible to estimate at present the additional quantity of vegetables that will be marketed from this area; it is expected that the householders will utilize the vegetables for their own consumption. The increased production if adequate water is available and all the arrangements made work according to plan, may be estimated to be 500 tons."

COMMITTEE OF ACTION FORMED IN NEW DELHI

A Committee of action to grow more food in New Delhi has been set up by the Labour Department. It consists of the Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle the Estate Officer who is in charge of Government buildings, the Superintendent, Horticultural Operations who looks after gardens and lawns, the Deputy Agricultural Production Adviser (Seeds) and the Assistant Agricultural Production Adviser (Seeds) who procure and distribute seeds.

The mile-long central vista opposite the main Secretariat buildings is to be immediately put

under vegetable cultivation in accordance with the Government's decision to convert public lawns into farms. A tractor has just been procured for ploughing up the land. Proposals to utilize other open spaces in New Delhi for growing vegetables are being examined by the New Delhi Grow More Food Committee. The vegetables grown in the 60 acres of the central vista will be sold to the public through a departmental store which will be opened at the site later.

The Estate Office Labour Department, have circularised the tenants of Government bungalows the importance of growing vegetables instead of flowers in their gardens. The horticultural Department will give advice to the tenants orally and through leaflets.

The New Delhi Grow More Food Committee, it is expected will organise propaganda for the drive for growing more vegetables and will render practical assistance to householders. Two Agricultural graduates who have been specially appointed for this purpose will go round explaining what to grow and how to obtain manure, seeds, etc.

C-IN-C. URGES FOOD ECONOMY

In view of the seriousness of the food situation, the C-in-C. in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, has expressed the wish that "wild domestic economies should be introduced in all Service households, messes and hostels. The number of courses to be served at any one meal should, he urges, be reduced to not more than two, while the consumption of wheat products and rice should either be reduced to an absolute minimum, or entirely eliminated.

The consumption of pastries, cakes and biscuits at social functions is deprecated by Gen. Auchinleck. Householders are also urged to endeavour to make themselves and their domestic staffs, self-supporting, as far as possible, in respect of vegetables.

Though it is realised that the practical contribution to the solution of the food problem which will be achieved by the introduction of these austerity measures may prove in itself to be small, the C-in-C. feels strongly that a sympathetic gesture made in the face of the scarcity conditions which generally obtain throughout the country will be appreciated.

MR. GANDHI'S SUGGESTIONS TO MEET FOOD CRISIS

H. E. THE VICEROY has extended an invitation through the Chairman of the Indian Food Delegation and India's Agent-General in U.S.A. to Mr. Herbert Hoover, ex-President of U.S.A. and now Chairman of President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee, to visit India after his tour of Europe.

Two of the most important suggestions made by Mr. Gandhi for meeting the food crisis in India were the utilisation of Army units for digging wells and the use of the R.I.N. for augmenting the country's supplies of fish. The Relief Co-ordination Committee has discussed both these questions. The possibilities of the first are being examined in the U.P. and the Punjab, where quick results may be expected. As regards the second, there are various technical difficulties, such as the conversion of R.I.N. vessels for fishing purposes, and the non-availability of fishing gear which prevent an immediate adoption of the proposal. The Fishing Adviser to the Government of India is now examining all the implications of the scheme.

About 36,000 tons of surplus foodstuffs are reported to be available from U. S. Army Stores, but as these are situated at various stations in India, it is difficult to know at this stage what quantities will ultimately be available in good condition. Arrangements have been made to bring the stores to convenient centres for easy inspection. Provided the stocks are fit for human consumption, it has been decided to take over immediately 3,000 tons of milk products, 2,000 tons of cereals and about 11,000 tons of vegetables, both dehydrated and canned.

Milk Powder Distribution

Arrangements for ensuring effective distribution of the 10,000 tons of milk powder which will arrive in India during this year, under proper hygienic conditions, are also under detailed examination.

The Provinces and Administrations which have already cut down their ration scales or will do so in the next few days, to the size of 12 ozs. per adult per day with 4 ozs. supplementary for heavy manual workers are: Ajmer, Baluchistan, Bengal, Bombay, C.P., Delhi, Madras, Punjab and U.P. Among the Indian States, Cochin, Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore have fallen in line with British India.

Coffee, in addition to tea, is excluded from the recent ban on the exports of gift parcels by post containing foodstuffs, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India on March 29.

MILK DISTRIBUTION IN SCARCITY AREAS

Representatives of the Indian Red Cross, the Marwari Relief Society, the Friends' Service Unit, the Ramakrishna Mission the W.V.S. and the Indian Women's Civil Corps of Madras met in New Delhi on March 20 under the chairmanship of the Food Secretary to the Government of India to discuss measures to protect the "vulnerable" groups in areas experiencing food scarcity. Among those who attended the conference were the Director-General of Indian Medical Service, the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, representatives of the Madras and Mysore Governments and the Nutrition Officers of the Madras and Bombay Governments.

Food Position

The Food Secretary gave the background of the food position in different parts of the country and said that Government were anxious to make sure that effective arrangements were on the ground in time in the scarcity-affected areas to protect the vulnerable classes, and in doing so to draw upon the experience of the non-official relief societies which had worked in this field in the past particularly in the Bengal Famine in 1943.

He made it clear that once Government of India had formulated their scheme in broad outline in this matter, it would be for the Provinces and States concerned to implement it in the most effective way possible in co-operation with non-official relief societies whose services were available.

The Food Secretary mentioned the milk distribution scheme which the Government of India had in mind and for which they had already approached the Combined Food Board for 10,250 tons of milk powder.

It was agreed that milk distribution in proper hygienic conditions in conveniently located centres in the affected areas would be the most effective method of protecting the vulnerable classes that could be devised. The Food Secretary mentioned that Provinces and States were being asked to assess their likely requirements on the basis of the number of distribution centres to be established and place firm demands on the Central Government. This would enable the Government of India to press for imports in addition to the 10,250 tons already asked for. The Government of India propose to divert about 7,000 tons of sugar for use in milk to be distributed under this scheme.

The Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India mentioned the groups which fell under the classification of vulnerable sections their order of priority in any scheme of milk distribution and the type of arrangement which would ensure the best results. A wide distribution of multi-vitamin tablets, he stated, would greatly assist in combating malnutrition, but these tablets were no substitutes for food.

The representatives of the W.V.S. suggested the organisation of mobile canteens for distribution of milk. It was agreed that such mobile canteens could be combined with mobile dispensaries which were being organised in the affected areas. The question of organising food kitchens was also discussed and it was agreed that in conditions of scarcity of cereals, distribution of food through common kitchens could be a more effective way of providing nutritious food to the affected people.

PRESERVATION OF FISH

At a recent meeting of the Relief Co-ordination Committee it was decided to pursue two proposals made by Q.M.G.: the first regarding utilisation of the Army's offer of assistance for the preservation and handling of fish and the second regarding assistance from the Army in increasing India's milk supply.

As regards the second, it is pointed out that as the Army is probably the biggest retail dairying concern in the world, it could help by building and stocking farms, training personnel and handing over the dairy farms to municipalities or Provincial Governments.

Details of the scheme will be examined by the Agriculture Department of the Government of India in consultation with Q.M.G.

GEN. JOLLY'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 450)

the expenditure incurred by the Joint War Organisation on Indian Prisoners of War amounted to nearly Rs. 250 lakhs.

In conclusion, Gen. Jolly said that it was the seventh consecutive occasion and the last on which he had had the honour of addressing the annual meeting. He thanked Their Excellencies for the lead and encouragement given him in his task and the members of the Joint War Committee, the Indian Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Association for their confidence and friendship. "To my staff I owe a great debt for their loyal support at all times."

PRINCES DISCUSS FOOD SITUATION

The general food situation in the country with particular reference to Indian States was reviewed at the session of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes on March 13. The Food Secretary to the Government of India gave the latest picture of the food situation and suggested the lines on which the co-operation of States was necessary to tide over the present crisis. The main emphasis was on the need for efficient procurement systems and equitable distribution of available foodgrains in Indian States. Last month urgent demands for assistance in foodgrains supply were received from several States and all these were met by the Central Food Department. Owing to the deteriorating supply position, however, it was felt that it would not be possible to meet such emergent requests in future. It has now become necessary for each area, surplus or deficit, to mobilise its resources to the maximum.

It is considered likely that action will be taken in the following directions: (1) Assessment of probable surpluses in the States forthwith. (2) Placing demands with the Central Government at the proper time to obviate the making of piecemeal demands. (3) Tightening of their procurement arrangements, including effective application of the Foodgrains Control Order. (4) Introduction of rationing where it does not exist, and the cutting down of the ration scales in conformity with the all-India food policy.

An austerity drive in Indian States, similar to the plans envisaged by the Government of India in its recent circular to provinces, is also anticipated as a result of the meeting.

For the purpose of determining the maximum prices of cartridges of sizes other than 2½ inches or of Pneumatic and Churchill cartridges of any size, the Central Government have sanctioned a maximum addition of 28 per cent. of the landed cost where the sale is made to a dealer and 60 per cent. of the landed cost in all other cases. Prices thus determined are chargeable at ports of entry only; in the case of sales by dealers at other places an additional charge of Rs. 2 per 100 cartridges is permitted.

By another notification it has been made clear that the existing notified ceiling prices for cartridges will apply only to cartridges of the standard size, viz., 2½ inches, and not to cartridges of any other size nor to those of any sizes manufactured by Pneumatic Cartridge Co., Ltd. and Messrs. E. J. Churchill Co.

PUNJAB WILL FIGHT INDIA'S BATTLE ON FOOD FRONT

I AM grateful to All India Radio for giving me this chance of talking to the largest possible audience of Punjabis about the food situation. I am going to condense what I have to say into as small space as I can.

First of all—as regards the position in Punjab itself—I have been surprised by the number of alarmist reports that have recently been spread abroad. It is true, of course, that winter rains held off until much later than usual and that we can no longer look forward to the bumper harvest for which the abnormally copious and extended monsoon gave us reason to hope. Many parts of a very wide area have suffered sadly in consequence. This applies especially to the dry area, but, as you know, this Province is blessed with a very high proportion of irrigated land. Even if we had had no more rain at all, we should have been able to pull through so far as the needs of Punjab alone are concerned, without fear of famine or widespread scarcity.

By H. E. the Governor of Punjab

(A broadcast from A.I.R., Lahore, on March 13.)

In the last few days, Providence has favoured many of our districts with good rain. This has greatly improved the prospects of the wheat crop; it has made a marked difference to fodder crops; in many places grain is well up to normal. There are quite sufficient stocks in the Punjab to carry us on till the next harvest and there is no danger of the present volume of the ration in towns already rationed being cut down.

No Occasion for Panic

The main thing, therefore, that I want to impress on you is that there is no occasion whatsoever for panic. If any one tells you that the Punjabis are going to starve, do not believe him, but ask yourselves what he stands to gain by giving out such rumours.

Liability to panic is not an ingredient of Punjabi character. The Province has stood up magnificently to the test of war; let us not falter in the days of peace.

Now as regards the position in other parts of India there is no denying that in more than one Province, owing to the failure of rains or other adversities, shortage is going to be severe. It is natural that men should cast their minds back to the Bengal famine of three years ago.

We must, of course, be careful not to underestimate the gravity of the situation. But at the same time, there are certain favourable factors which we are entitled to take into account. We have no longer a war on the Eastern Frontiers of India to distract us with its heavy demands on manpower and transport. The traffic problem in this country is very distinctly easier than it was. The position in regard to shipping is steadily improving. Also an organisation for the control of food supplies has been built up in every Province under the general direction of the Central Government. We are far better informed than we were of the needs of the people in remote localities and means of meeting these needs, and much progress has been made in the course of the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Nevertheless, as I have said, there is going to be acute scarcity in some other parts of India and it is for the Punjab to do its utmost to come to the rescue.

The plain business of this Province is to send out, for the benefit of our fellow countrymen beyond our borders, the maximum amount of grain that we can spare. I appeal to everyone, rich and poor, grower and consumer alike, to take part to the best of his capacity in the crusade in the name of humanity. The first thing that we have to do is to avoid every kind of waste and to confine, what we use ourselves to what we actually need and no more. Hoarding is an offence against the nation and against mankind. Black marketing at this time is one of the most deadly sins in the whole calendar of crime. I hope that all sections of the public will help the authorities in rooting out black marketeers.

We must remember that we in the Punjab, as being a surplus Province, have a special responsibility. We are watched with critical eyes by people in deficit areas, some of whom feel that we might well afford to make greater sacrifices for the common good. The Punjabi has always been jealous of his own honour and the honour of the Province, and I appeal to you to do nothing which would attract the reproaches of those who are in distress. We are proud of our record on the battle fronts during the war. Let us resolve to fight India's battle also on the food front. With goodwill, co-operation and spirit of unselfishness, we can and must defeat our present enemy, and put to flight the spectre of the famine.

Four months ago at Rawalpindi Darbar, His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to praise the efforts that Punjab has made in supplying food for less fortunate regions in this country. Let us see to it that we stand firm and continue to deserve his praise.



VICEROY VISITS ALL-INDIA CATTLE SHOW

H. E. THE VICEROY, on March 21, visited the All-India Cattle Show held at the Ram-illa grounds and presented the Challenge Cup to Bhagmal, the owner of a Hariana heifer. The show was opened earlier by Mr. W. Christie Chief Commissioner.

The Challenge Cup was for the breeder of the bull or cow of the Hariana breed which fetched the highest price at the auction sale of pedigree cattle and was won by Bhagmal, a petty zemindar



Hariana heifer which fetched the highest price (Rs. 900) at the auction sale of pedigree cattle being shown to the Viceroy. (Below) This Sahiwal heifer, fetched the highest price (Rs. 1,200).

of Marot village in Rohtak district. His Hariana heifer fetched Rs. 900 and was purchased by Rai Bahadur Suraj Khan Jhalani.

Also at the show, a Sahiwal heifer was sold for Rs. 1,200, a Sahiwal cow for Rs. 1,000 and a Sahiwal bull for Rs. 800.

Requesting the Chief Commissioner to open the show, Mr. G. Williamson, Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India, said that this was the first auction sale of its kind which, he believed, had taken place in Delhi and, in fact, in India. The sale of breeding stock differed from that of commercial stock in that in the latter transaction the value could be judged from the immediate milk yield or work capacity, while in the former these indicated only a fraction of the real value. Both sellers and buyers in such circumstances profited by the association of a responsible public body such as the All-India Cattle Show Committee to sponsor the genuineness of the transaction.

Mr. Christie congratulated the Cattle Show Society on its enterprise which, he believed, was

(Continued on page 505)

FORESTS A GREAT SOURCE OF NATIONAL WEALTH

Sir Jogendra Singh's Address

A DDRESSING the Convocation of the Indian Forest College and the Indian Ranger Forest College at Dehra Dun on March 30, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Agriculture, said "too often forests have been looked upon merely as a source of profit which must be tapped as quickly as possible" but "now there is a great awakening, it is now being realised that forests must be conserved as a great permanent source of national wealth, both direct and indirect."

Sir Jogendra Singh was unable to attend the Convocation and the address was delivered on his behalf by Mr. A. P. F. Hamilton, Inspector-General of Forests.

Sir Jogendra Singh in his address, said: It was given to me to address the Convocation of the Rangers' College, Dehra Dun, on April 1, 1944. It was with great pleasure that I received the invitation from the President of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges to deliver the address at this year's Convocation. As I was unable to respond to your invitation last year, I was looking forward this year to come, partly because we are on the eve of putting into effect great plans of development and partly because this may be the last occasion on which I shall have the pleasure of being with you in my present capacity. The fates have again played me false this time also and I am unable to be present in person and I am, therefore, asking Mr. Hamilton, the Inspector-General of Forests, to deliver the address on my behalf.

Forestry—Second Biggest Industry

Mr. Stewart has referred to me in his speech as a friend of the forests and of all those who work in or for the forests of India. I consider agriculture and forestry as the backbone of Indian economics and it is in promoting these that I have spent the best years of my life. My late friend, Poet Iqbal, in a remarkable poem said that while God created forests, man created agriculture. The time has now come when man who has destroyed the forests and put the soil under agriculture, is compelled to restore forests so that agriculture may prosper. If agriculture is to prosper, we have to increase the area under forests from 12 to 25 per cent of the country.

Probably few people are aware that forestry is the second biggest industry in the world, agriculture of course being the first. But in spite of its importance, many countries have not in the past realised the value of their forests either as a stabiliser of climatic and physical conditions of

the land or have not appreciated the stark necessity of trees and forests for the economic well-being of the rural population—too often forests have been looked upon merely as a source of profit which must be tapped as quickly as possible.

Throughout the world now, however, there is a great awakening; it is now being realised that forests must be conserved as a great permanent source of national wealth, both direct and indirect, and that populations, particularly rural ones, are unable to maintain a reasonable standard of living if local supplies of timber and firewood or charcoal fall below a certain minimum; and I might also mention grass, for this is also an important product of the forests, and a commodity which is often in short supply in this country.

Amongst the indirect benefits conferred by the presence of forests perhaps the most important are the control they exert over erosion by water and wind and the modifying effect they produce on the rise and fall of river levels when catchment areas or river basins are adequately clothed with forest.

Post-War Plan

Now I must explain how these general remarks are relevant to my address to you, and particularly to you, students, to-day. India does not propose to lag behind other countries in the matter of forest development. Post-war development plans were discussed in Simla in 1944 by representatives of the Centre and the Provinces. As far as forests were concerned, the policy recommended was based largely on a note written by Sir Herbert Howard, the then Inspector-General of Forests. This policy has been generally accepted by the Provinces and States and the detailed forest plans which have been prepared by these Administrations follow this policy. They follow numerous lines of development, the most important amongst which are:—

(i) The revision of working plans in which advance fellings have been made as a result of war demands;

(ii) repair of communications damaged by excessive use during the war, and the extension of communications for the development of more remote forests after the war;

(iii) establishment of plantations for special purposes such as firewood, match-wood, etc.;

(iv) afforestation in the interests of soil conservation and widespread counter-erosion measures;

(v) the establishment of minor village forests throughout rural area. Some Provinces, e.g. the United Provinces, Bombay and the



Punjab, have already set their plans in motion;
(vi) the management of canal strips and plantations;

(vii) the survey and reservation of large tracts of forest hitherto outside scientific management;

(viii) the setting up of foresters' training schools or the enlargement of existing ones;

(ix) improvement of grass and grazing.

Following the example of many other countries, some Provinces and even some States, propose to enact legislation designed to compel the owners of private forests to conserve and develop their forests and prevent their destruction. And here I might mention the fact, which may be new to many of you, that in this country there are very large tracts of privately-owned forest, much of which is rapidly disappearing through want of proper management.

Now what is the significance of all this to us today? It must be obvious that all these plans will require a great increase in the cadres of trained forest officers. The Government of India have always accepted responsibility for the training of the higher ranks of forest officers and they have planned, as you know, to

The pine which is the source of resin and turpentine, grows in abundance on the Himalayas mostly at a height of 3,000 to 5,000 feet.

train the maximum number of gazetted officers and rangers possible to meet the requirements of the Provinces and the States. Unfortunately it is not possible to meet all demands and we have made arrangement to have 15 students a year for the gazetted services trained at Edinburgh University, and we hope to increase the number of ranger classes from the present number of four to six.

I fully realise that all this has, and will, place a great burden on the educational staff and I am very grateful to the educational staff of the Colleges for the noble way they have responded during the last year. There have been and still are difficulties as regards the housing of the Instructors but we are doing our best to put this right. The new Forest Rangers College at New Forest is nearing completion and the permanent Indian Forest College has been sanctioned. It will be a proud moment in the history of forest education if, at the end of the coming year, both the Colleges are ready for occupation.

I am very glad to hear that our decision to create a post of Director of Education has been fully justified and that its present incumbent, Mr. Mobbs, has so ably carried out the duties and responsibilities which go with it.

It is also a real pleasure to me to see that our desire to associate the States with us more closely in all-India forestry matters, and there are many points of contact, has borne fruit in the presence here to-day of Instructors from the States of Mysore, Kashmir and Travancore. We are most grateful to the *Darbars* for sparing these officers and to the officers themselves for volunteering to come.

One of our chief difficulties has been to obtain Instructors and Assistant Instructors. With this war commitments to finish off their expansion plans beginning, the Provinces have found it difficult to spare officers but plans cannot be put into effect without newly trained staff and I would like to draw a parallel with the decision made by the Allied High Command in the early stages of the war; they were asked to provide war supplies at once in large quantities; they had to decide whether to utilise existing manpower and machinery to supply these demands, or whether to utilise them rather for the production of vast quantities of equipment and armament producing machinery for a great final effort at the risk of starving the armies in the immediate future; the wise decision to utilise resources first of all to produce tools and machinery was made; and so it seems to me that first of all Instructors must be spared to train the men who are to carry out the plans. One man cannot by himself do much to further plans in two years, but he can turn out a class of 20 to 30 trained officers in the same time.

Forest Education

As you are aware, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Maurice Gwyer, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, recently sat in Dehra Dun to investigate and make recommendations for the improvement of forest education. Although their report has not yet been submitted to Government, I understand that their recommendations include the raising of the course to degree standard with a course of three years, the grant of a Diploma to successful Ranger students, the affiliation of the Colleges to a University with a Faculty of Forestry for the direction of forest education and the creation of a cadre of permanent Instructors.

I think you will agree with me that these recommendations are most welcome and that they will, if approved, by the Government of

India, increase the prestige of India's forest education, which is already very high, both in this country and abroad.

Now I should like to say a few words directly to you students, both of the Indian Forest College and the Rangers College, who have successfully passed your examinations and are about to begin your careers. During your course, you have studied a great variety of scientific and technical matters, all of them interesting and essential to the make-up of a professional forest officer.

Advice To Students

But you have also been taught other and, perhaps, more important matters. You have learnt to work together and to live together in a spirit of co-operation and I hope that you will carry this torch which has been lit here forward through your lives. You have been trained in a College with a great tradition dating back to 1878 and you officers are creating a tradition for the Indian Forest College which began in 1938; you are all entering services with great reputations and I feel sure that you will maintain them. You will be starting your careers at a vital time in India's history, a time when the most loyal service will be required from everyone of her servants to build up the new nation. You must expect to encounter difficulties and hardships, for the duties of a forest officer are often arduous and irksome; but you must not give way and you must remember the fine examples of those countrymen in your service who have made Indian forestry famous almost throughout the world.

I would also advise you to keep up to date your professional knowledge; as you know, there is ample scope for specialists in forestry—here, at the Forest Research Institute for gazetted officers, and in the Provinces for Rangers as well as officers. You are fortunate in that during your studies you have been able to take advantage of the presence of the Institute, and I would strongly advise those of you who have a bent for research to keep up your interest and your study. By so doing you will be making yourselves more valuable as foresters and you will provide yourselves with a useful means of occupying your spare time.

And now, in conclusion, I am happy to be able to congratulate the staffs of the Colleges on the results of another very successful year. I wish you now Godspeed in conserving and maintaining the existing forests and taking your full share in the afforestation of areas which can be used for plantations in all the Provinces.

NEWSPRINT QUOTA TO BE REDUCED AFTER ELECTIONS

THE present position of newsprint supplies has been considered by the Government of India in consultation with the Newsprint Advisory Committee, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department on March 15. In view of the present shortage and the improbability of any improvement in the immediate future, it has been decided that the 25 per cent. increase in quota allowed with effect from October 1, 1945, for the period of the elections, should be withdrawn with effect from May 1, 1946. If, however, the position should improve before this decision comes into effect, Government would be prepared to reconsider the matter.

In order to conserve the small stocks already in the country, it has been decided that journals and periodicals other than dailies should be induced to appear on printing paper produced in the country. A number of periodicals which were transferred to newsprint from printing paper from the middle of 1944 to ease the paper position will now be given the option of appearing on printing paper with their size and circulation undiminished. Other periodicals which have always been printed on newsprint will also be given the same option if they do not wish to be subjected to the reduction in size or circulation which will be inevitable when the 25 per cent extra ration is withdrawn. A circular letter will be issued to all periodicals other than dailies in this connection. The option will not apply to Sunday editions of dailies.

The Government have decided not to permit the publication of any new periodicals on newsprint till adequate supplies have been arranged for. Permission for periodicals other than dailies printing on ordinary printing paper will also normally be refused, so long as the pressure on paper supply continues to be as heavy as at present.

Government have further decided that assistance should be given to a delegation representing Indian Newspapers to proceed to the United Kingdom and Canada to further the efforts already being made by the Government of India to secure additional supplies of newsprint.

Shortage Explained

An earlier Press Note stated: "The newsprint position has for some time been a matter of anxiety for the Government of India. Far from improving with the return of peace, it has deteriorated considerably since the end of 1945. The present shortage in this country is a consequence of decontrol of this variety of paper in U. S. A.

DELEGATION TO U.K. AND U.S.A.

The Government of India have agreed to the suggestion of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society that a delegation of newspaper interests should be deputed to Canada, U.S.A. and the U.K. for the purpose of securing adequate newsprint supplies for India.

The delegation will consist of Mr. Devadas Gandhi (Hindustan Times) and Mr. Ramanath Goenka (Indian Express, Madras). Mr. D. G. Currie, Director of Paper, Department of Industries and Supplies, will accompany them as adviser. Mr. Devadas Gandhi will lead the delegation. It is anticipated that the delegation will spend about a week in the U.K. and a fortnight in Canada and the U.S.A.

and Canada following the cessation of hostilities. Until December 31, 1945, newsprint supplies were allocated by the Combined Pulp and Paper Working (London) Group of the Combined Raw Materials Board; and India was able to obtain a quota of Canadian newsprint for 1945. The Combined Raw Materials Board was dissolved on December 31, 1945, and with its dissolution, newsprint ceased to be controlled by any Government agency either in Scandinavia or in Canada, the only two surplus regions in the world.

"One consequence of decontrol is that long-term contracts held by non-Indian newspapers which were virtually under suspension as a result of wartime controls, have now come to play, and this demand now vastly exceeds supplies. Most Indian newspapers and magazines have no long-term arrangements for their supplies and purchase newsprint from time to time from importers holding stocks. India has therefore had to enter the newsprint market at a considerable disadvantage.

"The Government of India are endeavouring through their Agent-General and the India Supply Mission at Washington to secure the minimum requirements of Indian publishers. Efforts are also being made to secure supplies from the United Kingdom and Scandinavia.

"Meanwhile, the position is one of growing concern and far from relaxing the existing control, Government may be forced to reduce severely the consumption of newsprint. It is anticipated

(Continued on page 499)

MEPACRINE, WAR-WINNER IN BURMA

NEXT to the well-known fighting qualities of Indian troops in Burma, three factors won us the war against the Japs, according to a senior Army officer who has been right through the Burma campaign from the early days in 1942. In order of importance, he lists the mepacrine tablet, the Dakota aircraft and the jeep.

Mepacrine was substituted for quinine when world supplies had virtually ceased following the Japanese invasion of the Dutch East Indies and its cinchona plantations. According to medical experts mepacrine is more effective than quinine both in treating malaria and in preventing it. The daily issue of one tablet to all ranks in the Burma theatre has been the main reason for the spectacular decrease in malaria casualties, writes an Army Observer.

Statistics at the 12th Army Headquarters—now Burma Command—show that at the peak period in 1943 for all casualties (battle wounds, accidents, and diseases) six out of every 1,000 men were going into hospital every day, and three of them were always malaria victims.

A Record Low Level

During the advance in 1944 when our troops operated in the marshy Kabaw and Gangaw valleys—profuse breeding-grounds of the malaria-carrying mosquito—there was a total of only four casualties per 1,000 being admitted daily. A year later the figure was as low as 1.5 per thousand. Malaria casualties had been reduced to a record low level of only one in 10,000 daily.

The Japs, with all their quinine supplies, could not check large-scale malaria casualties among their men in Burma. One of the main reasons, says this same Army officer, for the Jap's failure in Burma was their bad and inadequate medical services.

Burma is a country saturated with malaria except for a "safety" belt some 80 miles in width, stretching from the dry zones in Mandalay down to Rangoon. Among the thousands of Japanese prisoners held in Burma today, 90 per cent have had malaria, and at times ten per cent. have been in hospital with the complaint.

An interesting point is that immunity from malaria has also meant the decrease of other complaints like dysentery, diarrhoea, and dengue fever. In other words, a soldier whose energy is not sapped by the debilitating effects of malaria is less likely to contract various other tropical diseases.

DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee was held on March 8, to discuss the recent mutiny in the Royal Indian Navy. The C-in-C. in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, presided.

The Secretary, War Department, made a factual statement giving the course of events of the mutiny.

The C-in-C. then made a statement of the policy he was recommending to the Government of India, namely that, although there would be no mass or vindictive punishment, ringleaders who incited others to mutiny and individuals found guilty of acts of violence should be brought to justice. He also proposed to recommend to the Government of India the appointment of a Commission to enquire into and report on the causes and origin of the mutiny.

The terms of reference, composition and procedure of the proposed Commission were discussed. The Committee advised that the Commission should consist of a non-official Chairman with legal or judicial experience, two Service members—an Admiral of the Royal Navy and a General of the Army—and two non-official members who would not be members of the Legislature.

NEWSPRINT SHORTAGE

(Continued from page 498)

that supplies during the next few months will be considerably below the level of consumption of last year and that therefore it may be necessary not only to reduce the monthly consumption of each newspaper and periodical now holding a quota but also to investigate whether some magazines and periodicals cannot be shifted from the use of newsprint to Indian-made printing paper.

"It should be emphasised that though the indigenous production of paper has gone up slightly over pre-war years, the total availability is less at present on account of the fall in imports. The use of printing paper for some periodicals now using newsprint is therefore likely to strain the supply position of Indian paper. This aspect of the matter is also engaging the attention of the Government of India."

Government and private telegrams are now admitted to and from places in the Far East, namely, British North Borneo, Brunei, Christmas Island, Labuan and Sarawak at the rates shown in the Post and Telegraph Guide.

INDIA'S NATIONAL WAR ACADEMY

INDIA'S National War Academy, it is officially announced at General Headquarters, will be located at Kharakvsala Lake, near Poona. More than 2,000 acres of land will be reserved in the vicinity for this purpose but the Academy will finally extend over a much larger area.

Steps are being taken to implement the recommendations of the delegation of the National War Memorial Committee, which returned to India after touring service institutions in the U.S.A., Canada and the U.K., last year. Special sub-committees are now busy preparing the syllabus and plans for the staff, establishments, buildings and general lay out of the National War Academy.

Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, is Chairman of the Syllabus and the Establishments Sub-Committee, and Maj.-Gen. D. Bateman, Director of Military Training, who is one of the Sub-Committee members, is also Chairman of the Accommodation and Planning Sub-Committee. Other prominent educationists and experts may be co-opted to these committees.

Candidates for the Academy, which will be the main channel of entry into the commissioned ranks for the three Services, should be between 16 and 19 years of age. Promotion from the ranks and direct commissions to University candidates will supplement the flow from the Academy.

Syllabus

The course of four years' duration, will start with a short period of recruit training, followed by instruction in academic and common Service subjects. Towards the end of the first year candidates will be attached for a period to various units, to test their inclinations, and give them an experience of conditions in all three services. Selection will then be made for specialised training for the Navy, Army and Air Force.

The syllabus for academic subjects will cover a wide range and include mathematics, history, geography, Hindustani, modern languages, English, general science, economics, law, book-keeping, meteorology, statistics and practical workshop training.

The Government has provided Rs. 5,00,000 in the 1946-47 Budget for The National War Academy. It is expected that funds for the Academy will come from public subscriptions supplemented by Government grants. The Sudan Government's gift of £100,000 will also be used for this purpose.

VICTORY WEEK: VICEROY'S CONGRATULATIONS

In a letter addressed to Gen. Auchinleck, C.-in-C., the Viceroy has expressed his appreciation of the excellence of the staff work and the bearing and turnout of the troops in connection with Delhi Victory Week.

"I send you and all those concerned in the Victory celebrations my heartfelt congratulations," says the Viceroy.

"At the Memorial Arch Thanksgiving Ceremony; the Tattoo and the Parade, I have been deeply impressed with the splendid bearing and turnout of the troops, the excellence of the staff-work, and the general spirit of keenness and co-operation without which it would have been impossible to achieve such outstanding success. They make one very proud of the Indian forces.

Hard Work, Patience, Good Humour

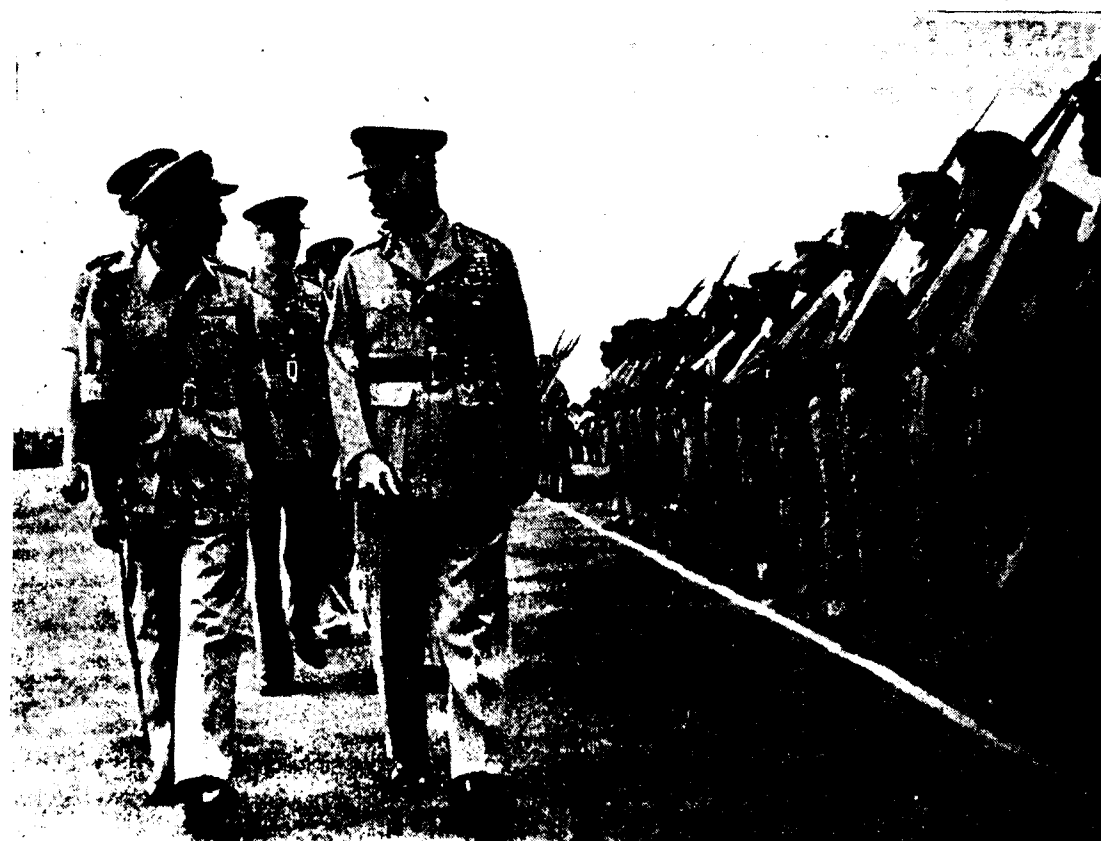
"I fully realise the immense amount of hard work, patience and good humour which such a large undertaking entails and I cannot express too highly my appreciation of the efforts which have been made and of the results achieved.

"I should be glad if you would convey to all those who, besides yourself, have organised or taken part in the celebrations, an expression of my warmest thanks and admiration for all they have done to give effect in a most fitting manner to our feelings of thankfulness and pride in the Victory to which they have so nobly contributed.

"I have never seen a more magnificent collection of men or a smarter turnout than on the Victory Parade."

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

The Government of India have appointed Mr. Prabhat Kumar Mukherjee, Professor of History, Rajendra Intermediate College, Bolangir, the nominee of the Patna State, on the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission for a period of five years with effect from February 11, 1946 in place of M. P.C. Rath resigned.



A Victory Parade and an Air Display at Willingdon Airport were among the most impressive events of the recent Delhi Victory Week celebrations. These pictures show (above) H.E. the Viceroy inspecting the R.I.A.F. Guard of Honour and (right) Lt.-Gen. Sir Ralph B. Deedes, until recently Adjutant-General in India receiving Lord Wavell at the Saluting Base.



FIRST GROUP CAPTAIN IN R.I.A.F. Fort Gloster: India Command's First Shipyard

Wing Commander Mukerjee

WING COMMANDER SUBROTO MUKERJEE O.B.E. of the Royal Indian Air Force has been promoted to Group Captain.

This is the first time that an officer of the R.I.A.F. has held this rank, which corresponds to that of Captain in the R.I.N. and Colonel in the Indian Army.

Since its formation in 1932, the Royal Indian Air Force has been an entirely Indian Service, so that the seniority of the ranks have been growing only in relation to the seniority of the Indian officers in the Service.

Group Captain Mukerjee's career parallels the history of the R.I.A.F. Born in Calcutta in 1911, Mukerjee was one of the six Indian cadets who first went to the R.A.F. Training College at Cranwell, England, in 1930 and was the first officer to be commissioned in the Indian Air Force in October 1932.

Commanded a Squadron

He was appointed Commanding Officer of No. 1 Squadron and gazetted Squadron Leader in March 1939. For two years he commanded the Squadron which was stationed in the North-West Frontier at Kohat and Miranshah, until he went to the Army Staff College at Quetta in the summer of 1941.

He was promoted Wing Commander in November 1942 and after 10 months on the Staff at Air Headquarters he was posted to command the Royal Air Force Station at Kohat. He thus became the first R.I.A.F. officer to command a Station.

In December 1944 Group Captain Mukerjee returned to a Staff post at Air Headquarters. In September 1945 he was a member of the delegation which toured Britain and the United States studying the military academies in those countries.

A Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on 27th March, 1946, said:

Letters and boxes addressed to Belgium may now be insured upto a maximum value of £ 200. The conditions prescribed in clause 214-224G of the P. and T. Guide are applicable in respect of postal articles of this category.

SOME details concerning the vast effort of India Command's first shipyard, Fort Gloster, a jute mill 15 miles below Calcutta port on the river Hooghly, are given in a recent issue of *Indian Army Review*.

The aim of the Fort Gloster was to produce several thousand tons of shipping, so essentially needed for all landing operations, in the minimum of time with labour which had received very little technical training and which was altogether unfamiliar with shipyard work.

At Fort Gloster, it was decided to lay 12 building berths for launching craft into the outer of two "tanks" where the fitting out could be completed, and then to launch the craft into the free water of the river.

Long before the completion of the project, operational demands necessitated that craft construction should begin and in the first week of 1944, a programme was accepted for the construction of thirty 225-ton barges, converted for the carriage of petrol, oil and lubricants. The programme was a rush job. Temporary berths were laid and by the end of March, the first 20 barges were afloat being converted.

Civilian Labour's Work

Civilian labour continued to arrive, attracted by the chance of good wages and experience to be valued after the war, and mill coolies toiled valiantly with steel plates and the vagaries of fast heavy lift cranes. Mechanists, accustomed to the slow grind of pre-Great War machines, gazed with awe at the new plant and clamoured for a chance to work on this new machinery.

In little less than six months craft on the building berths at Fort Gloster foreshadowed a fleet worthy of India Command's first shipyard and the tenacity of purpose of the troops who built it.

Shortly after the cessation of hostilities, work on craft erection and repair at Fort Gloster ceased, and on the books could be found details of 70 craft being assembled, including "Z" craft, barges, launches and railway wagon ferry pontoons—a valuable contribution to the war effort in this theatre.

All surface letter mail services except insurance to Dutch and Portuguese Timor are now available under the usual conditions, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on March 21.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1946.



INDIAN TROOPS WELCOMED HOME

Indian troops are now returning home after a long service in South East Asia theatres of war. At Calcutta docks, they are met by senior military officers, Welfare and Voluntary workers. The men get tea, cigarettes, hot meals and gift parcels. These pictures show (above) a nurse garlanding soldiers returning home and (left) Col. F. W. Gibb, Commandant of the Transit Group, welcoming the men.

JAPANESE SHOT SEVEN INDIANS AS SPIES

Grim Story from the Andamans

THE story can now be told of how seven Indians were shot as spies as a result of rivalry between Hira Kawa, the Japanese Naval Commander, and Hozumi Eguchi, the Japanese Civil Governor of the Andaman Islands in 1943.

Hira Kawa openly favoured the police while Eguchi persistently sought to undermine the former's authority by discrediting the police force in the islands. To this end Eguchi deputed Lt. Suiki Hara, Azuma, Okomoto and Dr. Komatsu as his Intelligence Officers with instructions to obtain as much damaging evidence against the police as possible. In doing so they had no difficulty whatsoever; numerous local residents were only too glad to avail themselves of this opportunity to settle old scores by giving false evidence against their enemies.

So-called Spy Cases

The efforts of these officers were at least partly responsible for the implication of numerous numbers of the police and other local residents in the seven so-called spy cases, which the Japanese conducted in Port Blair and in which over 100 people lost their lives. Colour was lent to the allegations made against the accused by information received from Japanese Intelligence sources that successful attempts had been made by the British to land espionage parties in the Andaman Islands, and that certain local residents were in communication with the British Agents and with British raiding aircraft.

In the course of the particular spy case in which Narain Rao met his death, 22 persons were arrested and after investigation by Lt. Suiki Hara, Azuma and ex-Sub Inspector of Police Nur Hassen, seven of them, Gopal Krishna, Narayana Rao, Itter Singh, Suba Khan, Abdul Khaliq, Surendra Nath and Chota Singh, were sentenced to death by an unknown Japanese Judge who came from Singapore to try the case.

The Japanese Officers mentioned above had already left the Islands when they were reoccupied by the British Forces. The ex-Police Sub-Inspector, Nur Hassen, was arrested and is detained under the Defence of India Rules (Rule 12P).

Ex-Sub Inspector Nur Hassen is the son of Khuda Bux of village Mida Kalas, P.O. Dina,

Dist. Jhelum, Punjab. In 1942 he was working under the Japanese and is reported to have treated the local population in a very unjust manner and is said to have been feared by the people more than the Japanese.

In a supplement to the *Andaman Shimbun*, a bi-weekly newspaper which was then published at Port Blair, the following official announcement over the signature of the Commandr-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Forces appeared both in English and in Roman Urdu:

"We have shot to death to-day the following seven persons as English spies:

- (1) Narain Rao, late Chief of Aberdeen Police Station.
- (2) Itter Singh, late 2nd Chief of the Aberdeen Police Station.
- (3) Surender Nath, late Doctor of Central Hospital.
- (4) Abdul Khaliq, late mechanic dockyard.
- (5) Suba Khan, late Police Chief, Dundas Point.
- (6) Chota Singh, late 2nd Chief of Dundas Point Police.
- (7) Gopal Krishna, late soncho (Chief headman).

"New Order"

"These persons were arrested in January and thorough investigations were made till yesterday. The whole case was clear. It was found that these persons were English spies. Therefore they were severely punished according to the Military Law of the Military Japanese Forces

"The purpose of the Great East Asia co-prosperity sphere was to eliminate the Anglo-Saxons' evilness and oppression in Asia during the past generation and to put the Asiatic countries in their proper place and contribute to the world peace. This is the so-called establishment of the Great East Asia and co-prosperity sphere. This is in addition establishment of new order and co-prosperity.

"These persons were communicating with the enemy and betraying orients. This is really very disgraceful and regrettable and they are decidedly traitors of the Great East Asia and deserve capital punishment. This is a matter of great

pleasure that some people of Port Blair co-operated with us and helped us in finding out the truth and misdeeds of the spies who were rightly executed.

"Hereafter if any person is found to be rash and made things like these seven persons they will also be severely punished. Those persons who gladly and willingly co-operated with the Japanese Military Navy and Army and the Government, will be given special kindness, favour and reward".

Declaration

These announcements were preceded by a declaration in the *Andaman Shimbun* in January 1943, which ran as follows:

"The Military Japanese Forces have arrested individuals, possessing anti-Japanese feelings and carrying on hostile activities. However, individuals co-operating with Military Japanese Forces will not be bothered and they should endeavour to execute their duties. The Deputy Commissioner will fulfil the Commissioner's position for the time being".

Another note also appeared in January announcing:

"If some one knows about radio sets, both transmission and receiving existing in these islands, he should inform Andaman Minseibu through Mr. Okamoto, Officer-in-Charge, Industries. One who supplies valuable information will be rewarded".

ALL-INDIA CATTLE SHOW

(Continued from page 494)

something unique in the history of the livestock industry of India. Milk for the consumption of the people was one of the most important contributions which the cattle industry made towards the needs of the country. They were required, too, for the cultivation of the land. In these days of food shortage, better cattle were needed for better production and any action taken towards that aim deserved the support of all public spirited men.

About 50 animals were sold and fetched prices ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,200. The average price fetched was described as satisfactory. A large number of the animals were from the Jahangirabad and Allahabad Cattle Farms in Multan district (Guarantee Farms run under the supervision of the Civil Veterinary Department, Punjab, and had been vaccinated against rinderpest and tested for tuberculosis and contagious abortion.

Indian Sappers Operate Malayan Coal-Field

PUNJABI, Sikh, Pathan and Afridi sappers of the 733rd Indian Mechanical Equipment Platoon, Royal Indian Engineers, are doing a great job of work in Malaya operating the country's main coal-field at Batu Arang in Selangor State. The unit is well schooled in making itself useful in various parts of the world—its last assignment was helping with the reconstruction of Bombay docks and over one million tons of earth were removed from the site with the unit's equipment.

Once again the excavators are burying their buckets into the earth and dumping their loads into waiting tippers. Every bucketful that comes out means a step forward in the rehabilitation of Malaya, for the country is dependent on coal not only for the railways but also for the power stations serving civilian and industrial needs, writes an Army Observer.

Rising Output

Along with British formations the sappers moved in at a time when Jap mismanagement and labour troubles had virtually cut off production. First reconnaissances of the area made by Army technicians shortly after the occupation showed that only a small percentage of the available equipment was fit for service. Underground workings were flooded out; bearings of excavators and vehicles were worn out through lack of suitable oils; machine tools in the repair shops had been scrapped.

Nothing daunted, the sappers got to work with their own machines—other parties searched the area for missing parts and renovated old machinery in unit repair shops.

Now output tops one-third of the pre-war figures and rises daily.

In view of the acute shortage of rice, British troops in Malaya will no longer receive their daily rice ration of one ounce. Orders to this effect have already been issued. The consequent small saving will be diverted for civilian consumption.

The daily rice ration of Japanese surrendered personnel has already been reduced to four ounces.

FRATERNISATION WITH THE JAPANESE

Gen. Northcott's Instructions

LT-GEN. JOHN NORTHCOTT, Commander-in-Chief of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force of Japan, has issued his personal instructions to all ranks of the Force on the subject of fraternisation with the Japanese.

"Fraternisation is one of the most difficult problems with which we shall be faced," says Gen. Northcott. "I consider that it is quite impracticable to issue stringent orders defining what is to be done in an infinite variety of possible contingencies.

"My policy regarding fraternisation can best be stated in the following terms. Every member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force must bear in mind that he is present in Japan in a dual capacity. He is not only a sailor, a soldier or an airman. He is also a representative of the British Commonwealth of Nations and all that stands for in the world.

"In dealing with the Japanese he is dealing with a conquered enemy, who has by making war against us, caused deep suffering and loss in many thousands of homes throughout the British Empire. Your relations with this defeated enemy must be guided largely by your own individual good judgment and your sense of discipline.

Dignity and Courtesy

"You must be formal and correct, you must not enter their homes or take part in their family life. Your unofficial dealings with the Japanese must be kept to a minimum. You must obey strictly all instructions regarding establishments or areas which are placed out of bounds to personnel forming part of the B.C.O.F.

"Above all you must remember the dual capacity in which you come to Japan and, beyond that, the fact that the eyes of the Japanese and of our Allies and indeed of the world will be watching you.

"Much depends on your conduct and on your bearing. Be sure that they remain normal and that they are in keeping with the dignity and courtesy which are part of our common heritage and tradition."

H.M.I.S. CAUVERY ANCHORS IN TOKYO BAY

TO H.M.I.S. *Cauvery* falls the honour of being the first Indian warship ever to enter the once proudly inaccessible waters of Japan. A few days after the fifth anniversary of Pearl Harbour, this ship arrived in Tokyo Bay in pouring rain, fog, a biting north wind and a noonday temperature only six degrees above freezing point.

Along with H.M.I.S. *Godavari* (Comdr. H.M.S. Choudhri, R.I.N.), H.M.I.S. *Cauvery* (Comdr. G.T. Moger R.I.N.) has been attached to the British Pacific Fleet, since shortly after the signing of the Tokyo surrender. During the following three months H.M.I.S. *Cauvery* steamed a total of fourteen thousand miles based on Hongkong, and visiting the Philippines, New Guinea, Tokyo and Yokohama.

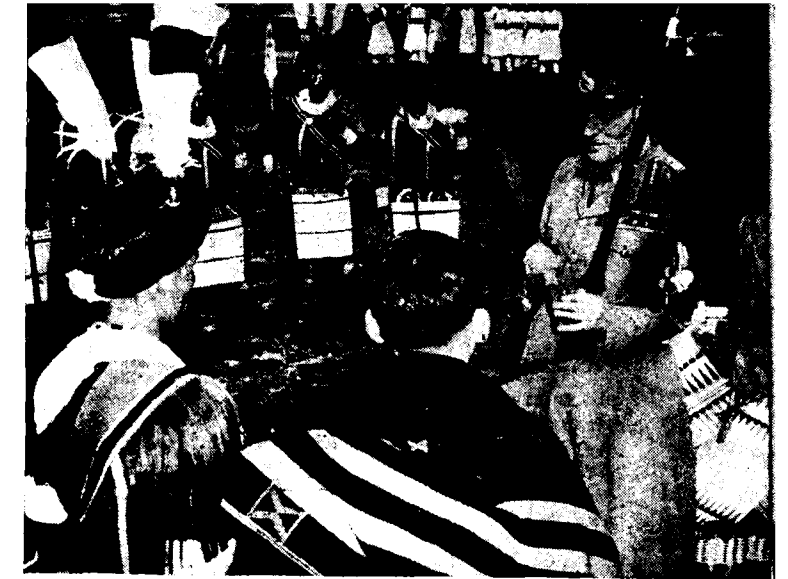
While in Japanese Ports, sightseeing tours were arranged and R.I.N. officers and men were able to see for themselves the tremendous destruction both in the town and the countryside. Their exemplary behaviour ashore has maintained the reputation of Indian Servicemen in yet another land, and will pave the way for the Indian troops of occupation due to take over parts of Japan proper.

Named after River

H.M.I.S. *Cauvery* is an improved Black Swan class sloop of 1470 tons displacement and possesses a main armament of six 4-inch dual purpose director-controlled guns. She is one of the R.I.N.'s newest sloops and her war service includes a period in British home waters, then with an Eastern fleet task force in the Indian Ocean and two seaborne assaults on the Burma coast, namely, Letpan in February 1945 and Rangoon in June 1945.

Named after a river in south India, her ship's badge embodies a representation of Seringapatam fort in conventional form with a formalized country craft in the foreground.

In pursuance of Government's policy to relax control over export, compatible with the supply position in the country, a few more items have now been decontrolled by a notification published in the Gazette of India dated April 6, 1946. These comprise woollen carpets and floorings, enamelware, indigenous bicycles and parts thereof and indigenous razors and razor blades.



NAGAS' PRESENT TO C.-IN-C.

A detachment of Nagas who helped the Allies against Japan took part in the Delhi Victory Week celebrations. During their stay they presented Naga spears, a sword and a Naga Chieftain's dress to Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, at his residence in New Delhi. These pictures show (above) the presentation ceremony and (below) a group of Nagas.



EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

PROGRESS made by the Government of India in setting up its Employment Exchange machinery is reflected in an India Army Order which states that recruiting and employment offices will hand over their complete responsibility for employment work to the Labour Department, by May 31.

Recruiting offices were, in June last year, transformed into recruiting and employment offices as a temporary measure until the Government completed its arrangements for setting up Employment Exchanges.

Under this scheme, 116 recruiting and employment offices were in operation all over India. From March 1, only 26 of these offices continued to function as such, the work of the remainder being taken over by Sub-regional Employment Exchanges established of the Labour Department. By May 1, all Sub-regional Exchanges will be ready and the 26 recruiting and employment offices will finally close down at the end of the month.

Employment Index Card

Each Serviceman as he is demobilised will continue to have prepared for him at his demobilisation centre an employment index card, but after May 1, these cards will be sent to Employment Exchanges only. Recruiting and employment offices receiving these cards will transfer them to the Exchanges which take their place.

In the same way, ex-Servicemen who were demobilised before the index card system was started will continue to be able to obtain cards; after May 31, they will obtain them from the District Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Board or from the Employment Exchange nearest their home.

The Central Government have issued a notification under the Defence of India Rules allowing enemy nationals in India who are still enemy firms under the Defence of India Rules to have commercial and financial transactions with persons and concerns in all countries within the British Empire, the United States of America, all neutral countries in Europe, France (including Corsica), Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Greece, Italy (including Sicily), Finland, Denmark, Norway, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, who are not for the time being enemies under clause (d) of rule 97 of those rules. All transactions are subject to the existing export, import, postal and financial regulations in force in this country.

"URDU WITHOUT TEARS" IN INDIAN ARMY

"URDU Without Tears" might well be the name of a scheme now being adopted by the Indian Army by which officers, cadets and British other ranks will have the benefit of a modern, scientific course prepared by the Pelman Institute, Delhi.

In future a complete Pelman Urdu Course will be provided free for each cadet undergoing training at the Indian Military Academy and at Officers' Training Schools in India. In addition, officers eligible to sit for the Urdu examinations as well as British other ranks may enjoy the benefit of this system if they so desire.

Since all cadets who pass the Army Elementary Urdu Test after April 1, 1946, will have received free tuition under the new scheme, they will not be eligible for the reward of Rs. 100 previously given to those successful in this test.

Pelman System

Any officer who is eligible to sit for the Urdu examinations and wishes to study by means of the Pelman System will apply through his Commanding Officer to the Secretary, Pelman Institute, 10 Alipur Road, Delhi, for a copy of the enrolment form. The payment for the course will be made by the Controller of Military Accounts concerned.

On passing the test, an officer who studies by means of the Pelman system will be eligible for a reward of Rs. 65.

The terms and conditions for British other ranks are the same as those for officers.

REGULAR COMMISSIONS IN INDIAN ARMY

The second interim short course for training for Regular Commissions will start at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, on August 15, 1946. Its duration will be 16 months and not 18 months as originally announced.

The final date for the receipt of applications by the Director of Selection of Personnel, Meerut, has been extended to April 30, 1946. Candidates must apply in sufficient time to enable the military commanders concerned to call them for an interview so as to communicate the result of the interview to the Director of Selection of Personnel, before this date.

Application forms can be obtained from the headquarters of a military brigade, brigade area or sub-area, recruiting office, university or college.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Home Member's Statement in Central Assembly

SPEAKING on the Muslim League Party's cut motion in the Central Legislative Assembly on March 14, relating to the "paucity of Muslims in the different departments of the Government of India," the Hon. Sir John Thorne, Home Member, Government of India, said:

I leave to my colleagues representing the other departments to deal, so far as possible in the time limit, with the complaints which have been made. I admit that Sir Mohammed Yamin Khan has just added my department to the list, but I will deal with that at a later stage. My main concern is with the Government of India Resolution of 1934, which has been quoted by most speakers to-day. May I remind the House what exactly the policy laid down so far as Muslims are concerned in the Resolution is? Paragraph 7 says:

"In the Indian Civil Service and the Central and Subordinate Services to which recruitment is made on an all-India basis, the following rules will be observed:

"1. Twenty-five (25) per cent of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment of Indians will be reserved for Muslims.

"2. When recruitment is made by open competition if Muslims or the other minority communities obtain less than these percentages, these percentages will be secured to them by means of nomination. If, however, Muslims obtain more than their reserved percentage in open competition no reduction will be made in the percentage reserved for other minorities. While if the other minorities obtain more than their reserved percentage in open competition no reduction will be made in the percentage reserved for Muslims."

Promotion on Merit

I need not read the other parts of the Resolution but what I want to stress is that the undertaking given in that applies only to direct recruitment. In paragraph 6 we get a sentence:

"They (that is, the Rules) relate only to direct recruitment and not to recruitment by promotion which will continue to be made as at present, solely on merit."

Well, I know of course that my Muslim friends complain that at present promotions are not made solely on merit. But I cannot offer any undertaking that as a general statement of policy the Government of India will now go back on what is

stated in this Resolution in regard to appointment by promotion.

Now, Sir, what is the position which has after ten years or more resulted from the operation of this Resolution? I laid on the table the other day in response to a question of my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Jaffar, a statement which many in this House may not yet have read which gave figures for the position, after ten years, that is from January 1, 1935, to January 1, 1945. It shows the percentage increases during those ten years in various services, that is, the Indian Civil Service, the Central Services and various classes of the subordinate services and so on.

Percentage Increase

Now the percentage increase for Muslims in all services taken together in those ten years is 2.55 per cent. In some services it is considerably higher. For instance, in the Indian Civil Service it is over 5 per cent. In the Central Services, Class I and Class II, it is between 3 and 4 per cent. But the figure for all services together is 2.55 per cent. The resulting position is that in all services, together, the proportion of Muslims on January 1, 1945, is 20.67 per cent.

There, again, in various services there is some difference. In the Indian Civil Service it is over 20 per cent. In some other services it is as low as 15 and 16 per cent. Well, Sir, appended to that statement are a note or two which I think would be of use if I read to the House, because if I did not read them to the House I should have to say much of it from my head:

"The increase of representation of the minority communities would probably have been more marked but for the war. (I hope my Hon'ble friend, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan would recognise that). During the war a large number of new posts, requiring special and technical qualifications were created suddenly and it was not always possible to find suitable minority candidates on short notice and the attractions of military service reduced the numbers available for civil posts. The extent of the problem is indicated by the wartime recruitment to the subordinate services where the number of temporary posts increased from 4,519 on January 1, 1939, to 46,720 on January 1, 1945.

"All permanent recruitment to the Central Services was however stopped from June 1942, 70 per cent of permanent vacancies being reserved for

war service candidates and the remaining 30 per cent for temporary employees under Government. Government have issued instructions that in filling the 70 per cent. reservation for war service candidates and the 30 per cent reservation for temporary men, the rules regarding communal representation should be strictly followed. Government therefore have directed that where retrenchment is necessary (and this was a point raised by several of my Muslim friends) the temporary staff should be so discharged that the composition of the persons retained is, as far as possible, in accordance with the communal ratios prescribed for recruitment."

Retrenchment

Now, Sir, I do not quite follow what my Muslim friends want in regard to retrenchment. I should have thought, so far as I could understand their request, that the order to which that note refers meets the demand, but if that is not so, if there is some loophole in this arrangement which they do not like, I shall be very glad to hear about it and see where it can be stopped.

One thing I would point out is this it has been stated, I think at times, that in the flow of recruits to the Armed Forces and to all other forms of war service—the definition covers quite a large field—in that flow Muslims are represented in a considerably higher proportion than their proportion in the population. If that is so, then clearly they stand a better chance of recruitment in the 70 per cent of posts which are now reserved for people with war service.

The 25 per cent for Muslims is not a maximum. It is a minimum as it is clear from the portion of the rule that I read, and if the proportion of Muslims with war service is considerably higher than the 25 per cent, then surely they stand a good chance of getting more than 25 per cent of this 70 per cent which has been reserved for people with war service.

25 Per Cent Quota

Now, Sir, it is of course clear from what I have said that Muslims have not succeeded in getting 25 per cent. of the posts in Government service. I think that on a superficial reading of the Resolution of 1934, it would be held that Government have guaranteed that Muslims shall get 25 per cent. There may be various causes (sometimes unavoidable causes) which will prevent that. But I quite sympathise with their feeling that 20 per cent after ten years is hardly good enough and it is our business, it is the business of the Home Department, to come to a conclusion as clear as possible as to the causes which have prevented Muslims from filling by this time a proportion

certainly closer to the 25 per cent. which was fixed for direct recruitment.

That applies specially to the higher classes in the Central Services. In Class I the proportion of Muslims is 16.05 per cent, in Class II it is only 18.32 per cent and in the superior railway service it is 15.21 per cent. And these figures, if I were a Muslim, would cause me some dissatisfaction.

What are the causes? The suggestion is that the principal cause is that the rules are not properly applied, they are not properly enforced and there are influences working against the Muslims in Government service which prevent them from getting their due proportion. As I have said, Sir, there are other possible causes and of course the main one is the possibility that there are not, especially for certain types of posts, enough suitable candidates from the Muslim community. These higher posts in particular are mostly filled in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission, through the agency and control of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Now, Sir, I was sorry to hear a remark that fell from my friend, Mr. Habibur Rahaman, I think, it was. I did not follow exactly what he said but it seemed to me that, he was making a suggestion that the Federal Public Service Commission itself is not properly following the policy which has been laid down in this regard. I hope that suggestion was not made and that I misunderstood my Hon'ble friend's meaning.

Federal Public Service Commission

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG (Muslim League): He did not say so: he meant no reflection on the Federal Public Service Commission.

SIR JOHN THORNE: I withdraw my supposition that he had said anything of the sort. He referred to the Commission but I accept my friend's assurance that there was no suggestion of a bias on the part of the Commission. I am very glad to hear that. I was going to say that the Federal Public Service Commission has proved and will continue to prove a very great safeguard not only for the cleanliness of the administration, cleanliness of appointments as a whole but in particular a great safeguard of the rights of the minorities as laid down in the Resolution of 1934.

I quite admit that the present arrangements which have been laid down by the Home Department for ensuring that the Resolution shall be faithfully carried out are unsatisfactory. I have been looking into them lately, not for the purpose of meeting this cut motion but shall I say, out of a fundamental desire to do my duty. I have been looking into them and I am not satisfied with them. We take an immense amount of pains. We give the other Departments of the Government of

India a great deal of trouble and when it is all done we have not got, to my mind, a clear assurance as to the causes which still prevent not only Muslims but other communities for whom proportions had been reserved from reaching the figures stated in the Resolution.

Prescribed Returns

We have prescribed returns: it is inevitable that returns should be prescribed. We have, if I may say so, great difficulty in getting from some of the departments these returns properly and punctually filled up, in particular there are some attached offices which are habitual offenders in the matter of the submission of these returns. They are not punctually submitted and when they come they are imperfectly prepared and there has to be a great deal of passing to and fro before we are assured that these figures are correct. Even if we got what we prescribed as returns, which have to be faithful records relating to the previous calendar year, even if we got those returns properly prepared, they would still, to my mind, not meet the need which exists. We should still be conducting only a post-mortem on appointments which are largely irrevocable at that stage instead of what I should like to see, a running check on appointments as they are made.

I am not imputing to the departments the motive which my Muslim friends impute to them but I do feel that the duty of my own department is not sufficiently fulfilled at present, because we have this mass of figures coming well after the event and we cannot be assured whether Muslims and members of the other communities had not received their proportion of appointments and whether the causes are fair and inevitable.

I must of course make it clear that I am not concerned only with Muslims, I think I have made that clear. But I am now considering (I know my Hon'ble friends have not much respect for that phrase, more especially when a member of Government says that he is carefully considering or has carefully considered something but it is an inevitable phrase) I am considering how we can improve that position. I should have liked to have something fairly definite to state to the House but I have not. It is a very difficult matter. It will mean a fairly elaborate machine.

We cannot be content with just appointing a Muslim officer and handing the job over to him. Nor can we be content, as the mover suggested, with appointing a Muslim Deputy Secretary in each department and requiring him to be personally responsible. Neither of those measures would meet the need which seems to exist and that is to have a running check, as appointments are made, on compliance with the terms of the Resolution.

I cannot go into more detail on that at the present moment but I do assure my friends, Muslims and others, that I mean business in regard to this. It is a matter on which I should like to consult the Standing Committee of the Home Department. If we have anything ready before the session ends, that of course will be done. I am not sure whether that would be possible. I fear it may not be. We shall have to consult the Federal Public Service Commission over this and it will not be easy to get hold of busy men whose headquarters, unfortunately, are not in Delhi.

But if there is an opportunity which I can seize, without causing undue delay, of consulting the Standing Committee, I shall personally do so; and I must repeat that I do feel that the present position is unsatisfactory, and it is my intention to do all I can to put it right.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS FOR DISPOSALS

Four Regional Commissioners have been appointed in the Directorate-General of Disposals to ensure the maximum decentralisation of executive functions and, in consultation with Advisory Boards of industrialists set up in November last, to see that surpluses are placed without delay in the hands of purchasers selected in conformity with the policy of the Disposals Board.

These Commissioners will operate within the following area:

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, CALCUTTA: Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Eastern States.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, BOMBAY: Bombay Presidency, Madras Presidency, Hyderabad State, Mysore State, Madras States, Deccan States, Gujrat States and States of Western India.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, CAWNPORE: Delhi Province, U. P., C. P. and Berar and Central India States.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, LAHORE: N.W.F.P., Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan, Rajputana, Kashmir and Punjab States.

The Railway Board have sanctioned engineering and traffic surveys being carried out by the agency of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Administration for a broad-gauge Railway connection from Kotah to Ajmer, a distance of about 123 miles.

The survey will be known as the Kotah-Ajmer Railway survey.

MUSLIMS HAVE FARED MUCH BETTER IN LABOUR DEPARTMENT, SAYS DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR

SPEAKING in the Central Legislative Assembly on March 14, on Mr. Ahmed Jaffer's cut motion, "to discuss the paucity of Muslims in different Departments in the officers and ministerial grades non-appointment of Muslims in key posts and retrenchment of Muslims where they are less than 25 per cent, the Hon. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, said:

"It is only fair that I should rise in my seat to state how the position of Muslims stands in my department. Yesterday, I listened to a sort of running commentary by the two speakers who spoke on this cut motion; they gave some figures regarding the position of Muslim employees in the different departments of the Government of India. As I listened to that commentary, I could not help saying that, having the facts before me, I felt considerably proud that the Muslim employees under the Labour Department had certainly fared much better than the story that was revealed by the speakers with regard to other departments of the Government of India. That this is no vain boast but that it is supported by facts is what I propose to show during the few minutes that I propose to occupy today.

Communal Composition

I have collected, and if I may say so, I have taken great pains in collecting figures regarding the percentage of the employees of the Government of India in the Labour Department, not only in the Labour section, but in the P. W. D. and in all other attached offices, figures which show what the position of the communities is, the position of the Muslims is, and the position of the other minorities as well. But I quite realise that within the time that I have it would be quite impossible for me to lay out in completeness the position of these different communities, and therefore I propose today merely to give the figures of Muslims—not only the totals but also the percentages, so that the members of the Muslim League Party may know what exactly the position is.

I begin with the communal composition of the Labour Department secretariat; and in doing so I propose to give not merely the figures as they stand now, but to give the figures on a comparative basis. I think the comparative basis is very necessary and very essential. So far as I have been able to understand the working of this rule, I think I may say that it is somewhat like shooting at a target:

a target has a bulls-eye; It has an inner circle and it has an outer circle. The percentages are the bulls-eye, undoubtedly. But I do not think that it would at all be possible for any member of the Government of India, no matter what his personal predilections may be, that he can arrange the services under him in such a manner that he would always be able to hit the bulls-eye. What I submit is that there should be an endeavour on the part of every member to see that no community as far as possible is pushed out of what is called the centre; and the question therefore that we have to consider in passing judgment upon the doings of any particular department is to know whether the position of any particular class of employees in that department has deteriorated or has bettered, and from that point of view I think a comparative statement is the proper way of studying this matter.

I have collected figures in all cases for 1939 and for 1946 March. I said that I will first present the figures with regard to the Labour Department secretariat. The gazetted posts in the year 1939 there were 12 and the Muslim proportion was 8 per cent. In 1946, the total number of gazetted posts is 80 and the Muslim proportion is 20 per cent. I will give the figures for the non-gazetted posts. In 1939 the total number of such posts was 75 and of that the Muslims had 23 per cent. In 1946 the total number of posts were 457, and the percentage of Muslims is 24.

Now I will come to that much-talked of C.P.W.D. I will give the figures for the gazetted posts. In 1939 the total number of gazetted posts in the C.P.W.D. was 43 of which the Muslims had 21 per cent. In 1946 the total number of posts is 181 and notwithstanding the difficulties to which my honourable friend the Home Member referred in the matter of observing the communal proportions during the war emergency, the Muslims had 21.1 per cent. Now, this probably may not quite give enough comfort to the Mover of this cut motion; and I therefore propose to take the time of the House further to analyse the composition of the gazetted posts in the C.P.W.D. in the year 1946, taking the different grades for finding out the percentages. In Superintending Engineers, the total posts are 14 and there is one Muslim—which gives 7 per cent. Of Executive Engineers there are 64, and the Muslim percentage is 18 per cent. Electrical Engineers are 12, and

the Muslim quota is 6-2/3 per cent. Assistant Executive Engineers—the quota for Muslims is 14 per cent. Temporary Engineers total 72 and the Muslim proportion is 32 per cent, while discussing the C.P.W.D. one of my honourable friends—I forget which it was—mentioned the question of contracts of the Lodhi Road.....

MR. AHMED E.H. JAFFER: Myself.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: I think yourself. I forget exactly the figure mentioned by the Honourable Member....

MR. AHMED E.H. JAFFER: 5 crores.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: His complaint was that in the contracts for the Lodhi Road works, the Muslim contractors got a very small percentage. I forget the exact figure.

MR. AHMED E.H. JAFFER: I referred to the Lodhi Road Colony in particular and there are so many others in general.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: The Honourable Member made his speech towards the end of the day and it was impossible for me to get the necessary figures but the figures are these.

DR. SIR ZIA UDDIN AHMED: There was no necessity for you to intervene at this stage. You could have waited for some time longer.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: I am very much obliged to my Honourable friend for this advice but I thought it desirable to let the Muslim League have sufficient time for their other cut motions. That is the reason why I intervened. Otherwise it was really a general motion. I had no desire to intervene at all and there was no necessity to do so. It is only to allay the fears which some members have about the Labour Department that I got up.

MR. AHMED E.H. JAFFER: Very kind of you.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: The position with regard to the Lodhi Road works was this. According to the information supplied to me by the Chief Engineer, the Muslims have got altogether contracts worth 10.5 lakhs of rupees, which is a figure much higher than the figure mentioned by my Honourable friend.

MR. AHMED E.H. JAFFER: Out of?

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: Out of three crores. My Honourable friend will also remember and take the fact into consideration that on these works the Executive Engineer was a Muslim?

MR. AHMED E. H. JAFFER: what about the official pressure put on him not to give it to Muslims?

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: My friend is making all sorts of allegations. I hope he has got sufficient evidence to back them up. Nobody has drawn my attention to them. If my friend will give me the facts, I will certainly make inquiries.

MR. AHMED E.H. JAFFER: I will give it to you on the floor of the House.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: The fact is that there is a Muslim Executive Engineer in charge of these works. The second fact is that an officer of the Central P.W.D. who is in charge of works, whether he is a Muslim or whether he is a Hindu, no matter what community he belongs to, he is bound by the Central P.W.D. Code. The Central P.W.D. Code requires that the contracts shall be given to a man whose tender is the lowest. I have made inquiries overnight and I have been informed by the Chief Engineer that there was no Muhammadan whose contract was the lowest who did not receive the contract. These rules of the Central P.W.D. that the contract shall be given to the lowest bidder are subject to scrutiny from two different directions. One is the Auditor General and the second is the Public Accounts Committee. Both of them would require the departmental officer who broke this rule to give the necessary explanation as to why he did so.

The Estate Office

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG: That will be a post-mortem.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: It is a question whether the rules are observed or not.

DR. SIR ZIA UDDIN AHMED: The rules can be changed?

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: The Honourable Member knows more about it. He did a great deal of work in the Aligarh University. He ought to know something about the P.W.D. and doing work of this kind. I cannot go into it now.

Let me take the Estate Office. In the Estate Office there are altogether eight gazetted posts. Of them one is vacant. There the position is that there are six Hindus, one scheduled caste. There was one Muslim who recently was sent to his parent province. With regard to the non-gazetted posts, the total posts are 235. Of them the Muslims have 18.2 per cent. Let me come to what are called the attached offices and I can only give the figures in a collective form—not item by item, which would take me very long. Here again the position in 1939 was this. There were altogether 64 posts. The Muslims

had only 1.5 per cent. In 1946 the total posts were 155 and the Muslim percentage has risen from 1.5 per cent. to 11.5 per cent. (An Honourable Member: Excellent). Let me take the non-gazetted posts in the attached offices. In 1936 the total number of posts were 2,238. The Muslims had 34 per cent. In 1946 the total number of non-gazetted posts had risen to 3,929 and the Muslim quota is 30 per cent.

Geological Survey

Now, Sir, I will take the Geological Survey. As everybody in the House knows, the Geological Survey so far has been only a skeleton. It is during the war under the new projects of the Government of India relating to post-war development that we have taken up the work of the expansion of the Geological Survey. We recently made a beginning by the appointment of 13 permanent posts of Assistant Geologists. Now, I would like to tell my Honourable friend the real position so far as these appointments are concerned. We were naturally bound to fill these posts through the Federal Public Service Commission, which recommended altogether 40 names in order of merit. We had only to select 13. Out of the 13 there was only one Muslim whom could select.

NAWABZADA LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: Out of 40 names.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: Yes. The names were given in order of merit and we had only 13 posts. Obviously we had to stop with the 13. If we had stopped with the 13, there was only one Muslim in that list of 13. (Interruption). As I said, these posts are technical posts and therefore we had to be very certain about the qualifications. If the Labour Department had stuck to their original proposition that they shall only take men recommended by the Federal Public Service Commission on a purely meritorious basis, they would have had only one Muslim candidate but the Labour Department knowing that this would not be satisfactory from the point of view of the Muslims went down the list and picked 3 candidates who were far below 13 in order to make up their quota of 4. Another thing we have done and which I know some people might regard as very improper is this. We found that in the office of the Director General of Geological Survey there were no Muslim officers. What did we do? We selected two Muslim students from the University represented by my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed.....

DR. SIR ZIA UDDIN AHMED: The credit does not go to you

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: They were not geologists by their training.

They had qualified themselves only in geography but notwithstanding this we selected two. We trained them so that they may be subsequently recruited to the office of the Geological Survey.

Coming to the School of Mines, the position is this. We have from 1937 restricted admissions to the School of Mines to 24; originally, there were about 20. It was discovered that there was not sufficient accommodation for such a large number of students and, therefore, it was restricted to 24. Now, the selection for the admission to the college is primarily provincial and not communal. Sixteen seats are allotted to the provinces and two to the Indian States. I had examined the figures up to 1937 and I did not discover any single year in which there were not at least 2 Muslim students, who had sought admission to the School of Mines. I, therefore, did not think that any particular reservation was necessary to safeguard the interests of the Muslim Students joining the School of Mines. However, when the matter was pressed by some Members of the Muslim League here, Members of the last Legislative Assembly, I did pass orders that two seats at least should be reserved for the Muslims in the Indian School of Mines.

SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN: Out of how many?

THE HONOURABLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: Out of 24. Now, Sir, even here I would like to tell the House what steps the Labour Department have taken in order to see that the Muslims are able to realise the full quota which has been reserved for them; and I shall give the figures for this year. This year we have altogether admitted 48 students. Out of these 48 students, there was only one Muslim who had satisfied the qualifying test.

Mr. MUHAMMAD NAUMAN: That is what I referred to you.

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: But, Sir, in order to make good the reservation that was made, it was ordered that the fifty-ninth student, who was a Muslim, may be taken, overriding the claims of practically 11 other boys.

Training Schemes

Now, Sir, I will refer briefly to the various training schemes which have been sponsored by the Labour Department—some overseas, and to show that even here the Labour Department has not been correct but has been very considerate. I will first refer to the training scheme sponsored by the Labour Department for the training of Assistant Geologists in the Melbourne University of Australia, as a part of the re-organisation of the Geological Survey. This took place in 1946. The total number of men that were selected was

9. Out of them, 5 were Hindus, 3 Muslims and 1 of other minorities. It will be seen that in this selection the Muslim proportion has been 33 1/3 per cent.

The second scheme sponsored by the Labour Department was to train men in the commercial and administrative side of electricity. Electricity is going to play one of the greatest parts in the reconstruction of India's economic and social life. Obviously, there must be people in India who are trained in the commercial and administrative side of it and we decided to train some men. Obviously, for a training of this sort, you cannot take up raw boys from the university. You ought to have some men who have had some experience in this matter. We, therefore, decided to ask the Provincial Governments whether they would suggest names of some of their employees in their Electricity Department for being sent abroad. The selection, therefore, was not a selection made by the Labour Department or in the Government of India. The selection was entirely within the purview and charge of the Provincial Governments. The total number of men selected was 10. Out of them one was a Muslim. He was selected by the Hyderabad State. The other provinces did not suggest the name of any Muslim, I do not know why. Probably because there were not any Muslims in their Electricity Department.

KHAN ABDUL GHANI KHAN (Congress): In the Frontier Province there are about 90 per cent. Muslims in the Electricity Department

Bevin Scheme

THE HON'BLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: I am sorry, but your province did not recommend any Muslim name. You had better address a question in the Assembly of the Frontier Province.

I am coming now to three other schemes which were sponsored by the Labour Department for training abroad. One was the Bevin training scheme. The total number of boys who were sent was 787. Out of them, Muslims were 154, or 19 per cent. Then, we have in the Government of India a scheme for training Labour Officers for welfare purposes. These officers are not selected by the Labour Department; they are selected by the different departments concerned. And here the position is this. Altogether 23 have, so far, been sent. Out of these 23, 18 are Muslims, which is a proportion of 79 per cent. Then, Sir, we have another scheme which is a scheme for giving higher technical training to the employees of private employers.

The Government of India circularised private employers that in view of the necessity of improving technical efficiency of Indians if they desire to send any of their employees for training abroad, the Government of India in the Labour

Department would do their best to secure opportunities for training in foreign countries. In this connection, so far, six men have been sent. Unfortunately, there was no Muslim amongst them, but that certainly is not the fault of the Labour Department, because they were not responsible for the training.

Central Technical Power Board

Now, Sir, another point which I would refer to is the recruitment of what are called Project Officers and Utilisation Officers under the Central Technical Power Board. We required 9 posts, one of a Utilisation Officer, and 8 of what are called Project Officers. These appointments again had to be filled through the Federal Public Service Commission. Unfortunately, there was no Muslim among the 9 posts that were filled. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Mover of the cut motion to the correspondence which the Labour Department had with the Federal Public Service Commission. We queried when we got the selection and found that there was not a single Muslim. I asked my Department to address a query to the Federal Public Service Commission as to why there was no Muslim in the names that they had suggested. The reply of the Federal Public Service Commission was this. It is interesting, I think, because it throws a different light on the subject. The Federal Public Service Commission said that, in response to their advertisement, altogether 240 applications were received. Out of that number, only 8 were Muslims, and out of these 8 Muslims they invited 3 for interview. Out of three, they found not one suitable for the post.

Well, Sir, this is a brief record of the Labour Department in the matter of communal representation. I claim, Sir, that during the period that I have occupied this post, it can be fairly said that the position of Muslims, far from having deteriorated has considerably advanced. Sir, I do not claim anything more for the Department in which I hold charge. I should like to conclude just by making two observations. I have no idea how many Honourable Members of the Muslim League Party know what part I played in the issue of this communal Ratio Resolution, I think if any Member of the Muslim League Party was present when the Round Table Conference was held in London, he would very well realise that among those who fought for securing these privileges to the minority communities, I claim that I have played a considerable part. It cannot therefore be said that I am out of sympathy with the demand of the Muslims or the demand of any other minority community. It is for this that I have fought, it is for this I have been fighting, and it is for this that I will fight.

HAJ TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1946

THE demand for Haj passages this year is expected to be far above the normal. According to the present anticipation it may range between 20,000 and 25,000. This estimate takes into consideration the high cost of pilgrimage which is more than double the cost during the pre-war years.

The loss of three pilgrim ships during the war—s.s. *Rahmani* of the Mogul Line and s.s. *El-Medina* and s.s. *El-Hind* of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company—has reduced the number of pilgrim ships to seven. Even if everyone of these ships made two trips, they would not be able to transport more than 17,000 pilgrims.

The Government of India are, therefore, considering whether pilgrim traffic should not be regulated in order to reduce overcrowding at the ports, where the cost of living is high and accommodation scarce. The members of the Standing Haj Committee and the Port Haj Committees will be consulted.

Haj Pilgrim Traffic

While it is not possible to forecast accurately the number of Indian pilgrims that may visit Mecca, a study of the statistics for the last several years shows that in a normal year, that is a year which is not afflicted by trade depression or failure of crops, over 15,000 pilgrims sail for Mecca. The main factors that determine the volume of Haj pilgrim traffic are the cost of the pilgrimage and the general economic conditions prevailing in the country.

In 1927, over 26,000 pilgrims sailed from Indian ports, in 1936 only 10,000. When the route was unsafe, as during the war, the number that went to the Hejaz was far below the average. In 1938, the Scindia Steam Navigation Company entered the traffic, besides the Mogul Line and the number of pilgrims sailing from Indian ports rose to over 19,000. In 1941, just over 5,000 sailed. There was no Indian pilgrimage in the years 1942 and 1943, and only a limited number visited the Hejaz during 1944 and 1945.

The Central Government have, by a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated March 30, reduced the prices of "Shahi Deccan" cigarettes from As. 1/3 A. 1/ per packet.

HAJ PILGRIMAGE Mr. Banerjee's Statement

THE Government of India's provisional decision is to arrange for about 15,000 Haj pilgrims this year and to continue the practice of allotting quotas to each Province and of registering and allotting passages to these quotas on the basis of priority of application.

This information was given by Mr. R. N. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, in reply to a question in the Central Assembly on March 27 regarding the removal of restrictions on pilgrims for the 1946 Haj.

He said: There used to be only 10 pilgrim ships before the war out of which three were lost during the war. The maximum carrying capacity of the remaining seven ships is about 17,000, if they make two trips each. If the law requiring 18 sq. ft. of accommodation per passenger is brought into force this year, this maximum capacity would be reduced to about 15,000. Government's provisional decision, therefore, is to arrange for about 15,000 Haj pilgrims this year.

As the rush of pilgrims is likely to far exceed this number, Government's provisional decision is to continue the practice of allotting quotas to each Province and of registering and allotting passages to these quotas on the basis of priority of application.

The demands for the early revision of the existing scales of pay on Indian Government Railways have brought out the fact that the present pay structure is extremely complicated. It should be realised that only a small portion of the railways at present owned and managed by Government originally started as State Railways. More than three quarters of the total system was managed and partly owned by various companies, each of which adopted its own pay structure to suit local conditions which differed in various parts of India.

Attempts are being made to simplify matters and to reduce the number of scales, but complete uniformity, in a sub-continent like India, is difficult to attain. Meanwhile, to meet the present high cost of living, Indian Railways are paying out Rs. 14 crores a year as Dearness Allowance, and another Rs. 13 crores as relief in kind through hundreds of grainshops, the total relief thus provided being equivalent to 21 per cent. of the ordinary working expenses of Railways.

WORKING OF CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES SCHEME

BETWEEN May 1943 and September 1945, there were 4,660 applications of all kinds in India, including the States, for a capital issue of Rs. 385 crores. Of these, 4,371 applications were from British India for an issue of Rs. 342 crores and 289 from outside British India—practically all from the Indian States—for an issue of Rs. 43 crores. Consent was given in respect of 3,784 applications involving a capital issue of Rs. 261 crores—3,575 applications and Rs. 228 crores relating to British India and 209 applications and Rs. 33 crores relating to Indian States.

876 Applications Rejected

There were 876 rejections asking for a capital issue of Rs. 89 crores. This amount refers to only complete refusals; partial refusals are not included. Permission was refused for Rs. 82 crores in respect of 796 applications from British India and for Rs. 7 crores in respect of 80 applications from Indian States.

Of the consents, immediate and long-range schemes combined, 1,766 applications amounting to Rs. 160 crores related to industrial and 2,018 applications amounting to Rs. 101 crores to non-industrial issues, such as plantations and other agricultural objects, trade and transport, etc. Under long-range schemes, 249 applications asked for a capital issue of Rs. 96 crores of which consent was given in the case of 247 applications for a capital issue of about Rs. 95 crores. Of these, 216 applications in respect of Rs. 82 crores belonged to industrial and 31 applications in respect of about Rs. 12 crores to non-industrial issues.

Initial and Further Issues

Of the consented applications, 2,118 for an issue of Rs. 162 crores relate to initial and 1,666 for an issue of Rs. 98 crores to further issues. Of the consented industrial issues, 961 applications for a capital issue of Rs. 102 crores belong to initial and 805 applications for an issue of Rs. 57 crores to further issues. Of the consented non-industrial applications, 1,157 in respect of Rs. 60 crores were concerned with initial and 861 in respect of Rs. 41 crores with further issues.

Of the long-range schemes consented, 182 applications for an issue of Rs. 67 crores belonged to initial and 65 applications for an issue of Rs. 27 crores to further issues. In respect of such

industrial schemes, 158 applications for an issue of Rs. 60 crores related to initial and 58 applications for an issue of Rs. 22 crores to further issues. As regards such non-industrial ones, 24 applications for an issue of more than Rs. 7 crores belong to initial and 7 applications for an issue of about Rs. 5 crores to further issues.

INDUSTRIAL ISSUES

During the entire period of the Scheme (up to September 30, 1945), consent was given in respect of 3,784 applications involving an aggregate capital issue of Rs. 261 crores. Of these, 1,766 applications amounting to Rs. 160 crores related to industrial issues.

These issues have been elaborately classified under 59 groups. Textiles, mining and quarrying, engineering (including iron and steel, non-ferrous, electrical and automobile industries) and chemicals (including fine chemicals, heavy chemicals and drugs and medicines) occupy the pride of place in the list of consents.

Under metals and engineering, there were 117 applications with a permitted capital issue of Rs. 10.17 crores relating to mining and quarrying; 27 applications with an issue of Rs. 6.50 crores relating to iron and steel manufacture; 30 applications with an issue of Rs. 2.86 crores relating to non-ferrous metals; 151 applications with an issue of Rs. 11.19 crores relating to general engineering; 49 applications with an issue of Rs. 5.08 crores relating to electrical industries; and 2 applications with an issue of Rs. 7.13 crores relating to automobile manufacture.

Chemical Industries

Under chemical industries, 54 applications received consent for an issue of Rs. 8.52 crores in respect of heavy chemicals; 108 applications for an issue of Rs. 3.43 crores in respect of fine chemicals; 95 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.50 crores in respect of drugs and medicines; and 22 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.08 crores in respect of paints and dyes.

The vegetable oil industry claimed 32 applications for a capital issue of Rs. 5.12 crores for the manufacture of vegetable fats and 34 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.67 crores for setting up oil mills.

There were 47 applications under film production to which permission was given for the issue of Rs. 3.11 crores.

Under food, drink and tobacco, sugar manufacture claimed 43 applications for an issue of Rs. 6.51 crores, food preservation and dehydration 51 applications for an issue of Rs. 2.12 crores, tobacco 11 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.35 crores and distilleries and breweries 13 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.56 crores.

The textile group was the largest. There were 198 consented applications under cotton spinning and weaving mills for a capital issue of Rs. 30.93 crores, 17 applications under jute, spinning and weaving mills for Rs. 2.59 crores, 15 applications under woollen and worsted mills for an issue of Rs. 1.94 crores and 16 applications under silk factories for an issue of Rs. 3.81 crores.

Leather and other Major Industries

Leather industries, including tanneries, received consent for 38 applications involving an aggregate capital issue of Rs. 1.55 crores. Consent was given in the case of 29 applications relating to paper and pasteboard, the capital permitted being Rs. 5.81 crores. There were 70 consented applications under public utility companies with a capital issue of Rs. 2.76 crores. Wood manufactures claimed 66 applications with a capital issue of Rs. 2.00 crores.

Other industries for which permission was given for the issue of capital were re-rolling mills, cycle manufacture, ship-building and repairs, starch manufacture, soap manufacture, cement works, glass manufacture, manufacture of surgical and scientific instruments, pottery and porcelain works, manufacture of matches, cotton ginning and pressing factories, cotton finishing and printing factories, jute presses, water proofing, clothing and knitting factories, coir and hemp manufactures, brushware, rubber manufacture, plastics, milk products, salt manufacture, etc.

CONSENTED NON-INDUSTRIAL ISSUES

Of the non-industrial capital issues permitted by the Examiner of Capital Issues, between May 1943 and September 1945, numbering 2,018 applications for an aggregate issue of Rs. 101 crores, the first place is occupied by banking and indigenous credit agencies with 248 applications with a permitted capital issue of Rs. 32.13 crores. The non-industrial issues have been classified under 25 major heads. Of these, plantations, agricultural and land improvement, insurance companies, trading concerns, bus services and shipping concerns predominate.

In the agricultural group, there were 127 applications with a permitted capital issue of Rs. 8.25 crores relating to plantations, 90 applications with an issue of Rs. 3.89 crores relating to agricultural and land improvement and 50 applications with an issue of Rs. 1.77 crores relating to dairies.

In the financial group, besides 248 applications referred to above belonging to banking and indigenous credit agencies, there were 104 consented applications in respect of insurance

companies for a capital issue of Rs. 7.25 crores and 19 applications in respect of investment trusts for a capital issue of Rs. 3.66 crores.

In the transport group, bus services claimed 292 applications with a capital issue of Rs. 7.66 crores and shipping concerns, including country craft and inland navigation, 15 applications with a capital issue of Rs. 9.01 crores.

There were 85 applications relating to managing agencies for which permission was given to the issue of Rs. 4.34 crores. House building societies claimed 46 applications for a capital issue of Rs. 3.35 crores. There were as many as 636 applications under trading concerns with a permitted capital issue of Rs. 9.79 crores. There were 63 applications relating to cinema houses, musical halls and theatres for a capital issue of Rs. 4.52 crores, and 127 applications under advertising and publishing concerns with an aggregate permitted capital issue of Rs. 1.95 crores.

LONG-RANGE SCHEMES

Between May 1943 and September 1945, there were 249 applications under long-range schemes asking for a capital issue of Rs. 96 crores. Consent was given in the case of 247 applications for a capital issue of about Rs. 95 crores. Of these, 216 applications in respect of Rs. 82 crores belonged to industrial and 31 applications in respect of over Rs. 12 crores to non-industrial issues.

Of the consented industrial issues, the most important was the textile group with 68 applications for a capital issue of Rs. 23.28 crores in respect of cotton spinning and weaving and 5 applications for a capital issue of Rs. 1.85 crores in respect of jute, spinning and weaving. There were 4 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.25 crores in respect of woollen and worsted mills and 5 applications for an issue of Rs. 3.36 crores in respect of silk factories.

Automobile manufacture claimed 2 applications with a consented capital issue of Rs. 7.13 crores. Under chemicals, there were 9 applications for heavy chemicals with a capital issue of Rs. 4.12 crores and 6 applications for fine chemicals with a capital issue of Rs. 1.37 crores. Manufacture of vegetable fats claimed 13 applications with an issue of Rs. 2.60 crores.

There were 6 applications for cement works with consented capital issue of Rs. 11.92 crores. Sugar manufacture claimed 10 applications for an issue of Rs. 2.65 crores. There were 8 applications under mining and quarrying (Rs. 3.01 crores), 18 applications under engineering general (Rs. 5.21 crores), 15 applications under electrical

industries (Rs. 3.29 crores), 10 applications under paper and pasteboard (Rs. 84.89 crores) and 7 applications under film production (Rs. 1.99 crores).

Under consented non-industrial issues belonging to the long-range group, the most important group was concerned with shipping including country craft and inland navigation. There were 8 applications with a consented capital issue of Rs. 7.39 crores. Next in importance came house-building societies with 6 applications for a capital issue of Rs. 1.55 crores. Aerial navigation claimed 4 applications and a capital issue of Rs. 98 lakhs. There were 6 applications under cinema houses, musical halls and theatres asking for a capital issue of Rs. 1.85 crores.

CAPITAL ISSUE REFUSALS

Of the total amount applied for under the Scheme from the date of its inception in May 1943 up to the end of September 1945, complete refusals amounted to Rs. 89 crores relating to 876 companies. This gives a proportion of 19 per cent. in respect of applications and 23 per cent. in respect of capital. There were practically no refusals under long-range schemes. Only 2 applications were refused, asking for a capital issue of Rs. 29 lakhs, and both related to film production. Almost the entire refusals, therefore, related to immediate issues.

Of the refusals, over Rs. 23 crores relating to 248 applications were concerned with industrial and nearly Rs. 66 crores relating to 626 applications with non-industrial issues.

Of the industrial refusals, 186 applications asking for a capital issue of Rs. 20 crores related to initial and 62 applications asking for a capital issue of Rs. 3 crores to further issues. Of the non-industrial refusals, 369 applications asking for a capital issue of Rs. 48 crores belonged to initial and 257 applications asking for a capital issue of Rs. 18 crores to further issues.

Industrial Refusals

Of the industrial applications refused, 10 applications asking for a capital issue of Rs. 1.05 crores related to non-ferrous metals, 16 applications asking for an issue of Rs. 1.53 crores to general engineering, 1 application for an issue of Rs. 1 crore to automobile manufacture, 1 application for an issue of Rs. 1 crore to shipbuilding and repairs, 14 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.79 crores to heavy chemicals, 4 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.15 crores to oil mills, 12 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.33 crores to construction concerns, 19 applications for an

issue of Rs. 2.97 crores to cotton spinning and weaving mills and 19 applications for an issue of Rs. 1.43 crores to film production.

In the non-industrial group, 38 applications relating to agricultural and land improvement were refused permission for an issue of Rs. 3.48 crores. Permission was also refused in respect of 171 applications relating to banking for an issue of Rs. 32.24 crores and 16 applications relating to Nidhis, loan offices and other indigenous credit agencies for an issue of Rs. 1.74 crores, 97 applications relating to insurance companies for an issue of Rs. 10 crores and 60 applications relating to investment trusts for an issue of Rs. 6.28 crores.

Under trading concerns, there were 107 applications which were refused permission to issue capital aggregating Rs. 4.17 crores. There were 25 similar applications under house-building societies asking for a capital issue of Rs. 1.21 crores and 32 such applications relating to cinema houses, musical halls and theatres for an issue of Rs. 2.49 crores.

BRASS AND COPPER CONTROL ORDER AMENDED

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Supplies have, by a notification in the *Gazette of India*, made the following amendments in the Brass and Copper (Control) Order, 1945:—

The employees of dealers have been included under the definition of "dealers".

The concession allowed to dealers under clause 7 of the Control Order has been extended to the dealers in Dehra Ismail Khan also.

The following three items have been removed from category II of Schedule II of the Control Order and added to category I of the schedule under the heading "Articles manufactured in the Punjab area": *Pathila Mathar*; *Thali Charak* (all sizes and designs); and *Valthoi* (Tokni).

Machine Made Utensils

Dealers in machine-made brass and copper utensils have also been allowed to recover, in addition to the prices of utensils fixed under the Control Order, sales tax or octroi duty levied by the Provincial Government in cases where it exceeds 6 pies or more in a rupee.

In respect of articles with *Charak* Polish an extra charge of 2 as. per lb. over and above the ceiling prices fixed under the Control Order has been allowed.

ADMINISTRATION OF CENTRALLY-ADMINISTERED AREAS

Home Member's Speech in

Central Assembly

SPEAKING in the Central Assembly on March 13, on the cut motion moved by Mr. Vadi-lal Lallubhai (Congress) that the demand under the head Executive Council be reduced by Rs. 100 "to censure (a) the Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration; (b) on the administration of the Centrally-Administered Areas; (c) and to discuss their planning and development policy," the Home Member, the Hon'ble Sir John Thorne, said:

If I may say so, so far as the debate on this cut motion has gone, it is being carried out with a rather blunt knife. Perhaps that is not the most suitable metaphor because the weapon seems to be more like a three-pronged fork or chisel. (a) is about the irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration; (b) is the administration of the Centrally-administered areas; and (c) is the planning and development policy. Well, Sir, that is rather omnibus and I am concerned only with parts (a) and (b) of the motion. (a) itself is sub-divided into three subjects, another three-pronged fork. I have listened with some care. It is disadvantageous. If I may say so, that I should be speaking so early in the debate. I have listened with some care to see the grounds on which the Government are to be censured for irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption. Of those, fairly the most important charge is that of corruption. On that a great deal might be said and a great deal in the course of a session is said in scattered references to the subject. I shall say very little on the legislative and executive measures that have been taken, to check corruption, but I would remind the House of what has been done in that way.

In 1943 an Ordinance was passed. I think it was Ordinance XXII of 1943, to set up a special Police Department or rather to put on a statutory basis the Police establishment which had been working since 1941, more especially in connection with the affairs of defence, supply and railways, with a view to the more speedy detection and punishment of offences which may be lumped under the general head 'corruption'. Then, in the same connection, an ordinance was passed, setting up special tribunals for the same purpose, the procedure was simplified, special rules of evidence were provided, all with the object of obtaining speedier trial and heavier punishments

for offences of this kind. I believe that recently an ordinance has been published which makes some part of that ordinance in relation to special rules of evidence, part of the law of the land, applying throughout India at any rate until there is other legislation to displace it. Then, Sir, there was another ordinance, for which I can claim some credit as a father, which had a very useful and desirable object of freezing ill-gotten gains, pending the hearing of the cases, in order that they should not be tucked away somewhere, where at the end of the trial it might result in conviction and they would not be accessible.

Steps to Meet Needs

That is a brief summary of the steps taken by way of legislation and setting up of the establishments of police and judiciary to meet these very special needs. We are all agreed about the needs. There is no doubt whatever that during the war, corruption greatly increased. I believe if a survey were made of all the countries at war, and probably even of those that were not at war, it will be found that that phenomenon was general. Opportunities increased, temptations increased and I doubt whether any country has succeeded in keeping its administration as clean as it was before the war. I admit it is public knowledge that here in India we have had a great deal of corruption. But, Sir none of us can feel that men can be made and kept good by legislation or even by increased police and judicial powers. There must be something else, there must be something more profound and fundamental in the community if corruption is to be stamped out.

Now that the war is over, we may hope that those temptations and those opportunities will decrease and we shall not hear perhaps in the next few years of as many flagrant cases as have been brought to notice during the war. But there is, as I say, something more fundamental required and when I listened to my Honourable friends not only today, but when this matter came up on previous days, I wondered exactly who these government servants are who are regarded as a class, as so inefficient and corrupt. One would suppose Sir, that people were not born as government servants, or if not born as government servants, brought up as government servants, as some sort of special species or genus of the animal kingdom, something like elephants or tigers. Well, Sir, that is not so. The average

government servant is some one very much like any of my Honourable friends here, he comes very much from the same level of society as many of us here, who are no doubt related to many government servants, and the Government servant is just the pivot of the community.

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL (Congress): There may be a cadre of these.

SIR JOHN THORNE: But they are not endowed either at birth or during their bringing up with any special qualities

MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL (Congress): They are your creatures.

SIR JOHN THORNE: They have all the same qualities of the community from which they come. Well, Sir, that is one thing I want to say that they are not a special class or caste or, as my Honourable friend calls, a special cadre. They are in no way different from the material from which a great majority of the folk in India are made.

Corruption and Bribery

Then, Sir, there is another thing, and I will repeat what my Honourable colleague of the Food department said yesterday, that corruption is a matter of give and take. If there were no bribe givers, there would be no bribe takers. That is a commonplace which has been said time and again. But here again, who are the bribe givers? Are they some special class, caste or cadre or are they the people who are thrown up by circumstances from all communities? They are not a special class. What is wanted is a much more lively and vivid sense in the community of the shamefulness, the shameful greed and the shameful dishonesty which is involved in the giving and taking of bribe. (Interruption). It is a great pity that the Honourable Member does not even get up to speak. I have not much time to deal with this subject, the first of the prongs with which I am concerned. Inefficiency—I might have said more about it, but I did not very much hear about this in the course of the debate.

I shall not keep the House long on the second subject which is the administration of Centrally Administered Areas, those areas which are officially known as the Chief Commissioners' provinces. My Honourable friend, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, enumerated them just now. I think he omitted one for which I have a special affection, Baluchistan, but that is not my concern, and I daresay, if there is time, my colleague of the External Affairs Department will deal with it, Panth Piploda—we have heard of those magic words this morning, and I am sorry that some of my Hon'ble friends opposite did not

hear the debate which I think was amusing—they were on strike at the time, I think it was in 1939 at Simla.

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG (Muslim League): I heard that debate.

SIR JOHN THORNE: I very much enjoyed it. I think in these unhappy days, there is a good deal to be said for an area which gives us no trouble and which provides some of us with a little harmless amusement. Of the other areas, only two are represented here, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. I have listened with attention to what has been said. I am sorry that circumstances prevent the representative of Delhi from being here himself, but I have listened with attention to what has been said by the Pandit who deputised for him and the other Pandit who told us about Ajmer-Merwara. Well, Sir, I am rather at a loss on these occasions because I am not really officially concerned with the subjects which mostly interest my Honourable friends, that is to say, the provision for what are called, the operation of nation-building activities in the Chief Commissioners' provinces. Each department of the Government of India is concerned with that part of the subject which falls within the ordinary scope. That may, I think, be a defect, I cannot help feeling it is a defect, I should myself hope that some arrangement may be found of rather closer co-ordination between the activities of the various departments in the Chief Commissioners' provinces then it is possible under the present arrangement. However, there it is and I cannot answer for the public health facilities, irrigation facilities subjects which have been referred to in these speeches.

Ajmer-Merwara

As regards Ajmer-Merwara I confess I do not know as I have not yet had time to visit it. But as regards Delhi I should have thought that the complaint that Delhi has been neglected has very little foundation. We are all aware of the great interest taken in the welfare of Delhi Province by Lord Linlithgow and we are acquainted with the zeal with which various measures were initiated by Sir Evan Jenkins, and I have no doubt they are still being carried on. But, as I say, I cannot answer for that side of the subject.

Then by Hon'ble friends complained of the constitutional footing of these two provinces—here they are ruled by autocrats, no democratic bodies, no advisory councils, even local boards dominated by not official majorities but surely by nominated majorities. That was certainly said of Delhi; I am not certain whether anything on the same theme was said about Ajmer-Merwara.

What is the solution? I listened rather carefully for the views of my Honourable friends as to what should be done about it. The Pandit, who spoke in regard to Delhi is in favour—if I understood him aright—of the formation of a large province which shall take in adjoining areas of the Punjab and the United Provinces. What the solution suggested by my other Pandit friend from Ajmer-Merwara was I did not quite gather. He referred to a Committee which reported in 1921; and so far as I could make out, the main recommendation of that Committee was that Ajmer-Merwara be merged in the United Provinces.

Coorg

Sir, these are matters which I hope my Honourable friends will have an opportunity of urging before the constitution-making body. It is not for me to say whether the Chief Commissioners' provinces will be represented on that body: I hope they will be, because there are problems and we are all conscious of them. The administrations of those small areas are bound to be somewhat top-heavy, they are bound to be somewhat extravagant by the ordinary principles which apply to larger areas like Governors' provinces. I do not know about Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, but certainly with regard to another Chief Commissioner's province with which I have some acquaintance, namely Coorg, there is quite a strong feeling of local patriotism, so to speak. I have recently visited Coorg and I know that opinions there are almost as much divided as they were nearly 20 years ago when I served as Commissioner of that province. But whatever the prevailing opinion is, there is quite a strong sense of local individuality and tradition.

If Ajmer-Merwara were merged in the United Provinces, something would be lost and something might be gained. After all it would be a very small corner of the United Provinces. And I should have thought that even in material matters, and certainly in the perhaps more important spiritual feelings of the people, something would be lost by their being merged in a much larger unit.

MR. V. P. BHANDARKAR

Mr. V. P. Bhandarkar, O.B.E., at present Railway Liaison Officer, Calcutta Area, will succeed Mr. R. G. Manson, C. I. E., as General Manager, Bengal Assam Railway, when the latter proceeds on leave preparatory to retirement early in May.

THE VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

THE Viceroy's War Purposes Fund has been closed with effect from March 31, 1946, the date of the official termination of the war, in pursuance of a decision by H. E. the Viceroy.

A communique announcing His Excellency's decision was issued from the Viceroy's House on March 27. It said:

The Viceroy's War Purposes Fund has now been in existence for six years. His Excellency has never issued an appeal for contributions to the Fund, and those which have been received have been made with spontaneous generosity by the Princes and people of India. Poor and rich have contributed, and donations ranging from a few annas to many lakhs of rupees have been made to complete the total on February 28, 1946, to the great sum of Rs. 12.72 crores. His Excellency acknowledges with deep gratitude these gifts from the Princes and people of India which have gone to provide ambulances and Red Cross stores and Services for the wounded, amenities and comforts for Servicemen and Merchant Seamen, aircraft and armaments for the Allied cause, and many other things of the greatest value to the War Effort.

Sudan Government's Gift

A total of nearly Rs. 11.28 crores has been expended from the Fund up to February 28, 1946, leaving a balance of nearly Rs. 1.46 lakhs. Of this sum Rs. 14 lakhs represent the gift which the Sudan Government made in 1941 in commemoration of the part played by Indian troops in the defence of the Sudan, which His Excellency, with the approval of the Sudan Government, proposes to devote to the Military Academy which is to be set up as the Indian War Memorial. The remaining Rs. 132 lakhs represent contributions which are to be spent at His Excellency's discretion on beneficent purposes connected with the war. His Excellency is considering the disposal of this money in consultation with the Appeal Committee which advises him in the administration of the Fund. There is still much to be done for the relief of distress and suffering caused by the war and for the resettlement in civil life of demobilised Indian Servicemen, and the balance will be expended on these and other similar objects. A further communique will be issued later.

Mr. J. F. C. Renolds, C.I.E., M.C., General Manager, South Indian Railway, has assumed charge as President of the Indian Railway Conference Association from April 1, 1946.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1946.

UTILISATION OF INDIGENOUS CLAY IN RUBBER INDUSTRY

THE traditional source of eugenol, an aromatic extensively used in the perfumery and pharmaceutical industries, is clove oil. Cloves, however, are not cultivated to any significant extent in India, and an alternative source of eugenol has to be looked for. This is available in cinnamon leaf oil, in which it is present to the extent of 70-90 per cent.

The cinnamon leaf oil produced in South Kanara is of high quality, equivalent to clove oil in eugenol content. Only a limited quantity of the oil is distilled, although the industry is said to be a hundred years old. The present position of the industry, and the scope for its expansion are discussed in the February issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

Investigations carried out in the Ordnance Laboratories at Cawnpore, have shown that both D.D.T. and 666 can be used in the form of dust for sterilizing floor debris in grain stores. The standard of cleanliness of grain storage places in India needs considerable improvement. In many cases, the loose types of construction of the building and floors render the complete removal of accumulated grain debris impracticable. D.D.T. and 666 could both be effectively employed as sterilisants. One pound of D.D.T. would effectively treat 20,000 lbs. of grain debris, and the effect would persist for about a fortnight. D.D.T. and 666 can be used effectively as oil-in-water emulsions with chalk for washing the walls of grain stores. The insecticidal effect would persist for two months after application.

Leather Depilation Mixtures

The characteristics of leather are greatly influenced by the process of depilation used in its manufacture. Considerable attention has been devoted to this aspect of the tanning industry in the Bengal Tanning Institute. The usual trade practice is to use lime with sodium sulphide and calcium chloride for unhairing hides. The practice in America is different. Investigations into the different methods have shown that the replacement of lime by caustic soda has definite and marked advantages. A bath containing 1 per cent caustic soda and 2 per cent sodium sulphide is found to be superior to other compositions and results in the production of leather of smooth and tight grain, good tearing strength and anti-creasing property, which is in every respect superior to that produced by the usual liming process.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1946.

In the fabrication of rubber, a considerable quantity of china-clay is used. Indigenous clay has not been found to be quite satisfactory and the material is usually imported. An investigation on the factors that would yield a satisfactory clay and the methods of processing the indigenous product to give a satisfactory filling material for the rubber industry was carried out in the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; and it was shown that the particle-size distribution in the clay was important. By the simple process of eliminating the coarser fraction in a "cyclone" separator, a sample of Indian clay was prepared and it was found to be satisfactory on practical tests in a rubber factory.

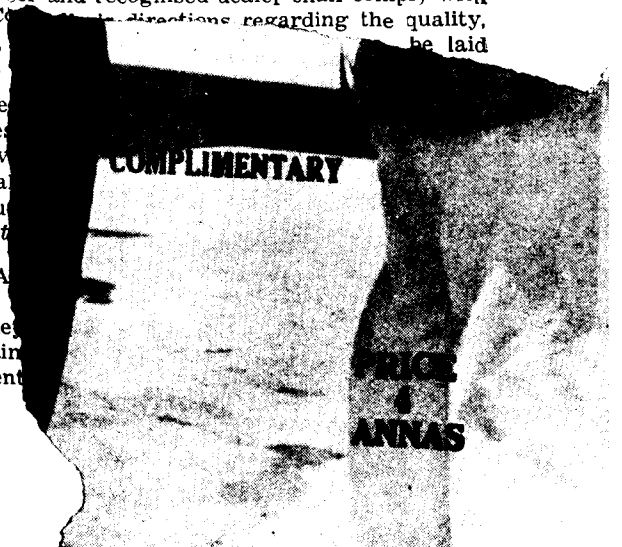
VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTS CONTROL ORDER

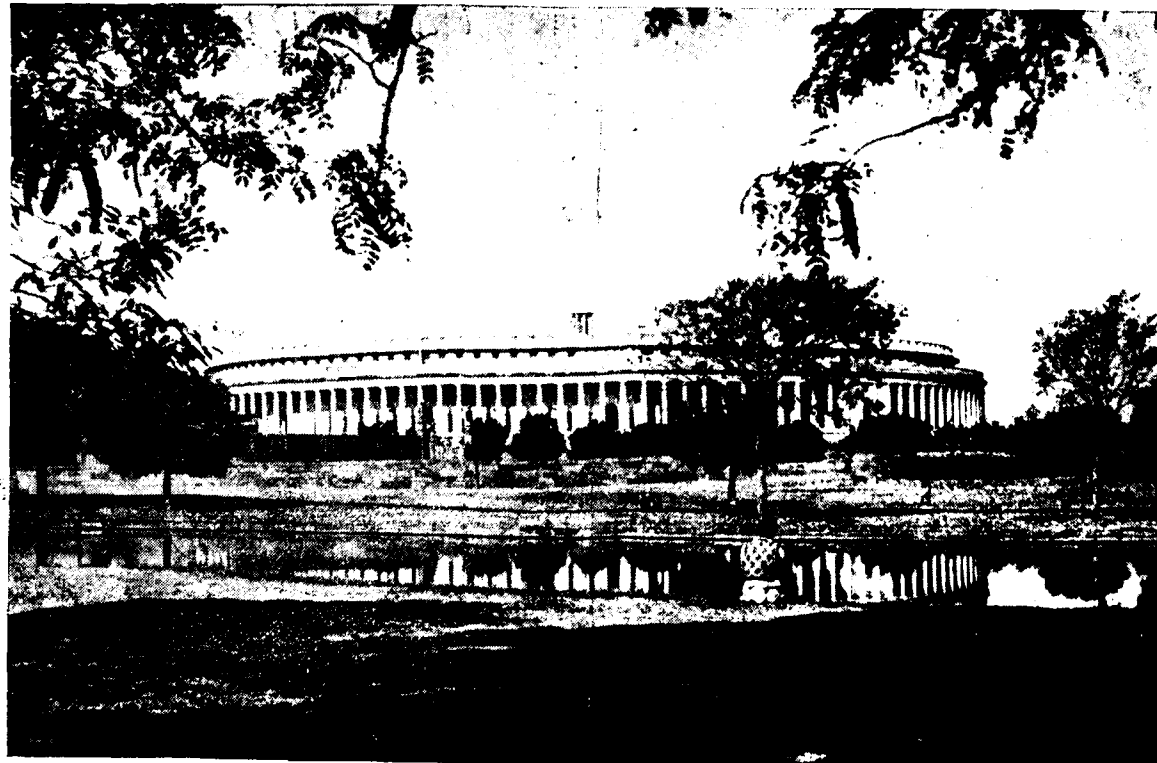
By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* on March 17 the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order 1946 was brought into force immediately throughout British India in supersession of the Vegetable Oil Product Control Order 1945.

The order provides for the appointment of a Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India empowered to control production distribution and movement of hydrogenated oil or any oil containing more than 50 per cent. of hydrogenated oil. No producer shall after such date as the Controller may notify, dispose of any vegetable oil product except to a recognised dealer or to a person specially authorised to acquire vegetable oil products on behalf of the Central or a Provincial Government or an Indian State. Every producer and recognised dealer shall comply with the Controller's directions regarding the quality, sales, and distribution of vegetable oil products.

The order or regulations any vegetable oil product and a notice in the *Gazette*.

A table as they remain present.





The Council Chamber, New Delhi.



CABINET MISSION MEETS INDIAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS

Vol. 18, No. 183. INDIAN INFORMATION May 1, 1946.

MAIN CONTENTS

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

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

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

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

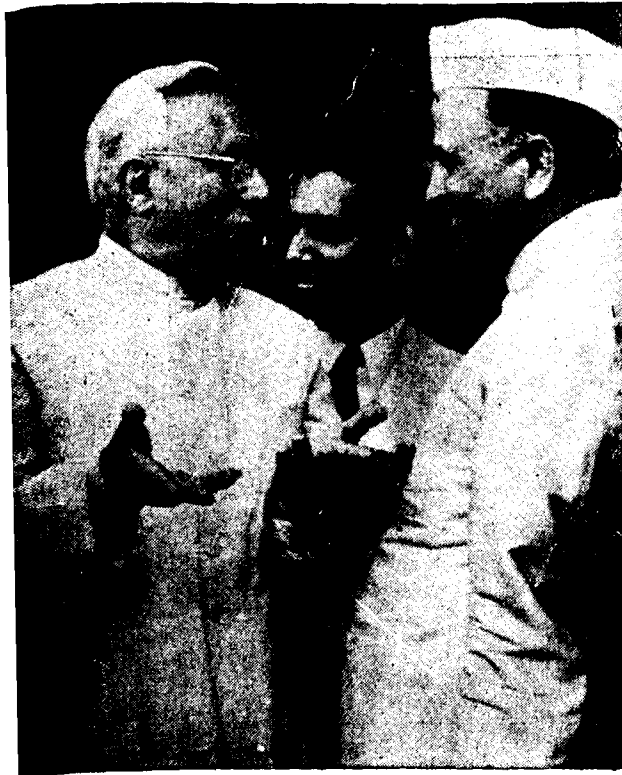
	Page
Sir Mahomed Usman on Cabinet Mission's Task	530
Sir J. P. Srivastava's Address to Central Food Advisory Council.	531
Army Drive to Grow More Food	538
Plans for Development of India's Mica Industry.	540
Protective Customs Duties on Imported Goods: Commerce Member's Speech in Central Assembly.	548
Development of Virginia Tobacco	556
Nationalisation of Indian Army: C-in-C's Statement in Council of State.	577
Gen. Auchinleck's Tribute to W.A.C.(I)	582

COVER PICTURE.—Ex-President Hoover who recently visited India to study the food situation, being greeted on arrival at the Wilingdon aerodrome, New Delhi, by Mr. George Merrell, American Commissioner in India.



Members of the British Cabinet Mission, who are now in Delhi discussing India's future constitution with the leaders of the various political parties in India, met the Standing Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference on April 2. H.E. the Viceroy was also present. Later, they had tea with the editors. Picture above shows Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, addressing the gathering. (Left) Sir Stafford Cripps, a member of the Cabinet Mission, addressing a Press Conference at the Council House, New Delhi, on April 1.

Political Leaders and Princes Meet Cabinet Mission



The Hon'ble Dr. Khan Sahib, (left) Premier of N.W.F.P. (April 1).

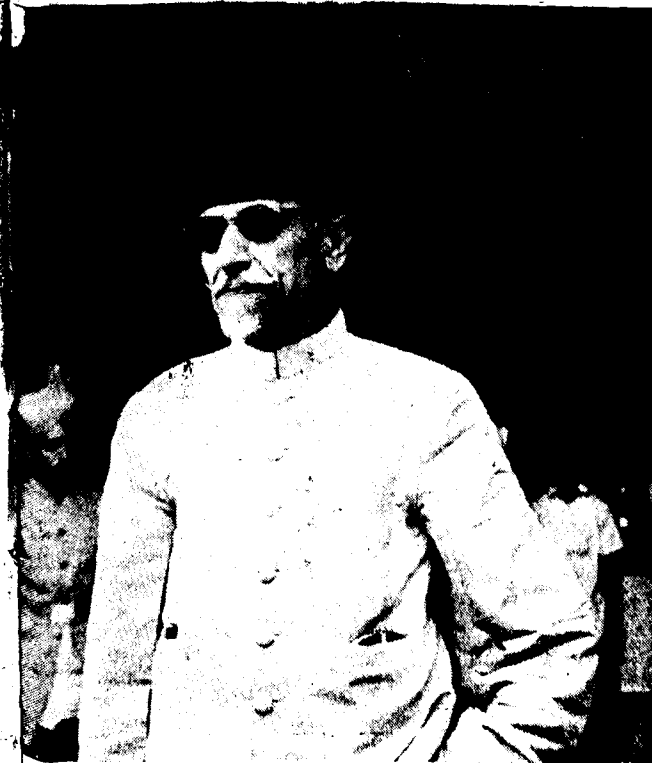


The Hon'ble Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi (right) Premier of Assam. (April 1).

Leaders of the Congress, the Muslim League and other political parties and Indian Princes met the British Cabinet Mission at the Viceroy's House early last month. Photographs on this and the next three pages were taken on the occasion of the leaders' visit to the Viceroy's House. (The date of interview is given within brackets.)

(R. to L.) H. H. the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanshar, and H. H. the Maharaja of

H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal (left) Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. (April 2).



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Indian National Congress. (April 3).

H. H. the Maharaja of Gwalior Bikaner. (April 2.)



Mr. M. K. Gandhi met the Cabinet Mission at 4 p.m. on April 3. (Below) Mr. Gandhi passes between two rows of Indian and foreign correspondents.





Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the All-India Muslim League, arriving at the Viceroy's House for talks with the Cabinet Mission on April 4. (Right) Mr. Jinnah coming out of the Viceroy's House after the talks.



The Hon'ble Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, Premier of Sind. (April 4)



The Premiers of Bombay, the United Provinces, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Orissa interviewed the Cabinet Mission at the Viceroy's House on April 6. (Left) The Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay.



The Hon'ble Pundit Ravi Shankar Shukla (left) Premier of C.P., and the Hon'ble Mr. Sri Krishna Sinha, Premier of Bihar.



The Hon'ble Mr. H. K. Mehta, Premier of Orissa.

"MOST IMPORTANT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS"

THE Cabinet Mission issued the following statement on April 11:

The Cabinet Mission came out with the view that a speedy settlement of the outstanding questions was essential. They have since their arrival heard the opinions of the most important political elements in India.

Accordingly, they are now proposing to enter on the next and most important phase of the negotiations. It is a phase which calls on the utmost efforts from the leading statesmen of India, and from the Cabinet Mission, to arrive at a solution acceptable to all sides. The Mission are confident that at this great moment in the history of India it will be possible with mutual goodwill to reach that decision which the people of India so anxiously await and which will be welcomed throughout the world.

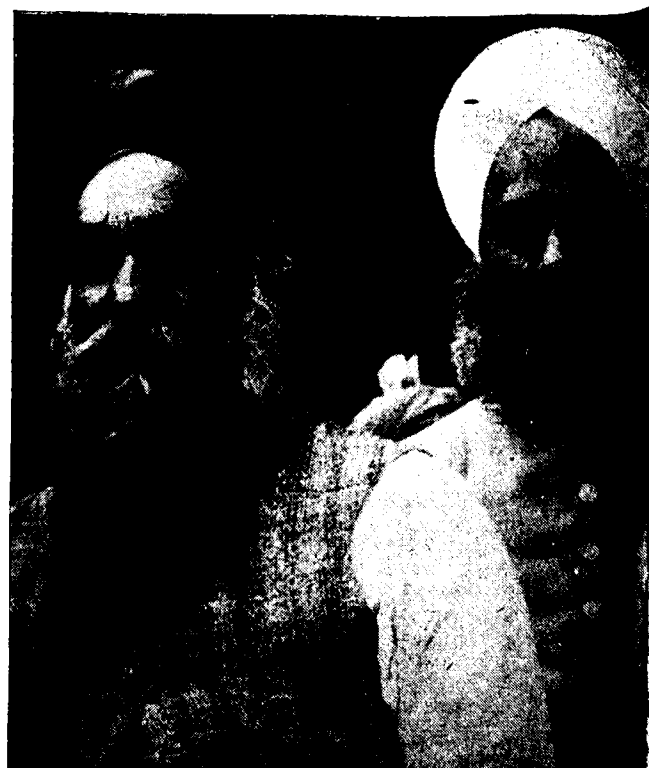
The Mission hope that much progress towards this will be made before they leave for their short recess at the end of next week. During the absence of the Delegation there will be an opportunity for decisive consultations between the Indian parties.

When the Mission return they hope to find sufficient elements of agreement on which a settlement will be based.

The Hon'ble Pundit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier of U. P.



Master Tara Singh (left) Sikh Leader, who put the Sikhs' case before the Cabinet Mission on April 5.



The Hon'ble Malik Sir Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana (left) Punjab Premier. (April 5)

SIR MAHOMED USMAN ON CABINET MISSION'S TASK

SPEAKING in the Council of State on March 30, during the debate on the Finance Bill, the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, said:

The Cabinet Mission is here which includes the Secretary of State for India himself, which in itself is a proof of the sincerity of His Majesty's Government's intentions towards India. As explained by the Secretary of State, 'the issue of freedom and self determination is settled in principle. We have now to work out the means by which Indians can themselves decide the form of the new institutions with the minimum of disturbance and the maximum of speed'.

The recent elections, Sir Mahomed Usman continued, have shown beyond any shadow of doubt that the Congress and the Muslim League as representing the two great communities are the only two political parties that count. The future of the country lies in the hands of the two great leaders of the people—Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah. For the future prosperity and the peace of the country it is essential that any solution of the problems has the blessing of both these great men. His Majesty's Government is committed to grant freedom to the country. It is equally committed to protect the Muslims and the minorities. In August 1940 Lord Linlithgow, the then Viceroy, on behalf of His Majesty's Government solemnly assured the Muslims and the minorities that His Majesty's Government could not be a party to their coercion by any Government whose authority was directly denied by important elements in India's national life. This pledge has also to be redeemed.

A Vital Necessity

The structure of the new constitution, whatever it may be, has to be built on the willing partnership at least of the two great communities—Hindus and Muslims—and that partnership can be in a single union if possible, or in two separate unions, if necessary. Even after separation these two great communities will have to work in harmony if chaos is to be avoided. Communal harmony, therefore, is a vital necessity for a united or a divided India.

One of the Congress members in this House ridiculed the present Executive Council. We accepted office at a very critical period in the history of the world. We helped as Allies of the United Nations to defeat the mighty powers of Germany and Japan at a time when Congress was sabotaging the war effort. It will be our proud privilege to pass to our successors a solvent and peaceful India. We are still living in critical

times. The Cabinet Mission is here to help us but we have also to help the Cabinet Mission by trying to come to a common agreement between ourselves. The idea of by-passing the Muslim League, which one hears of so often, should be given up if the Mission is to succeed in its task. The sooner it is realised the better it will be for the country.

In conclusion I should like to point out that the presence of the Cabinet Mission here is a positive proof of the willingness of Great Britain to part with power. When the present passions die and the people start reflecting calmly they will realise the great services rendered by Great Britain to India.

DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT

A Press Note issued by the Legislative Department, Government of India, on March 29 stated:

"Section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, provides that the repeal of an enactment shall not, in the absence of express provision to the contrary, operate to invalidate things done under the repealed enactment or free persons from liabilities (including liability to penalties) they have incurred thereunder. This section does not however apply in the case of an enactment which expires under the operation of one of its provisions. The Defence of India Act, 1939, is such an enactment, and it is considered essential to make it clear that after the expiry of that Act, the validity of things already done, and liabilities already incurred, under the Act while it is in force shall not be affected by the expiry of the Act. An Ordinance promulgated to-day makes an insertion, based on section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, for this purpose."

The General Clauses Act, 1897, is an act based on the Interpretation Act of Parliament which lays down definition to apply to all enactments and regulates general legislative principles such as those in respect of the commencement and termination of enactments.

MR. JUSTICE JNANARANJAN SEN

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jnanaranjan Sen to be an Additional Judge of the Nagpur High Court for a period of two years with effect from April 17, 1946.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1946.

Central Food Advisory Council—



Sir J. P. Srivastava addressing the Central Food Advisory Council, New Delhi on March 3.

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA REVIEWS FOOD POLICY

ADDRESSING the Central Food Advisory Council on March 3, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank you for responding to our invitation asking you to come and assist us with your advice regarding the food situation in the country at the present juncture. The broad facts of the present situation have been before the country for some time now and it is, therefore, only right that we should seek to inform the Central Food Advisory Council of the measures we are taking to cope with the difficulties facing us and ask for their advice and guidance.

"When we last met about the middle of September 1945, it was in a very different atmosphere: the war had just ended; there was little to fear in respect of the food crop position in the country; and this Council actually talked in terms of the relaxation of food controls and of a return to normalcy. Unfortunately subsequent

events have completely changed the situation on the food front in the country and I propose briefly to tell you the actual present position and the measures that are being taken to meet it.

"As you know, a succession of natural calamities has conspired to create a very difficult situation. A little over a month after the last meeting of this Council, a cyclone struck the rich rice fields of the Godavri-Kistna area; then a protracted drought ruined the standing rice and millet crops in the South of India; and, finally, an unprecedented failure of winter rains seriously affected the wheat crop of the North. The result of such a succession of misfortunes, coming closely at the conclusion of six years of war, was bound to be considerable. Our calculations of the short fall in our Kharif and Rabi crop expectations run to millions of tons. Statistically speaking, the total deficit is of the order of 7 or 8 per cent. of the production.

"I shall now deal with the measures we have instituted to solve the problem. These have

consisted largely of steps to maximise our imports of foodgrains and to mobilise to the utmost all our available internal resources. I shall deal with imports first. As you know in pre-war days, India secured large quantities of rice from Burma and that source has been extinct since the Japanese overran that country. In the present world food situation, it is not possible to import foodgrains freely. The needs of the various countries have to be assessed and allocations are made by what is known as the Combined Food Board at Washington. We had, during the war years, been pressing for imports, especially of wheat, before this authority; but for various unavoidable reasons, the actual allocations had fallen far short of our demand.

"Having regard to the urgency of our need, the Delegation asked in round figures for 500,000 tons of rice and 2 million tons of wheat and wheat substitutes for the first half of the year. The allotment that has been made is of 145,000 tons of rice and 1.4 million tons of wheat and maize or roughly 60 per cent of our requirements. While this allotment falls considerably short of our requirements, it constitutes a great improvement on the position as it existed when the Delegation went to Washington.

Delegation Thanked

"As to the next half year, the world food situation is such that it is not possible to secure allocations so far ahead but the real needs of India have now been placed before the nations represented on the Combined Food Board and considerable interest has been aroused in the U.K. and the U.S.A. where the true facts about the Indian food situation are now much better known than ever before.

"The Delegation have established a number of valuable contacts and the whole world now realises that it has a duty towards India which it cannot shirk. The Delegation deserves our sincere thanks for what they have done. I must however, stress one important point. I have told you of the allocations which the Delegation have been able to secure, but what is more important than allocations is what we actually receive during the next four or five critical months. We have therefore, to be constantly at the supplying countries in order that there may be no delay in despatching what has been promised.

"We do not propose to relax our efforts for the minimum imports that we had asked for and what the Delegation have left unfinished will now be taken up by the Indian Agent-General in Washington, Sir G. S. Bajpai. That is all that I can say at the present moment about our import position.

"I shall now turn to the internal measures which we have been taking. The policy which we

have carried out since the institution of the Food Department, is based upon four main planks, viz. procurement, controlled movement, price control and rationing. In the early days there was a good deal of experimenting with methods of procurement, but since the end of 1944, the Food Department has been advocating the adoption of a system of complete Government monopoly procurement. Such a system prevails in Bombay, the Deccan States, Madras, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin. In all these, there is a Government monopoly for the major foodgrains supplemented by a system of levy on the producer to ensure that he will not hold back his stocks. Every producer has been assessed and arrangements have been made for Government agents to collect the assessed amount of grain at convenient centres.

"We have been trying to persuade other administrations in India to fall into line in the matter and I am glad to say that the United Provinces are considering a direct procurement scheme for the present rabi crop which it is hoped will be put into operation in a few days. The surplus Provinces, like the Punjab and Sind, are also examining the question with a view to tightening up their procurement machinery to the fullest extent possible.

"In Bihar and Bengal, the absence of a system of annual land records makes the levy system impossible but measures have been taken in Bihar to compel large producers to sell their stocks to Government and lists of stockists have been prepared in Bengal so that stocks may be requisitioned if voluntary procurement does not produce the desired results. In this manner, we have been attempting to obtain the largest practical measure of control over the country's internal foodgrain resources.

Rationing

"As regards distribution, our policy has depended upon controlled movement and the introduction and extension of rationing. In respect of the former, we have acquired considerable experience in the running of our Basic Plan, and, with the improved transport situation, we are busily programming the handling of the imports that we expect.

"As regards rationing, it now extends to a population of nearly 55,000,000, i.e. a population greater than that of the U.K. and we are continuously pressing Provinces and State Administrations further to expand rationing. We, therefore, hope that an even greater number of those living in urban and in scarcity areas will be assured an equitable distribution of the available foodgrains. In this connection I must refer to the recent cut in the cereal ration which has been



AGRICULTURAL TRAINING: Student of an Agricultural College in the Deccan is learning how to sow. Field work at this College occupies six hours out of a ten-hour working day.

forced upon us as a measure necessary to conserve resources at the present time. The reduced ration from 12 oz. of cereals per adult per day has now been accepted throughout the country and provision has been made for an additional 4 oz. for heavy manual workers. We are not unaware of the insufficiency of this ration. It is, however, a measure of prudence prompted by the present emergency and it is gratifying that on the whole it has received public acceptance.

"The fourth plank in our policy, to which I have referred, is the maintenance of reasonable prices. Members of this Council are aware of the difficulties of price control in a country of the size of India with its widely dispersed markets. They will also remember the consequences in Bengal of the rise in prices in 1942. We have steadily pressed Provinces and State Administrations in India to strengthen their enforcement machinery and to acquire full control over their stocks and distribution so that price stability might be maintained. After the full facts of the present shortage were made known by the Food Department there was a natural reaction on prices and a certain amount of instability, but, I am glad to be able to say that where prices tended to soar, they are again coming down, and, on the whole, price levels have been maintained;

in fact, one very significant fact that I may mention is that prices have been firm in Madras which is the worst affected area. We hope that the proposed levy in the United Provinces will also have a stabilising effect on price.

"In addition to these measures aimed at mobilising our resources, we have also instituted measures which may be described as of a relief character.

Relief Plans

"With the help of the Agriculture Department, we are trying to encourage the cultivation of short-term crops. In Bombay and Madras, a subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre so utilised has been announced and Madras hopes to have about 600,000 acres under short-term crops. We are also trying to encourage the growth of protective or substitute foods like vegetables. In this connection we have asked Provinces to take over and continue the various farms started by the Army authorities during the war. We have decided to operate again some of the dehydration factories which were supplying Service requirements. These will dehydrate potatoes and other vegetables for use in the scarcity areas. We are particularly anxious to do something for what we call the 'vulnerable

classes', i.e. expectant and nursing mothers and children. In order to ensure the supply of milk to them, we have obtained the large allocation of over 10,000 tons of milk powder.

"A great deal has also been done to implement many of the suggestions recently made by the leaders of public opinion, for instance, in the resolution of the Congress Working Committee to add to our food resources. In such items as growing more food and sinking wells, etc., the Army is giving active co-operation.

Administrative Measures

"I shall now deal briefly with the administrative measures that we have taken. In these the Government as a whole is united to concert measures to prevent any large scale distress. Apart from the Committee of the Executive Council on Food, we have a Relief Co-ordination Committee at Secretary level. It meets every week and is empowered to take decisions on the problems arising from day to day. It will take too long to give you an idea of the subjects with which this Committee has been dealing but I may tell you that some of the decisions taken are of far-reaching importance. Finally, as the main afflicted areas are Madras, Bombay, Mysore and the Deccan States, we propose to set up a Relief Co-ordination authority with Headquarters at Bangalore to deal with the situation as it develops on the spot.

"We also fully recognise the extreme importance of maintaining public confidence in an emergency of this kind. We have, therefore, issued numerous statements to the public setting forth the facts. We have also sought the assistance of political leaders and they have responded by giving valued advice and by raising the food of the people above politics. We are also holding frequent Press Conferences at which the Food Department keeps the Press of the country posted with the latest developments of the situation.

"I have necessarily dealt at some length with the present situation and the manner in which we hope to tackle it, but the present emergency is not the only aspect of our food problem, and I should like now to say a few words about our long-term plans. To these reference was made by the last meeting of this Council. Since then, what I may describe as an important event has occurred with the announcement of the Government of India's Agricultural and Food Policy. This, the first integrated statement of policy on the subject is an attempt to clothe in administrative action the principal recommendations of the Famine Enquiry Commission's Report. It has already been before the country for some time and I need not go into all its details. But I hope you will agree that it marks a new departure in several important directions. For the first time, the Government accepts responsibility

for the food of the people and resolves to develop the agricultural resources of the country by utilising the latest scientific knowledge and apparatus. For the first time also, the Government adopts a policy with regard to prices, to see that they are fair not only to the consumer, but also to the producer.

"It cannot be denied that these, and many other points in this declaration of policy will have far-reaching consequences and will remain the basis of agricultural and food policy in this country for some time. To implement this policy, the Food Department has instituted a Special Section charged with the duty of bringing the policy into practical realisation with the least possible delay.

"In connection with the long-term aspect of food, I must make a brief reference to the planning and development of food industries. At its last meeting, this Council passed a resolution on the subject and I am glad to announce that a start is being made with setting up the necessary organisation in the Food Department. We aim at giving our food industries, which largely came to birth during the war, every legitimate help to enable them to play a permanently important part in the industrial and agricultural economy of the country.

"I now invite you to consider our food problems, both in their immediate and in their long-term aspects and I have every confidence that the Food Advisory Council will give us the benefit of its counsel and constructive suggestions at this meeting in the same measure as in the past."

The meeting then discussed the present food position in the country and the measures that are in hand to deal with it. Among the points stressed by the several speakers were the necessity of a storage drive to cut down grain losses due to defective storage, stricter enforcement of measures against holders, and increasing fish supplies in the country.

SUBSIDY TO CULTIVATORS

Grants have been given by the Centre to the Provinces for the construction of wells and a large number of them have already been completed. A subsidy of 50 per cent. will now also be given to any cultivator who undertakes to dig a tube-well in his village. The subsidy will be shared between the Government of India and the provinces. This announcement was made by the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Agriculture, at the Central Food Advisory Council meeting on April 5.

Government has also decided, he added, to set up a Central Groundwater Section to tap sub-soil resources. Government were able to secure the advice of Mr. Roscoe Moss, an American expert. The latter and Sir William

Stampe, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India, had recently toured various parts of the country and drawn up a plan to carry out boring operations. All machinery for the purpose had been purchased from the U.S.A.

Sir Jogendra Singh said that total acreage under principal foodgrains had increased by over 13 million acres during the triennium ended 1944-45. Over 2 million acres of culturable waste and 0.3 million acres of fallow land had been brought under cultivation. He pointed out that there were practical difficulties in bringing large tracts of culturable waste under the plough e.g., lack of irrigation facilities, tractors and manure. But he expected that much progress would be made during the next 12 months and hoped that in a few years India would be self-sufficient in the matter of food production.

Food Member's Appeal

An appeal to the Members of the Council to help the Government in tiding over the present food crisis was made by the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, at the outset. He suggested that they could help Government by collaborating with the Regional Food Commissioners in their circles and by maintaining confidence among the people.

The Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, who also attended the meeting for some time, explained in detail how the allocation of foodgrains to India by the Combined Food Board had been secured by the Indian Delegation. He also explained to the Council the position in regard to purchase of gas plants and other machinery from abroad.

The Council was assured that export of uncrushed bones had been totally stopped. Crushed bones were, however, allowed to be exported. This export enabled the bonecrusher in India to reduce the price of bonemeal, which is a by-product of the crushing and is an excellent manure available to the cultivator.

Manure

The total quantity of sulphate of ammonia allocated to India by the Combined Food Board during the period July, 1945, and June 30, 1946, is 154,000 tons. For the fertilizer year July 1, 1946, to June 30, 1947, the Department of Agriculture has indented for 240,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia, 20,000 tons of which will be produced in the country.

Reports indicated that the Travancore Factory for its production would be operating by June 1946 but it was doubtful if appreciable quantities would be available from that source until much later.

(Continued on Page 536)

ONE-COURSE LUNCH SUGGESTED

Metropolitan on Food Shortage

"If by saving on the quantity of food used in our homes, we can release more food for general consumption and at the same time have more money to give away for the relief of want, then we shall be taking a very real part in helping our fellowmen to tide over one of the greatest crises that has ever befallen the world." Thus observed the Most Rev. Dr. G.C. Hubback, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, in a talk on "Austerity," broadcast from the Calcutta station of All India Radio on April 6.

Addressing primarily those who are accustomed to Western style of food, the Metropolitan observed: "There is not the least doubt that we are faced with a situation which, unless it is very carefully dealt with, may result in sufficient food being unavailable for a very large number of people. How can we take our part in the work of making more food available? That is the question.

"Before going on to consider ways and means it is necessary to state quite frankly that this is a matter which must be looked at primarily from the spiritual point of view and not from the material.

Oneness of Human Race

"Nowadays, stress is being laid all over the world on the differences among us, racial, social and political. Every country seems to be split up into antagonistic groups to the infinite loss of happiness and order. We must get behind these differences and realise that men and women are men and women, whatever may be the race or group to which they belong. The capacity for happiness and for suffering is the same for all; there may be a difference in degree but there is none in kind. Just insofar as we realise the oneness of the human race, so far shall we be moved to do all that we can to save the members of that race from suffering and want. The suffering of one should be the suffering of all.

"There is a verse in the Hebrew Scriptures which runs as follows: 'Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us. If all of us would try to realise our oneness in our common nature, we should obviously be keen to do all that we can to help in the present distress and the very fact of our doing so would do

something towards the elimination of the grievous differences which now divide us from one another.

"If we are convinced that it is not only our duty but our privilege to do what we can to help, the question arises as to how that help can be effected."

Referring to ways and means of avoiding food wastage the Metropolitan appealed for elimination of waste by the reduction of dishes and of alcohol, "which is made from foodstuffs and, if there is less of it drunk, there will be more foodstuffs available for general consumption."

Eliminate Waste

"Elimination of waste in our kitchens will impose a very careful watchfulness on the part of the mistress of the house. I know from my own experience as a bachelor how easily very considerable amounts of food may be wasted by the domestic staff. I believe that in England during the war every kitchen had a series of receptacles in which every scrap of food that came from the table was put. When it could not be again used for human consumption, it was used for animal food and so saved other food which would have been given to those animals. Nothing was ever thrown away.

"It might also be possible in this country for every household to have a few indigent people who would come every day to receive such food as had been saved from the previous day's supply. This is a matter that each one of us can arrange for himself.

"It is customary in many households for two dishes to be served at breakfast, generally porridge and some other dish. Have either porridge or eggs, etc., but not both.

"A little time ago a friend of mine wrote from England to say that he never expected to be able again to have as much butter on his bread as he would like. We can ration ourselves on butter and arrange not to have it as well as jam or other condiment. Lunch or tiffin might be restricted to bread, if it is available, and cheese—nothing else. It makes an excellent lunch and the fact of having no cooking would reduce expenditure on firing and cooking fats. Dinner should be restricted to, at the most, soup, meat and pudding—never meat and fish. There should be rigid elimination of all extras.

"Most of us have a full day's work to do and it is useless to cut down our food to such an extent that our vital energy is reduced and we cannot do a decent day's work, but there is no doubt that in all our houses there could be a very considerable saving in food.

"If we regulate our living on some such lines as I have indicated, there should be a considerable saving in our household expenses."

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN SCARCITY AREAS

THERE have been no serious or abnormal developments in regard to health conditions in the country. Both Madras and Bombay are free from cholera. Small-pox has increased in Surat and West Khandesh and cases have occurred in other districts of Bombay except Panch Mahals, Dharwar and Bijapur. Plague prevails in Satara, Sholapur, Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and Ahmednagar districts. In Madras the plague epidemic in Coimbatore continues and there have been sporadic cases in North Arcot and Salem.

The Committee which was sent to Madras, Bangalore and Bombay, to ascertain requirements has returned to Delhi. The Committee was accompanied by a medical officer with experience of the Bengal famine, and plans to meet possible emergencies were discussed with the Provincial and State authorities.

The Madras Government has placed orders for equipment and medical stores for 200 hospital units of 20 beds, the Mysore Government for 75 units of 20 beds each and the Bombay Government for 40 units of 50 beds each. Orders have also been placed for epidemic stores packed in units to facilitate despatch to areas where they are required and for transport and other miscellaneous requirements. The value of the supplies ordered is Rs. 22 lakhs in the case of Madras and Rs. 6½ lakhs in the case of Mysore. At the request of the Governments concerned the requirements of Madras and Mysore are being supplied to them immediately and those of Bombay within two months.

FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 535)

In order to encourage the increased production of foodcrops, the Central Government have sanctioned several schemes subsidizing distribution of sulphate of ammonia, bonemeal and oil cakes. During the period 1945-46 grants amounting to Rs. 27,16,050 and loans amounting to Rs. 61,74,700 were given to Provinces for this purpose.

During 1945-46 the Government of India also sanctioned loans and grants amounting to Rs. 84 lakhs and Rs. 32.67 lakhs respectively for multiplication and distribution of improved seeds amounting to about 88,000 tons. This was expected to produce about 270,000 tons of extra food under normal conditions.

A number of useful suggestions were made by members of the Council which were accepted by the Government. Resolutions were passed emphasising the need to develop the bee-keeping industry and directing Provinces and States to raise short-term crops.

110 MILLION ACRES OF CULTIVABLE WASTE IN INDIA

Results of Sample Survey in Kheri District

AN interesting sidelight on India's cultivable waste (estimated to be of the order of 110.4 million acres) is provided by a survey carried out in the Kheri District of the United Provinces at the instance of the Government of India.

This district with a total area of 16,02,634 acres shows 9,03,391 acres under cultivation and 5,22,031 acres as cultivable waste according to the Land Records.

It was suggested that the cultivable waste figure was large; if accurate, the reasons which militated against extended cultivation were worth investigating. It was also pointed out that because the classifications under the Land Records did not go far enough the *patwaris* put down whatever was left out of the cultivated area as cultivable waste. It was suggested inspecting officers almost invariably confined their inspection to the cultivated area with the result that existing discrepancies in cultivable waste were continued.

Therefore, at the special request of the Government of India, who wished to carry out a sample survey in a particular district in order to determine the extent to which these figures could be deemed to be accurate and also to study what specific measures were necessary to bring these waste lands into cultivation, a special survey was undertaken.

Results of Survey

The results show that out of 5,22,031 acres described as cultivable waste, in respect of 2,75,318 acres the causes for non-cultivation could be variously attributed to land under weeds, presence of wild animals, malaria, land liable to be flooded, inaccessible areas, uneven surface, poor quality soil, etc. The remaining 2,46,713 acres of "cultivable waste" was made up of some 38,000 acres under mango groves (more profitable than food cultivation), 1,37,726 acres under *khair*, *babool* and *dak* forests, 37,805 acres under zamindari timber forests (the rental from which was far higher than under cultivation), some 24,500 acres under grazing land, 2,400 acres as threshing floors, 201 acres as cattle pens, etc.

The results of the survey are now under examination with regard to the first category of land. Steps which suggest themselves are provision of labour where shortage of labour is experienced, anti-malarial measures, protection against

wild animals, irrigation facilities by new well constructions, introduction of mechanical cultivation where the surface is uneven or badly eroded, bunding operation where the land is low-lying or liable to be flooded.

Other difficulties discovered by the survey are: Land uneconomical for cultivation due to small plots of irregular size, casual circumstances such as poverty and incapacity of tenants, death of heirless tenants, and zamindars not letting out land for fear of tenants acquiring hereditary rights. Such types of land accounted for 43,694 acres in this survey.

The results are such as to indicate the need to carry out similar surveys throughout the country so as to distinguish between cultivable waste which can be brought under the plough and cultivable waste which is already being put to some use. It is expected that the Land Utilisation Boards, which are to be set up in the post-war schemes in each Province, will undertake such surveys in order to estimate the extent of India's 110.4 million acres of cultivable waste which can be brought under the plough.

LOWEST MALARIA RATE IN DELHI IN 13 YEARS

In Delhi, the year 1945 was the healthiest on record as far as malaria was concerned. Of a population of 1,050,000, only 3.09 per cent. fell victims to the fever. Much of the credit for this low figure is due to the combined civilian and Services anti-malaria drive last August, when the use of D.D.T. and other anti-malaria measures resulted in the breeding of mosquitoes being kept to a minimum.

At the height of the mosquito breeding season, an area of half a mile on the East bank and a quarter of a mile on the West bank of the Jumna, stretching from the Water Works in Old Delhi to the Power House in New Delhi, were sprayed by a Dakota aircraft with 600 gallons of D.D.T. in kerosene solution. It is from this area that mosquito infiltration into the city takes place and causes most malaria casualties.

From 1933, when 18.08 per cent of the total population were malaria cases, there has been a steady decrease in the incidence of malaria, until 1942. In that year malaria cases in Delhi rose from 4.32 per cent. of the population to 9.25 per cent of a current population of 664,227. Since then there has been a big decrease until finally the lowest figures on record were reached last year.

IN response to the Commander-in-Chief's appeal for help in the present food crisis, Army units all over India are taking vigorous steps to increase their food production. Typical of this effort is the "campaign" now being undertaken by the Rajputana Rifles at their regimental centre in Delhi cantonment.

In addition to tracts of land already under cultivation, the regiment is clearing, levelling and ploughing a further eight acres of barren land, part of which has been their parade ground. Last week it was decided to start work on the football pitch as well, writes an Army Observer.

Col. E. R. Ridley, the Commandant, has asked all his officers to plough their bungalow gardens. There are 40 of them with about an acre apiece and he has started on his own first.

Demonstration Farm

Clearing the new eight acres in Delhi Cantonment are work parties of 50 to 200 men daily. To provide water others are quickly restoring an old well that has not been used for half a century. After the grain is planted in June water drained from the nearby swimming bath will supplement irrigation from the well.

More grain will be sown on the football field. The bungalow gardens will be watered by the bungalows' unfiltered supply and domestic waste.

The men construct their own farm buildings at a low cost.



Servicemen receive instruction in better methods of farming at the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre in Delhi Cantonment.

Formerly crops grown by the regiment were disposed of within the unit. Now all grain will be stored in disused buildings and the regiment's disposable harvest will be handed over to the Army supply authorities.

The centre already has a 16-acre demonstration farm where pre-release training is being given. On this are now crops of eight different types of wheat, seven or eight different kinds

Villagers see that the Army crops are better than their own. They enquire and learn better methods of farming.

of fodder, fruit trees and cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits and poultry.

A year ago all this was waste land, and as one officer said, "We knew nothing about modern methods of farming." Now, in addition to wheat and barley, ripening on the demonstration farm,

they have another 50 acres in preparation. In fact, the "Rajrifs" are using the maximum both in land and labour to make their contribution in time of India's need.

Inquisitive farmers of Jharera, a village on the edge of scrubland west of Delhi, are flocking to the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre wanting to know how the Army yields 20 maunds of bajra per acre as compared to their 10 maunds.

The soldiers tell them the "magic" is better seed wisely used, and fertilizer from manure which the villagers bake into discs and burn. And the troops show them how.

Rajrifs' 16-acre farm which is gaining fame as a pre-release school in agriculture, now men of the Rajputana Rifles are being given a nine-week course in better farming. It is a permanent contribution by the Army to India's food-growing capacity, writes an Army Observer.

The farm has successfully experimented in growing different kinds of wheat and fodder. The men are taught what kind of wheat is best for the land where they live—and why.

Instruction in grow-more fruit is also given. The soldier-cultivator from the hills is asked to grow more apples, pears and apricots and the plainsman mostly citrus fruits.

With the best of poultry from Britain, men learn how to produce better poultry under hygienic conditions. The demobbed man may take home with him a clutch of eggs to start his own farm.

(Continued on Page 556)

Instruction in Sheep-breeding is also given at the Centre.

ARMY DRIVE TO GROW MORE FOOD

All waste land at the Rajrifs' Regimental Centre is being brought under the plough.



PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S MICA INDUSTRY

Reuben Committee Report

"MICA is a mineral of key importance occurring in different provinces and Indian States, and the policy relating to it must be determined on a consideration of what is good for India as a whole," states the Report of the Mica Enquiry Committee which was appointed by the Government of India in October, 1944, with Mr. Justice D. E. Reuben as Chairman, Messrs. Gurusharan Lal and M. Mohammed Ismail as members and Mr. R. H. Prasad as Secretary.

Emphasising the need for Central legislation to ensure uniformity between all the mica producing areas, the Report adds: "Further, questions relating to export and international trade are involved and are outside the scope of the provinces. It is possible that, arising out of our proposals, there may be provisions which are properly applicable to one area but not to another, e.g. provisions intended to control mica piracy. This does not place any difficulty in the way of Central legislation, because such provisions can be expressly applied to the particular area, or made applicable to different areas at different times as they are required."

According to the Report, the main objectives before the industry are fairer prices for Indian exports through scientific grading and marketing, the conservation of mica by compulsory employment of proper mining methods, increased use of the mineral in indigenous industries and encouragement to the production of micanite and ground mica.

Committee's Recommendations

The steps recommended by the Committee for realisation of these aims include: (1) the setting up of a Mica Marketing Control Board, consisting mainly of trade members, to control the marketing of Indian mica; (2) the establishment of Mica Wardens' Boards and an Inspectorate of Mica Mines; (3) wider application of the Mines Act to mica mines and a revision of the rules and regulations under the Act; (4) special Central legislation based on the Mica Control Order; (5) the levy of a cess on mica exports for the creation of welfare funds; and (6) research and propaganda for increased use of mica in indigenous industries.

India's importance as a producer of mica is clear from the fact that before the war over 70 per cent. of the world's supply of sheet muscovite came from India. The output of dressed mica averaged roughly between 140,000 to 185,000 cwts. during 1940-43.

The Bihar belt is the oldest and the most important of the areas producing mica in India. The best variety of mica, viz. Bengal Ruby Mica comes mostly from the Bihar mines which are scattered over an area of about 19 to 20 square miles in the Hazaribagh and Gaya Districts. Madras mica is slightly inferior and during the war Rajputana has come out with increased output pushing Madras into the third place.

The processing of mica consists of three stages, sickle-dressing, grading and sorting. Mica is usually exported in three forms, block mica, splittings and waste mica.

Mica dealing is licensed in Bihar and both miners and dealers have to take out licences. In 1944, 230 miners' licences and 550 dealers' licences were in force in Bihar.

Importance of Mica Trade

The importance of mica to India's trade with other countries will be seen from the fact that mica worth Rs. 2,73,01,458 was exported in 1944. During the war, India supplied between 80 to 90 per cent. by value of the total splittings imports of the U.S.A. which was her biggest customer for that commodity. The U.S.A. imported 14,247,964 lbs. of Indian mica splittings valued at \$3,888,081 in 1943. India's next important customer is the U.K. which used to import on an average 47,095 cwt. of block mica and splittings, valued at Rs. 4,568,563 in the pre-war years.

The secret of India's pre-eminence in the mica splitting industry, remarks the Report, is its cheap labour, which, by years of experience, has acquired superior efficiency. During the war, it is pointed out, Brazilian mica came to be more and more utilised for strategic purposes and cheap labour in Mexico was employed for splitting that mica. Whether, with the close of the war, Brazil will be able to continue producing mica in competition with India, the Committee do not find it possible to say with any certainty.

"During the war," says the Report, "to civilian demand for mica has been starved and it is likely that now a large amount of mica splittings and mica block of lower qualities will be wanted for civilian purposes and for work of reconstruction arising out of the war. As India is practically the only source of splittings and a big source of lower quality mica, it is unlikely that in the immediate future India will lose its market for mica to any appreciable extent, but we must be prepared to meet a keener competition than in the past from the Brazilian."



The Kodarma mines in Bihar, which are among the chief sources of mica in the country, were visited some time ago by the Viceroy. These pictures show His Excellency examining specimens of mica at the mines.

Russia is also mentioned as another potential source of mica. Although no material has yet been developed which is successful as a substitute for mica, research is being conducted for finding synthetic substitutes. This danger is also pointed out in the Report.

Conservation

According to the Report there need not be any apprehension that India's mica resources are exhausted. They have a long future ahead, provided mining is done on sound lines. It is pointed out that with deeper and more extensive working improved quality of mica may be available in Rajputana.

The Committee emphasise that the real danger to conservation lies in the employment of improper methods. Geophysical prospecting may be useful, but the uneducated prospector is still necessary for the future of the industry. He should not be discouraged by placing too many restrictions on him.

The Report stresses that systematic mining should be made compulsory in deeper mines. It recommends also the compulsory maintenance of records of abandoned mines and prospecting pits



by the Indian Mines' Department. It is suggested that technical assistance may be given to the miners by the Inspectorate of Mica Mines and that the employment of qualified mine managers should be made compulsory in the mines. To guard against loss of mica caused by premature stopping of mines, it can be laid down statutorily that an approach should be left to the deepest working point except when a mine is stopped with the approval of the Chief Inspector of Mica Mines.

The Committee propose the establishment of a separate Inspectorate of Mica Mines and the application of the Mines' Act to all mica mines except shallow mines or those employing 20 or less number of labour. They suggest an examination and revision of the complicated regulations and rules under the Mines' Act and their relaxation in case of small mines.

Mineral Rights

Dealing with the question of mineral rights and leasing of mineral areas in Government-owned and private lands, the Committee say that in the interest of conservation of mica there must be control over the miner whether he is the owner of the lessee and whether the Government has or has not any title to the mineral rights. They also think that some control should be exercised as between the owner and his lessee to ensure that the terms of lease will be consistent with approved methods of mining. They suggest therefore that Mica Wardens' Boards should grant proprietors' certificates and miners' licences and that mining leases should be for a minimum period of 7½ years and provide for the right of a lessee to renew it on the same terms.

It is stressed that a reasonable period of time should be given to the lessee for proper exploitation of a mine. The Wardens' Boards which will have the right of issuing certificates and licences should satisfy themselves in regard to the reasonable period of time as there cannot be special legislative provision in regard to renewals. The total minimum period of the primary lease and its renewal should not be less than 15 years.

Mica Theft

The vexed problem of mica theft which exists in Bihar has been dealt with at large in the Report. After sifting all the evidence placed before it, the Committee have come to the conclusion that there is undoubtedly an appreciable amount of illicit dealing. The Report says: "The conditions are such that complete elimination of it is not possible, but something should be done to keep it within reasonable limits, taking care that the legislation is not such as likely to harass the honest members of the industry."

The recommendations made by the Committee in regard to this problem envisage the increase of the special police force, the continued restriction on the sale of Bima mica, the restriction on the sale of crude mica to particular centres selected by the Wardens' Board, discretionary power to the Mica Wardens' Board to forbid the use of particular godowns and to endorse names of agents on licences and proprietors' certificates and compulsory account keeping. The licencees and the proprietors are to be protected against punishment for bad and dishonest account-keeping on the part of their employees.

Grading and Marketing

The Committee wish to see a definite attempt made to prescribe standards of quality for Indian mica. They have not drawn up a set of standards themselves, firstly because it is a highly technical matter and secondly because they think that before laying down those standards the principal foreign consumers of Indian mica should be consulted. As an interim measure they have suggested that the standards established by the Joint Mica Mission should be maintained.

The Report mentions that the dielectric strength and power factor of mica can be evaluated in a few seconds with the help of certain machines recently invented in America. A large quantity of mica, which according to previous practice would have been rejected as unsuitable for condensers, was selected and used with satisfactory results. It is pointed out that the above possibility of grading mica according to objective standards is of special interest to Madras which is affected by the prejudice against green mica entertained by manufacturers of electrical apparatus. On the basis of comparative tests, made at the instance of the Committee, of samples of green and ruby mica the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research reported that the green variety was as good as ruby mica.

Before World War I the foreign trade in Indian Union was carried on almost entirely through the London Market. Indian exporters sent their products on consignment basis to brokers in London who did not advance money against shipment. A considerable amount of mica is even now sent on this basis but the system of maintaining stocks abroad as well as sale on letters of credit equal to 80 per cent. of the invoice value of the shipment have also come into vogue. Apart from the depressing effect on prices due to the consignment system, the prices of Indian mica are affected by the unrestricted competition between exporters trading independently. This fact is universally acknowledged and the majority opinion in the trade is in favour of some sort of organised trading



Mica is extracted from open quarries in the form of 'books'. In dressing mica, the 'books' are split into sheets of required thickness and the sheets trimmed into rectangular sheets, stained and damaged portions being rejected. (Left) Mica miners at work and (right) a miner easing out a 'book' of mica.

which will avoid these disadvantages. The Committee, therefore, suggest the setting up of a Mica Marketing Control Board consisting of three Government and 19 other members to prescribe standards and minimum prices and to control the export of mica. Differences between exporters and purchasers over prices will be settled by this Board which will have regional committees for the three areas. The Committee's scheme, aims at getting for Indian mica fairer prices than are possible in the broker system.

Use of Mica in India

The main use of mica is in the manufacture of electrical apparatus. The Indian Railways use a large quantity of block mica for purposes of insulation and for repair of electrical machinery. The next important use of mica is in the shape of micanite. Indian Railways, firms of electrical engineers, colliery companies, electric supply concerns and manufacturers of iron, steel and electrical apparatus use considerable quantities of micanite which was imported until recently.

The Committee feel that there is thus a big market for micanite in India and outside India. But they think that any attempt by India to sell its micanite abroad will probably be met by tariff barriers, and therefore there is not much

scope for increasing the manufacture of Indian micanite until large scale electrical industries are established in India. They suggest that negotiations should be taken up with the Government of the U.S.A. to bring the tariff on imports of manufactured mica into line with other mica.

Ground Mica

Waste and scrap mica is ground and used for fire resistance. Mica is also used in the wall-paper industry, in the manufacture of paints, the rubber industry and as a lubricant in the vulcanising of tyres. There are also innumerable other uses in industries for ground mica.

The Report says that it is clear that only a small amount of ground mica is used in this country whereas from the U.S.A. alone between 1940 and 1943 nearly 175,000 lbs. of ground mica were imported into India. With the numerous uses to which ground mica can be put, it is a matter of great regret that India's resources of waste mica should be allowed to go out of the country. There is great scope in India for the use of mica in this form and all that is necessary is to discover now uses internally for such mica.

The Committee recall several statements by experts to the effect that waste mica can be used profitably as an insulator of heat in boilers and

even in the construction of houses. The possibility of using mica-waste as packing for ice boxes and freezing machines is also pointed out. The Committee desire that an inquiry should be made not only of original research on new methods for utilising mica or of preparing mica for known uses but also on investigation into the uses to which mica has been put in other countries. Defects in Indian micanite should be removed and a protective tariff on micanite should be imposed in order to encourage increased use of Indian micanite within the country. The value of propaganda to make electrical engineers co-operate with mica manufacturers in India is stressed in this connection.

The Committee have emphasised that new legislation for mica should, as far as possible, be enacted at the Centre. Its administration should be in the hands of Mica Wardens and Wardens' Boards. The Wardens' Board will consist of representatives of miners, proprietors, dealers, mica labour and the Provincial Government. It will exercise control over the Inspectorate of Mica Mines and will be the governing body for the mica mining classes to be operated in the Bihar and Madras areas. The Mica Warden will be the ex-officio Chairman of the Board.

Labour Welfare

Referring to the condition of mica labour the Report remarks that an attempt should be made to increase the wages both on the mining and on the factory side of the industry. The Committee recommend that in fixing minimum prices for mica under the control scheme, due weight should be given to the need for paying adequate wages to labour. They suggest the establishment of a Welfare Fund for providing housing and other amenities to labour.

Regulations of mica factories by a special Act and enforcement of other labour welfare legislation to mica mines and factories are emphasised. The Committee advise that dry power drilling should be forbidden in the mica mines in order to prevent Silicosis and that every driller must be medically examined before employment. Attention is also drawn to the need for improvement in medical, educational and health facilities in the mica areas.

The Report proposes a levy of a 6 per cent. *ad valorem* duty on all mica exports so as to finance the establishments suggested and for research in the interests of the industry. The Committee recommend the allotment of 5/12ths of the revenue to welfare work, 1/4th to the Inspectorate of Mica Mines and the mining classes and 1/3rd to the Mica Marketing Control Board. The revenue from the cess can be supplemented by contributions from the Central and Provincial Government's funds.

(Continued on page 547)

MICA MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND BILL

Features of New Legislation

SPEAKING in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 9 on the motion to refer the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill to a Select Committee, the Hon. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, emphasised the need for Central administration of the Fund. He said: "Although the Labour Department and the Government of India have decided to proceed with measures of social welfare on the basis of the report made by Prof. Adarkar, in fact, if I may say so, the decision was taken by the Labour Department long before the report of Prof. Adarkar was made.

"I am glad to say that the decision taken by the Labour Department has been fully supported by Mr. Justice Reuben in his Report on the Mica industry. In fact, he himself has suggested that there should be a general levy on the mica produced or exported and that about 5/12 of the receipts under the general cess should be set apart for labour welfare in the mica mines. Therefore, in proceeding with this measure we are in no sense departing from the report made by Mr. Reuben. All that we have done is that instead of having a single cess as suggested by Mr. Reuben to be distributed and allocated for different purposes we have thought it necessary to have a separate fund for welfare and another fund for certain administrative measures that may be necessary for the industry as such. The reasons for making this division is obviously due to the fact that the welfare fund will have to be administered by one agency, while the fund for other purposes will have to be administered by a separate agency. There, my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Tyson will see that the decision of the Government of India is in full accord with the report of Mr. Reuben.

Cess

"With regard to the additional cess we have, as my Hon'ble friend will see, fixed the cess in the initial stage at a very low figure. The figure suggested in the Reuben Report is 6 per cent. *ad valorem*, while today....."

MR. GEOFFREY W. TYSON (European Group): "Labour or General?"

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: "General. This is a matter which will have to be examined at a later stage as to exactly what should be the pitch of the cess in order that the cess may produce sufficient revenue which would be adequate both for welfare and other purposes."



The cutting of mica to the required shape is done mostly by women and children.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Congress). "How much does my Hon'ble friend expect?"

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: "Wait, I will come to that a little later. With regard to the question of surplus stock I would like to inform the House that the Government of India has been in negotiation with His Majesty's Government for a long time over the question of the disposal of surplus stocks of mica which have been held by His Majesty's Government as well as by the United States. I am glad to say that we have come to an agreement whereby no sort of harm will be done to the mica industry by the disposal of the surplus stock. The negotiation has reached the final stage and in a few days time a Press Note will be issued informing the industry and the general public of the arrangement which has been arrived at between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. I might say that this arrangement has the fullest support of the mica industry itself.

"With regard to this measure I would like also to inform the House that this measure has been undertaken with the fullest consent of the industry itself. This question was first broached by me at a conference which was held at Kodarma on April 29, 1944, at which I presided and the representatives of the mica industry were also present, and I was glad to find that

the industry as a whole responded to my suggestion for having a welfare fund.

"The matter was again taken up on November 9, 1945 at a conference held at Dhanbad under the chairmanship of the Coal-Mines Welfare Commissioner. There again, the producers of mica accepted the suggestion. Lastly, a third conference was held on December 19 1945, also at Dhanbad, under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Labour Department, where a final agreement was reached between the Government and the Mica Mineowners.

"I would also like to state that our proposal to levy a cess on the industry does not seem to have discouraged the industries from further exploiting the field of mica production and I find that, during the last few months, there have been, to my knowledge at any rate, three big fluctuations of new companies which have entered into the field of mica. I find, for instance, a new fluctuation under the name of Micanite and Mica Products Co., Ltd. from Madras with an authorised capital of Rs. 5 lakhs. Another is called the Saraswati Mica Industries Limited from Calcutta with an authorised capital of Rs. 5 lakhs and I know as a matter of fact that the Christian Mining Industries Ltd. have also

applied for capital issues for mica mining and for the establishment of a mica factory. These circumstances would show that the cess has not been viewed by the industries in any tragic manner and I think that they believe that it would be possible for the industry to bear the burden of this welfare cess.

"Coming to the points made by my friend Diwan Chaman Lall, I must apologise for not supplying him with a copy of the report which he had asked for at some early stage. I must say that I altogether forgot about it. But I do not think that he has in any way lost in dealing with the matter in the way in which he has dealt with it. All that probably he would have done if he had the report is that he would have made a speech of double the length of what he did.

"With regard to the question that he put to me as to how much revenue the cess will produce, I hesitate to give the House any definite figure and the reason is quite obvious. The production of mica has not been at a very steady figure. For instance, I have figures here from 1934 to 1944. In 1934 the value of mica produced was Rs. 60,30,525, while in 1944 it was 2,73,01,458 and there have been various figures for the different years in the intervening period.

"It is no use, therefore, for me to give the House any particular figure. We must allow sometime for the industry to stabilise itself in the post-war period. But taking the figure for 1944 I calculate that the cess would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of Rs. five lakhs. I quite appreciate that that is not a very large sum. Personally, if I may say so, what I am fighting for is not the total effect or the total amount. What I am fighting for is the establishment of a principle.

Mica Purchase Mission

"If later on it was found that the fund was not sufficient, it would be still open for any member of the Government who would be in charge of this to come forward and increase the cess and thereby augment the amount and carry on the measures of social welfare which otherwise would not be possible.

"With regard to the Mica Purchase Mission, a point to which my friend made reference, I do not think that is a matter relevant to the Bill which we are considering and I do not therefore propose to enter into the questions arising out of the Mica Purchase Mission's activities. But I can tell my friend that so far as I know anything about it, the industrialists engaged in the production of mica in this country have not only not had any harm done to them but I am quite satisfied that they have made more than ordinary profits.

"My friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, spent a great length of his speech in discussing the lax

administration of the Mines Act. He referred to the employment of children and of other matters relating also to employment of women. As I said, I am quite aware of this fact, and the Labour Department has on the anvil legislation to remove all the defects which have been reported upon by Mr. Adarkar in the course of his Report dealing with the workers in mica mines. And if there was time available to Government, it would have been possible even in this session to bring forth a Bill to remove those evils. But I have no doubt that that will be done without delay.

"Coming to the points raised by my friend, Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, I knew he made a great point, that this was a very delayed measure. He said that the mica industry was there, the evils have been there, the Government has been here and nothing was done. If I may tell him, he only forgot to mention one thing, that he also was there, and for a long number of years. If he had taken the earliest opportunity to move in this matter to energize and organise the conscience of the Government and of the industrialists, I have no doubt that the delay of which he has complained would never have occurred. But I hope he will agree that it is better late than never.

Administration of Fund

"With regard to the question of administration of the Fund, I think the point that he made 'was that the administration should be left to the Provincial Governments'. I am sorry to say that I cannot accept that principle. This legislation is a Central Legislation. It is a legislation for which the Central Government is responsible. The Fund is raised by the Central law. The Fund is raised for a particular and specific purpose. Having regard to these circumstances, it seems to me unjustifiable on the part of the Government of India to allot the whole of this sum to the Provincial Governments, where they might be merged in the General Revenue of the Province and spent, I suppose, in accordance with the wishes—I do not say whims—of the Provincial Government.

"I am of opinion, since the responsibility for the Fund is a Central responsibility, since the Fund is for a specific purpose, and since it would be a sort of a trust which the Government of India would be administering, it is in every way desirable—not only desirable but necessary—that the Central Government from beginning to end should keep its hand on the administration of this Fund.

"While this is so, I would like to tell my Hon'ble friend that he has probably not studied the way in which the Coal-Mines Labour Welfare Fund is administered. I would therefore

like to tell him some details about it, because the administration of the Coal-Mines Welfare Fund would be the model—indeed not only the model but the pattern—on which the administration of this Fund will be carried on. In the matter of the Coal-Mines Welfare Fund, the administration is vested in a Commissioner who is generally a provincial officer, an officer lent by the Provincial Government. If I may tell him, the person who is now administering the Coal-Mines Welfare Fund is an officer lent by the Bihar Government, and he should rest assured that even in the matter of the administration of the Mica Fund we shall be applying to the Bihar Government to lend us an officer of the Bihar Government.

Advisory Committees

"As I said, and as the Bill provides, the constitution of the Committee will be such that the representatives of the mica industry from Bihar, and also from Madras, would be local people knowing local conditions. Further, according to the constitution of the Coal-Mines Welfare Fund, the orders provide by rules that the Provincial Governments shall send their representatives to be members of the Advisory Committee. The same procedure will be followed with regard to the Mica Advisory Committees. We shall provide that by rules. These Committees meet every three months. Certain agenda is prepared and the advice of the Committee is sought. There are men drawn from producers, owners, workers and from Provincial Governments as well. The annual budget is also placed before the Advisory Committee. Their advice is obtained. It is after their advice is obtained that the Funds begin to operate on the various purposes for which money has been provided.

"With this, I believe my friend, Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, will see that there is not going to be any autocracy from the Centre. Here is a great deal of decentralization, a great deal of co-operation in the administration of this Fund between the producers, the workers and the Provincial Governments. Sir, I do not think that there is any other point which has been raised in the course of the speeches on this Bill to which I have not given my reply, and I do not think I need say anything more than this."

After the Labour Member's speech, the House adopted the motion that the Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the Hon'ble Sir Asoka Roy, the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Miss Maniben Kara, Messrs. S. C. Joshi, Baba Ram Narayan Singh, R. Venkatasubba Reddier, Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, A. Karunakara Menon, N. G. Ranga, G. W. Tyson, Madandhari Singh, Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Hafiz Ghazanfarullah, Muhammed Nauman and the mover Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer.

CONTROL OF ELECTRIC SUPPLY SERVICES

The first meeting of the Advisory Board appointed by the Central Government to consider the draft code for regulating the finances of public utility electric supply undertakings was held in Calcutta on April 4 with Mr. H. M. Mathews, Electrical Commissioner to the Government of India, in the chair.

A draft Code of rules and regulations prepared by the Government of India to promote the healthy growth of electric supply services and standardise their rates, profits and reserves, formed the basis of the Board's discussions. The underlying object of the principles recommended in the Code is to ensure that the rates fixed for the use of electricity are such as would encourage an extensive use of electricity and, at the same time, enable the free flow of capital into the industry for development purposes.

The Board will hold two or three more meetings before submitting its recommendations to the Government of India.

The Board consists of Mr. H. M. Mathews, Electrical Commissioner to the Government of India, Chairman; Mr. D. L. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour; Mr. P. B. Advani, Special Officer (Electrical Grid), Bombay; Mr. K.V. Karantha, Chief Electrical Inspector to the Government of Madras, and Mr. A. R. Colley, Commercial Manager of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Limited.

INDIAN MICA INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 544)

Regarding the disposal of stocks of mica accumulated by the Joint Mica Mission, the Committee suggest the formation of a Standing Committee consisting of three members of the trade in India and three members representing the Government of India, the U.K. and the U.S.A. to review the position every six months and give directions for releasing stocks in such a manner as will not upset ordinary trade.

The Mica Enquiry Committee was assisted by eight assessors chosen from the industry and labour and from the Governments of Bihar and Madras. Technical advice was rendered to them by the Director, Geological Survey of India, the Chief Inspector of Mines and a representative of the Directorate of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Committee called and received 40 memoranda, examined 69 witnesses and inspected 25 mines and 27 factories in its tour of the Bihar, Rajputana and Madras areas.

PROTECTIVE CUSTOMS DUTIES ON IMPORTED GOODS

Commerce Member's Speech in Central Assembly

SPEAKING in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 8 on the "Protective Duties Bill 1946", a bill to enable the immediate imposition of protective duties of customs on imported goods, the Hon'ble Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque, Member for Commerce, Government of India, said:

Sir, I am grateful to Hon'ble Members of the House for the generous support that has been given to me in connection with this Bill. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Gadgil, as I must say he really is the originator of the present Bill and I would unequivocally acknowledge that it was his suggestion before the Standing Committee which made me bring this legislation before this House.

We are often criticised for the protracted delay in the machinery of Government and I should like to mention this as an instance of how the matter was taken up in the Department.

Legislative Procedure

As my friends are probably aware, before a Bill is brought before the House several steps have to be taken, which take a long time: (1) to settle the main principles and outline of legislation: (2) to take the views of all Departments concerned such as, in this case, the Industries and Supplies, the Planning, the Finance Department, etc. and come to some agreed conclusions: (3) to prepare a summary of all the main principles of the Bill: (4) to circulate the summary with His Excellency's approval to the members of the Executive Council and to have their concurrence after settling differences, if any: (5) to refer it to the Legislative Department for a draft after discussion of all the necessary details: (6) to examine the draft Bill finally in the department and (7) to prepare a statement of objects and reasons and explanatory memorandum on clauses and then give notice for introducing the Bill.

Being a question of legislation, the Member in Charge has to be referred to at almost every stage referred to above. Inter-department reference and discussion and agreement must necessarily take some time as each Department has to examine the Bill from its own point of view.

An actual draft Bill can also never be too quick. No legislation can be taken too quickly. In this case, as Mr. Gadgil may remember, he made his suggestion before the Standing Finance Committee on February 16. This came to my notice on February 18. I am not a member of

the Standing Finance Committee—I immediately took the necessary steps in accordance with the procedure I have outlined to have a Bill drafted and the Bill was ready for introduction as you have seen on March 22. Hon'ble Members will therefore realise that in a matter of importance every possible care is taken to expedite it in every possible way.

Tariff Board

After paying my tribute to Mr. Gadgil for his excellent suggestion, I now come to my friend Mr. Manu Subedar. And here I am not saying anything in contrast but only as a statement of fact. I have very great esteem and regard for Mr. Manu Subedar, and he himself knows it, for his ability, zeal and devotion and for his anxiety to have a better shape of India. But since I have been here there have been two budget sessions of the Assembly including the present one, in one of which the Protection Duties Bill was passed by this House.

Neither during that legislation nor during the protracted discussions that we annually have during the voting of grants and during the Finance Bill debate, my friend ever suggested either in 1944 or in 1945 that we must immediately appoint a Tariff Board and a permanent one. This year he comes in all solemnity to question as to why we did not anticipate and appoint a Tariff Board before. Was it not his duty as a responsible member of this House, as an economist, as a businessman himself, as the representative of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, to make his suggestion earlier? During the Protective Duties Debate or on other occasions he did not do that. Not only that, but during the Protective Duties Debate of 1944 a suggestion was made by my friend Mr. Nauman to have a tariff enquiry started at that time. But it was opposed by a distinguished industrialist, then a member of the House, on the following, among other, grounds:

First, nobody knows what would be the international economic position after the war is over.

Secondly, nobody knows how the trade between the various countries will be carried on.

Thirdly, it would be waste of labour in such circumstances to attempt any tariff enquiry at that stage.

My friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, never came with any suggestion when this question was raised and industrialist opinion, as expressed in this House as well as outside, was definitely against any such step at that time.

MR. MANU SUBEDAR (Congress): Did not the Indian Merchants' Chamber make a suggestion?

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I am not dealing with the opinions of the Chambers of Commerce. I will come to that. I am dealing with the opinion expressed in the House. Possibly, my friend, a distinguished economist as he is, was then busily engaged in making economic studies of the unconscionable profits of those who were piling up their fortunes in the black market, though I plead complete ignorance as to the distance from which he was so studying. Sir, he is a critic and a critic who will not help to create, unlike Mr. Gadgil whose criticism had great value and elements of constructive criticism. He will follow a new technique in his massive speeches, the technique of finding out maggots and bacteria in a disinfected article, the technique of creating suspicion, distrust and unreality in a realistic world, the technique of creating complexity and confusion in simple matters, the technique of quoting scriptures without believing a word of it and finally the technique of a world only full of evils and the Government of India the worst devil that could be possibly found.

This probably will be my last speech as a Member of the Executive Council as I am happy that a new state of affairs will soon come.

MR. SATYA NARAYAN SINHA (Congress): Or are you despondent?

Interests of Country

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I am rather very glad, and I make no secret of it that I think it is the Government of India members. I conceive, each and everyone of them will be most happy without any reservation if the present state of affairs is at an end. I say that not because of any theory but because of the experience that we have in all governmental activities.

I have been criticised as to why we had not anticipated some of these things. We had been in office at a most critical period of India's economic and strategic history, with the enemy across her borders, with cruel bombs falling on innocent men, women and children, with the gravest crisis in her economic life, with acute shortage of cloth with millions of yards gone underground and thus, forcing up prices to a fantastic level. And we had to work in the interests of the country. I know with my bitter experience the limitations under which we had to work. But was it a crime on our part if under such circumstances we came to do our utmost in the interests of my country and in the interests of my countrymen? For myself, at every stage, where I have worked, I have tried to anticipate events. As the Member in charge of not merely Commerce but of Food, Industries, Civil Supplies, Industrial Research and

Industrial Planning, Hon'ble Members will find that at every stage I tried to anticipate the future.

Almost immediately after I took charge of these portfolios I was confronted with the most desperate food situation with a bare skeleton organisation and without much of the administrative personnel either in the Provinces or in the Centre, amidst difficulties of transport and without much support and even sympathy. With an intransigence unknown in the economic history of India, I had to grapple with the gravest food problem. I was just able to settle all the differences and plan out the final basic programme on which the food supplies began to move to the deficit areas.

In every sphere I tried my level best. But even in the midst of that I anticipated the future. I would only to-day say, which I have not done for the last two or three years, that I made arrangements for the future plan of food to be got ready. After many discussions in the Department a committee was appointed with Sir Theodore Gregory as the Chairman which recommended the future of the foodgrains policy. It was only after the recommendations were available that I handed over my charge, and that Policy Committee's Report is the basis of all subsequent food policy that has been followed ever since that date.

Economic Controls

As the Member in charge of Industries and Civil Supplies which I held till a few months back, I had to take up the problems of economic control of a number of commodities including textiles. Hon'ble Members will realise that it was a stage in which inflation had reached the most dangerous point and the price of textiles at that stage shot up to even more than double of what it is to-day. When there was a cloth famine in the country, I hope it will not be forgotten, there were nine months' total production of Indian hidden stocks with the traders, when people were dying for want of medicine, drugs and medicines were underground to enable the traders to charge black market prices.

These economic controls were the first of their kind in this country, and whereas in other countries economic controls had the advantage of experience and administrative personnel, we had to make a start and a beginning. The extent to which we were able to tackle this problem will only be known when the passions and controversies of today will die out. But, anticipating the future, we took steps for the establishment of several national laboratories and a Committee of distinguished men was appointed to prepare a plan of industrial research especially in co-ordination with Universities.

Anticipating the future, we also tried to send abroad a mission of most distinguished industrialists much early; but it is well known why we

could not send them till a much later date. We tried to collect data, but they were not available. As soon as the war was over, as a consequence of the measures which we took up, we followed it up with the question of a Tariff Board. Having regard to the economic conditions of the world and even in India we thought it would be of advantage if instead of a permanent Tariff Board, a Tariff Board for the time being, appropriate to the post-war needs and conditions of the country would be immediately set up for investigating the immediate claims of industries which had been started or developed in war-time with a view to considering the question of assistance and protection during the transition period.

Protection of Industries

In fact, we began quite early. It was on April 23, 1945, just about a year before, that a Press Communique was issued inviting industries to address their claims to us. We received a number of applications. There were certain industries in addition, the start of which was considered essential by the Government of India under conditions created by the war. At the time this was done, Government announced that such specified industries promoted with their direct encouragement during war-time might feel assured that if they are conducted on sound lines they would be protected by such measures as may be devised against foreign competition.

Having taken these preliminary steps, the selection of personnel was one of the most difficult matters. Sir, it is a matter of conviction with me—it may be right or wrong—that it is far better to have no Tariff or any other Board, temporary or permanent than a Board which will not command the confidence of all.

I had therefore to take every step to see that the Board was such that it commanded the confidence of the country. I could not select men without consideration; I could not pick up men from the market of India, especially the contaminated market. I had to select men of distinction, ability and judgment, who could speak with authority and I had to find men who were otherwise engaged in most responsible work in different parts of India.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and the Members of the Tariff Board that they were ultimately able to accept my invitation. Sir, it is well known that Chairman, Sir, Shanmukham Chetty, had to come as chairman of the Tariff Board at considerable financial sacrifice. Dr. H. L. De was the head of the Department of Economics of the University of Dacca and Dr. Nazir Ahmed,

an eminent scientist of international reputation and in charge of the Indian Cotton Institute. I had to offer to a few others who could not accept or come. Thus it took a little time; but there was no delay whatsoever in pursuing the matter.

I am asked, why not a permanent Tariff Board? Why is not a permanent Tariff Board appointed? For myself, I fail to see how the value and character of a tariff inquiry specially by the Board as now constituted, is in any way jeopardised because the board is not a permanent board. They are only in the nature of an immediate inquiry; till the post-war needs and conditions are well known things are bound to be in a fluid or dynamic condition for a year or two. More industries are likely to be started, and we must be able to know where Indian industries stand and where India stands before any permanent Tariff Board is appointed.

World Trends

We must know a little bit also of world trends and tendencies before we appoint a permanent Tariff Board. But does it in any way mean that those gentlemen who have been appointed and have agreed to take up the work, men most distinguished in the public life of this country, men of great eminence in industry, in economics and in science will not do their duty as ably or as properly simply because the Board is not a permanent board? I consider it to be a slur on these most eminent men of India that they will not be able to make a proper inquiry simply because their term of office is not permanent.

In the past similar inquiries have been made. Those boards were also of a temporary character and they made recommendations which have revolutionised the industries of this country. I am, therefore, convinced in my own mind that the argument that there should be a permanent Tariff Board is merely an argument to criticise us, without looking into the substance of the steps that have been taken. I am sure if I had actually appointed a permanent Tariff Board my friend would equally come forward to criticise me saying, "Why do you appoint a permanent Tariff Board at a time when the whole of India's future is under discussion and when it is well known that others may take your place very soon?" That would have been the criticism again.

Once again, the question has been asked, "Do you expect any dumping in the future?" They say the world is shattered and therefore there is no danger whatsoever, at least in the immediate future, of any dumping. History has always given us hard and bitter lessons;

but it seems there are some who will never learn. May I bring back one incident? After the last German war of 1914-18, there was similar complacency in the world attitude that the political power, economic resources and the military strength of Germany had ceased for a considerable time to come and that it would be many years before Germany could reconstruct or rehabilitate herself. That was the complacent attitude of the time. May I ask how many years it took to rebuild Germany? History has repeatedly shown that it does not take long either in nature or in society to rebuild, reconstruct or to gain fresh strength if a nation has the determined will behind it.

Consumers' Interests

There is one point of view which has been quite strongly pressed, namely, the consumers' interests; they say that the consumers' interests demand that the only problem to-day is to get more supplies; that the problem of to-day is not restriction of supply but to get more supplies. I am afraid it is taking too narrow a view of things. No country can rise industrially or economically without some sacrifice. The present generation must sacrifice for the future. A selfish parent can never rear up a good child, and the narrow-visioned today cannot plan for tomorrow.

All tariff protection imposes sacrifice and nations and countries cannot be built purely on motives of immediate profits or dividends or gains. That may be a typical business attitude or the attitude which is prevalent in the speculation market; but it should not be forgotten that some insurance is needed to build up the future. You insure your car against accident but if you think that there had been no accident in the past, that you have steered your car with great caution and that therefore you need not insure it, the time may come when, you may have to pay a heavy penalty if such a contingency actually comes. Therefore some sacrifice is needed by the immediate consumers.

Let me here refer to the case of the sugar industry in England; and that will be my reply to Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmad on some of the points which I will refer to later; incidentally, this will point out how, apart from the principles enunciated by the Fiscal Commission, which are very sound principles, other factors have also to be taken into consideration in the world of to-day. England had no economic advantage in the production of sugar; they could not possibly attain any economic efficiency in the production of sugar; the prices of English sugar cannot

possibly stand against the low prices of the highly organised sugar industries of some countries; and it was well known when the sugar industry was started that British-made sugar could never stand competition against organised sugar industries in other countries. There was practically no cultivation of sugar beet in 1924.

The last European war made the whole of England realise that something was necessary to build up the agricultural strength of the country. By 1934 as a result of the different measures taken, England produced sugar to the extent of 6,00,000 tons against practically nothing in 1924; and this was done by subsidies to the sugar industry, which ultimately meant that the taxpayers had to pay for it. An inquiry committee was appointed in 1934 to consider whether those subsidies should continue. This committee recommended the complete cessation of all subsidies, but the recommendation was not accepted by Government. The then Minister of Agriculture, in 1936, in proposing measures for reorganising the sugar industry and state, assistance, made a very important statement, which I hope some of the Hon'ble Members of the House would remember. He said that Government had rejected the recommendation of the Committee. The Committee looked at sugar alone, but Government had to look at agriculture and employment as a whole. In the meantime, between 1924-25 and 1937, which is the latest date for which I have got figures, the Government of Great Britain spent £40 million in direct subsidies and £18 million in granting revenue abatement.

Industry and Agriculture

May I say in the same words, "Please do not look at sugar, or wheat or steel or iron or any industry which may be recommended by the tariff board? Let us look to the broad position of agriculture in this country; let us look to the question of the necessity of employing a large number of men in industry, so that the pressure on the soil may be released to a certain extent, so that there can be a balance between industry and agriculture; and in doing so, let us not forget the words of the same Hon'ble Minister whom I have just quoted, who, in a discussion in connection with this debate in the House of Commons, stated, "every industry required protection against world competition." If that was so in 1934-35 for a country like England, how much more strong is the argument to-day for India, particularly when there is a likelihood of a great export drive from almost all countries of the world in the next few years?

Sir, we have not forgotten—I must make it quite clear that in spite of what I have said, we have not forgotten that the consumers have their rights also and in our terms of reference to the Tariff Board it has been specifically noted that in making its recommendation the Board will give due weight to the interests of the consumers in the light of the prevailing conditions and the probable cost of any protection or assistance to the community so that there may not be an excessive burden placed on the consuming public....

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Congress): What about the workers?

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I am coming to that a little later.

PROFESSOR N. G. RANGA (Congress): What happens to cottage industries?

Board's Report

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I will reply to that. It was stated in the House that nobody knows how long this inquiry will last and therefore more Boards should be appointed. That is not correct. We have specially emphasised that the Board should complete inquiries with all possible expedition and submit a report as soon as possible after their investigation of the claim of each industry is concluded. It was not till the end of November last that the Board could be finally constituted. I hope that Hon'ble Members will realise that it takes at least some time before a committee of that character can settle the necessary preliminaries, that is, have the necessary administrative staff, find out a suitable office, find suitable accommodation for the members and their establishment which nowadays is extremely difficult, settle the questionnaires, consult industrial opinion and investigate the nature of the claims.

It is barely four months since the Board was appointed and I am glad to say that within this short time they have finished their report on five or six industries. The reports are in the Press and I expect they will be in the hands of the Government by the end of this month. Further they are almost on the point of concluding their deliberations in respect of a number of other industries.

Finally, whatever may be the Government decision, this matter is bound to come up before the legislature at some time or other and it will be the privilege of this House to look after the interests of the consumers if Government is found not to have given due regard to it.

Then, Sir, certain other issues have been raised. I admit they are most vital issues but sometimes I feel, having regard to the present framework of the Government of the country, that they are a bit extraneous to this legislation. I have been told that I should look to the nation-

alization of some of the key industries, that I should look to living conditions and wage standards of these industries.

I admit the utmost importance of all these issues. By faith and conviction I believe in all of them and I might make it quite clear that I am of the same temperament and ideal as my friend Diwan Chaman Lall, Prof. Ranga or Mr. Gadgil and I have absolutely nothing in common with my friend Seth Govind Das who with his fortune amassed at Jubbulpore finds Jubbulpore as the centre of the whole world or Mr. Lalubhai who will find nothing wrong in traders, capitalists and black marketeers in spite of his talking of Russia on every occasion where he knows perfectly well he won't exist for 24 hours. I would therefore much like, in agreement with my friend Diwan Chaman Lall, to do much to shatter and to do much to construct.

Nationalization

Yet, may I ask what shall I nationalize if there are no industries in the country? Nationalization may be a great asset to the country's economy; it might turn out to be a great danger if, instead of being taken on its economic level, it becomes the sport of politics. Sometimes I feel that my friends who oppose these measures criticise day after day Government and Government officials in every possible way in their interrogations, speeches and suggestions, must have in their heart of hearts supreme faith in Government, because they feel that once a Government takes charge of an industry everything will be perfect and things will be all right. I am not quite so certain of that. Cases are not unknown where nationalization has resulted in deterioration of certain services. One has also to avoid the danger of political issues being injected into an industrial concern or political patronage being exercised when nationalization is introduced.

Industry which requires high technical skill and efficiency does not always admit certain principles which are accepted canons in Governments, namely, promotions of officers by the usual standards of promotion in State service. The most senior man may be much below the level of a junior man. A private concern can easily supersede the senior to appoint a junior and a misfit can be easily weeded out; whereas it is easy for a man to get appointed in Government service but it is most difficult to get him out.

Thus with all my faith in nationalization, I sometimes feel as to whether it would not be wise to introduce nationalization not just at the present stage but a little later. I would certainly not hesitate to do so if I had the feeling that the whole legislature wants such measures. Unfortunately, barring Prof. Ranga and a few others

there has not been any decisive opinion expressed in the House. Certainly, Sir Zia Uddin has expressed his opinion in that sense but I am not certain if many of us would at best like only the industries of others to be nationalized but not of the first person singular number. I would like to nationalize really on an extensive national scale. If I want to nationalize, I would not touch at one point only, so that the capitalist at one corner would be touched and not at the other.

Wages Question

Secondly, I am quite aware that something should be done in the matter of wages and living conditions of the workers. Let me say here that I know it by the experience I have gathered within the last few years. I am aware of the agencies of industrialization. I have seen myself how in some cases capitalists have built up their fortunes, giving low wages, providing only sub-human residential quarters for the workers and giving no thought to their welfare or living conditions. My friend the Hon'ble the Labour Member has within recent months tried to bring legislation after legislation to rectify some of those. I have known industries which are still employing children below a certain age. Quite a good deal has been done by the Labour Member to bring about better conditions among the workers.

I agree that these are matters which would be and should be looked into as soon as possible but I am not so certain if these matters can form the subject matter of an enquiry by a Tariff Board, which we are talking about. But even if they can be, it would obviously take a very long time before we can find out a quick remedy with a view to avoiding dumping from outside and before an inquiry of this character can be finished along with a tariff inquiry.

At the same time I do not wish to shirk my responsibility. I do feel that something should be done in this matter. I am proposing to consult my Hon'ble friend the Labour Member. I have already had some consultation with him—to find out as to whether a suitable machinery may not be devised which will simultaneously look into these questions. I am grateful to my friend Mr. Chaman Lall for having brought this matter to my notice. I have also been discussing this matter and if any industry wants protection and the consumers have to pay, the country has a right to know what is being done in the matter of living conditions and wages for the labourers, quite apart from the other factors.

I shall also take up the question of consumers in protected industries in consultation with the Departments concerned and I agree that probably the time has come in India, with reference

to the future industries as well as the industries which have existed in the past when we should make a comprehensive review as to what should be our attitude, if at any time they asked for protection, in the matter of wages and living standards of the workmen and also in the matter of prices. This price question, I might say has very strongly come to my notice during war-time and I feel that probably the price which has been charged requires looking into a little bit, particularly with reference to those industries in which some protection or other has been given.

The question has been asked whether there should be more powers in order to speed up investigations. On this point, I propose to consult the Chairman of the Tariff Board not only from the point of view of volume of work which they have and which they are likely to have, and after discussing with him I hope to have this matter settled.

Legislature

Then the question has been asked by my Hon'ble friend Mr. Gwilt as to what will happen if the legislature does not sanction the tariff imposed by executive order and importers have notice of the possibility of the legislature turning down any duty imposed by executive order. The same position therefore arises whenever the duty is reduced or enhanced, and in either case, it comes to an end. To give an illustration, what would have been the position if the Bill which was passed by this House on Friday last had not been passed by the House. It will mean exactly the same position. I hope my Hon'ble friend will appreciate that.

There is just a little confusion regarding the scope of the tariff enquiry which is being held by the present Tariff Board. It is clear from the terms of reference that there are two types of industries which come within its scope, first, the industries which have been started at the instance of Government, secondly, industries which have developed in war-time. Sir, those industries which were in existence before the war which developed in war-time also come within the purview of the Tariff Board enquiry. Therefore, it is not a fact that it is only confined to such industries as were started during the war period. It also refers to other industries which were started before the war and which had been developed later.

Then, Sir, my Hon'ble friend made suggestions about the Standing Committee. I am prepared to give him this assurance that I will consult the Standing Committee, if I am here, before I think of passing an executive order. I will go one step further and say that if I am personally satisfied that the Tariff Board

recommendations are of such a character that an industry can wait for a few months when the legislature is bound to meet, then I will certainly not pass the executive orders, but wait till the legislature actually meets. Then, Sir, I am quite prepared to give this assurance that all cases of reductions which are made by the Tariff Board will in due time be brought to the notice of this House. That, I think, will be an easy matter, and I know perfectly well that there are so many Hon'ble Members of the House, who, if at any time there is any default on the part of the Government, will only be so alert as to bring up immediately this question for being answered on the floor of the House.

Now, Sir, I come to my Hon'ble friend Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmad, who I find is slowly waking up. He asked me why I proposed the Protective Tariff Continuation Bill in 1944.

Protection

My Hon'ble friend knows the reason why it had to be done. Because the question of protection at that time was a little immaterial, no import was coming into this country, the only import that was coming was wheat and in the matter of wheat, the Government remitted all import duties as it is going to be in future and as it has been for many years past. Therefore, it was practically nothing more than of academic interest, and the only question at issue was as to whether we should not have the same power which we can exercise in case the contingency arises. It is in these circumstances that I brought this Bill, and I think the most serious charge which he has brought against me will not find scrutiny if he will consider these matters. He sometimes referred to what is in the best interest of the consumers, and he charged us that we often look to the interests of the capitalists and not to the interests of the consumers. Here, again, I should say that the case of wheat perfectly illustrates as to how the Government did not look to the interests of the capitalists at all but only to the interests of the growers of this country and the consumers at large.

DR. SIR ZIA-UDDIN AHMAD (MUSLIM LEAGUE): That is just what you did not do.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I will not make any dogmatic assertion, but I will say that if the wheat duty was not there and wheat was allowed to get freely into India at the time when the wheat duty was imposed, well, the price which is already too low would have come further down without this protective duty. I know whether it would have come down or not is a matter which we might settle elsewhere.

An Hon'ble Member: By a duel.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: Unfortunately, the medieval days are past otherwise it could have been settled in other ways.

Mr. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): Our friend Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmad is too old for that.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: Even now don't you think there might be a danger? Supposing the price level today of all the food commodities is somewhere near about the level at which it is, is it not well known that the world parity of price of these is considerably below that and it is bound to be more so if there is no protection? Don't you think that the interests of the growers and the consumers as a whole will be terribly jeopardised if there was no right of protection? I can at least hope in one respect that according to the logical conclusion of Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmad, this Government must be a very good Government, because within a period of fifteen years, he had only three fiscal shocks, that is from 1931 to 1946.

Mr. M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR (Congress): At his age, one is enough.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: It seems that old age can withstand any amount of shocks. Sir, my Hon'ble friend referred to the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission. I am giving him this assurance that so far as the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission are concerned, they all along formed the background of all steps that have been taken by the Government in the matter of imposition of protective duties and will continue to be so. In other words, these considerations will always be with the Government, but as I say that in the evolution of world's history, we have gone much beyond where we were in 1921, and apart from these considerations the other considerations which have been referred to will also be taken into account before any question of protection is considered. Sir, I have already given an example to illustrate the value of protection to the consumers.

Sir, living in the calm atmosphere today when both the war against Japan and against Germany have fortunately been over, and with the success of the Allied Powers, it is possible to argue thus, but what would have been the position of India in the matter of both sugar and cloth during war-time, if there was not this protection granted to these two industries? Does my Hon'ble friend know,—as I have said I hold no brief whatsoever for the capitalists. I know more about capitalists by actual experience than what my Hon'ble friend can hope to know, I have no sympathy with capitalists—but does my Hon'ble friend know that at least some credit is due to those people who had to carry on their concerns almost at the marginal

level with very little of profit, with much loss, particularly in the textile industry before this war. They saved India at least to the extent of 4,500 million yards nearly and they have been able to supply large quantities of cloth to the country as a whole.

Where would sugar have been if the sugar industry had not been protected? It is as a result of not only that protection but also as a result of the control of the economic commodities that the sugar prices throughout the war has been kept near about a fixed level, a level, which even in war conditions could have been argued as low. Does my Hon'ble friend know that right during the war in 1918-19 and a little later the price of sugar was high?

Another Example

I will give another example which concerns the country as a whole. Once as a member of the Banking Inquiry Committee, I went to investigate a matter of tea finance and in connection with that I went to the district of Rangpur to make an inquiry into the question of tobacco finance. Incidentally, I hope my Hon'ble friend Prof. Ranga will not be hurt if I say that Rangpur is the biggest tobacco producing district in the whole of India. There I came to know that an Indian industry was started to prepare cigars and cigarettes from the local tobacco. As soon as that industry was started the price of a packet of cigarettes, which was about four annas, immediately went down to an anna, and within a few months that industry was killed and was not able to revive itself until many years later. And as soon as that industry went out the price of a packet again went up to four annas.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Congress): That was Imperial Tobacco Company.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I will not mention which company it was. I am only saying that the price again went up to four annas. And it was a tragedy.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Congress): How is my Hon'ble friend going to remedy that state of affairs by imposing duties? It is a matter of internal competition by Imperial Tobacco Company.

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: That is a separate question. But I am saying that in the long run it is an advantage to have an industry protected so that the price charged may not go up to fantastic levels.

My Hon'ble friend asked me whether the price would go up or come down. As I said, the price which the consumers have ultimately to pay in the long run is the price to be considered.

One of the things which has been started in this country at Government intervention is

caustic soda. It is well known that caustic soda can come into this country at very cheap prices; and if it comes at those cheap prices and the people in the trade are wiped out, we would be doing an injury to the country at large. We will get an assured supply at cheap prices but in the long run we would hurt the interest of the country. I will say only this, therefore, that the entire attitude of Government in the matter of protection is certainly not in the interest of capitalists but in the interests of that country as a whole, and the consumers form a very large part of it.

I have no hesitation in saying that in view of the world attitude to day and the factors that have come into being Government will specially look into this question if it is found that this question has not been looked into in the past. I think the time has now come when in assessing whether protection should be given we should not only consider the factors which have come out as a result of the Fiscal Commission but also take steps to find out what we can do in the interests of the consumers as a whole, the working classes and the industry. And I hope that with this explanation the House will accept the Bill in the present form. I have said that it is merely an empowering legislation, which gives power to Government to pass it by executive order for a short period of time. And when responsible public opinion grows in the country and is ventilated more and more, there is no danger of the kind which my Hon'ble friend fears.

SIR ZIA-UDDIN AHMAD (Muslim League): Then why is it proposed to take away the power of the legislature?

SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE: I am not doing it. This session ends on April 18 and I do not know when the House will meet next. In the meantime during the interim period if we want some power and Government consider it necessary to impose it we will do it by executive order. If Government find they can wait, they will not do it. But we will do it if necessary and as soon as the House meets we will bring in the proper legislation and get the sanction.

SIR ZIA-UDDIN AHMAD: Then why not have it that as soon as the House meets the additional duty which has been imposed will automatically stop?

SIR AZIZUL HUQUE: That is an agreed amendment which I am going to accept.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is—

That the Bill to enable the immediate imposition of protective duties of customs on imported goods be taken into consideration.

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO DEVELOPMENT

Research Stations to be Opened

SCHEME for the development of Virginia cigarette tobacco in the area around Muzaffarpur (Bihar) was considered and accepted at the second meeting of the Indian Cigarette Tobacco Committee held in New Delhi recently. The scheme provides for the supply of pure line tobacco seed, practical instructions to cultivators on all cultural operations and curing.

The Committee met under the presidency of Sir Herbert Stewart, Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Special sub-committees on Agricultural Research and Development, Technology and Marketing also met and discussed the various problems.

It was decided to open a number of Research stations for work on cigarette tobacco including one at Rajahmundry. For *bidi* tobacco, arrangements are nearly complete to set up a station at Anand. A station for *hukka* and chewing tobacco will be located in Bihar. A Central Research Station for fundamental work on all types of tobacco is to be established at Guntur.

Two candidates were selected for studies abroad with special reference to tobacco cultivation under the Studentships instituted by the Imperial Tobacco Co. of India Ltd. These studentships are of the value of £500 each per annum, tenable for a period of two years.

Realising the need to disseminate information on improved methods of cultivation and organise an efficient marketing intelligence service, the Committee has decided to publish shortly pamphlets in popular language for the benefit of tobacco growers and to arrange for demonstration by cinematograph films.

ARMY'S DRIVE TO GROW MORE FOOD

(Continued from Page 539)

In the pre-release training syllabus are included cattle-breeding and rabbit-rearing on scientific lines and land preservation and building construction.

With the plans provided by the Central Public Works Department the near-release men have erected a building for less than Rs. 3,000 to store seed and implements. The best offer they received when inviting tenders for the construction of the same building was Rs. 27,000—an immense saving indeed.



Tobacco, fresh from the fields, is tied into bundles of 20 to 30 leaves each. The tobacco is then ready for bulking for fermentation.

Selected leaves are used for wrappings and are split in two by removing the mid-rib, which is skillfully torn off.



(Left) The bundles are piled 5 to 6 feet high on the floor of a shed, and fermentation quickly sets in, the temperature rising to about 130° F. (Right) After fermentation the leaves are soaked in water containing aromatic substances and palm jaggery. This makes the leaves soft and pliant and improves their burning qualities and flavour.



Cigar Manufacture—A Cottage Industry

Tobacco was unknown in India a few centuries ago, yet to-day its cultivation is among the major agricultural operations of the country, and the manufacture of cigars, cigarettes and other tobacco products is a widespread cottage industry, maintaining many thousands of men and women workers. A great deal of tobacco is consumed in the country, but with many it is more a necessity than a luxury. It is also chewed and used as snuff.

The Indian cigar maker, like many other village artisans, works with very few tools. A small board, a pair of scissors and a smooth stone (to serve as a pounder), are all that he requires.

(Left) After the mid-rib has been removed, the halves are smoothened by hand and tied into bundles. (Right) With a pair of scissors the workman cuts each half of the leaf into its proper shape, approximating to a semi-circle.

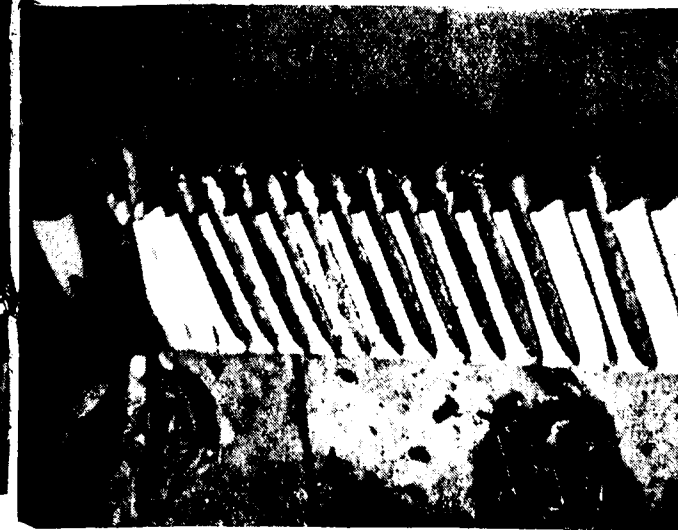




The smoking mixture—Preparation of the smoking mixture requires care, and "brokens" are properly mixed and blended.



Cigar gets girth—On each wrapper is placed a sufficient quantity of the mixture known as "filler" and the whole is rolled to make the beginning of the cigar proper.



The cigar is then rolled by hand and placed in a mould to bring it to proper shape.



The mould is a two-piece wood with grooves to hold the cigars. After the initial rolling the cigars are put into the press to give them uniformity of outline.

—Simple Tools And
—Good Judgment
—Produce Excellent Smokes

Trimming the cigar—The thick ends of cigars are trimmed by placing them in a gauge and cutting



Sorting—The cigars are then sorted according to thickness by passing them through a perforated gauge.



Branding—The cigars then have their colourful bands put on.



Ready for the market—This woman worker attends to the final operation when cigars are put into boxes for transport to the market.

GREAT DEMAND FOR CONSUMER GOODS IN MIDDLE EAST

Opportunity for Indian Manufacturers

"THE Middle East markets are searching for sources of supply and the business circles of these markets are convinced that India has now the opportunity and the means to take the position of Japan. These markets are prepared to buy the manufactured goods that India can offer and not only raw materials and semifinished articles."

Thus observes a report on trade prospects with the Middle East countries, including Turkey in general and Egypt in particular, submitted to the Commerce Department by Mr. J.A. Rahim, I.C.S., Government of India Trade Commissioner in Alexandria.

The demand for—"hunger for" as the report puts it—consumer goods has considerably increased throughout the Middle East. As a result of the war, some of the principal supplies to these markets have disappeared, at least temporarily. "Where one supplier fails another must step in"—and here is the opportunity for India, points out the report, as the demand cannot be satisfied in the near future out of the manufacturing capacity of the Middle East countries.

Prospects for Specific Commodities

Examining prospects for specific commodities, the report states that there is everywhere in the Middle East an acute scarcity of jute manufactures, for which there is bound to be good demand, particularly in Egypt where the use of jute bags is essential for the transport of cotton to the ginning factories and subsequent packing for export.

There is scope for an increased offtake of Indian tea, which is likely to suit the palate of the people of the Middle East countries. There is also a demand for Indian coffee.

Egypt has been and will be a good market for various kinds of high quality consumer goods. In this class must be included silk and art silk goods and the opportunity now available can be used to advantage by India.

There is some demand for cement in Egypt, which is likely to increase as iron and steel for building become available more and more.

As industrialisation has become a factor of growing importance in the Middle East economy, there are good prospects for the export of iron and steel manufactures—the most important structural material essential for the setting up of industries.

The Middle East countries, with the exception of Turkey, are deficient in timber and rely on wood imports for railway sleepers, constructional works, packing and the manufacture of furniture.

There is dearth of cotton piecegoods throughout the Middle East. The local textile industry is not able to cope with the demand and there is consequently no remedy for this situation except through imports.

Market for Leather

There is a good market for leather in Egypt. Even for manufactured leather goods there is a demand, although that country has a fairly well-developed leather industry. The demand for raw hides and leather is likely to increase in Palestine as in that country the leather goods industry is developing.

The well-developed cigarette industry of Egypt is entirely dependent on imported tobacco. If the export trade from India has not been very successful in the past, observes the report, it has been due to the ignorance of the local industry as regards the qualities and types of leaves grown in India which should be made known to Egyptian importers.

The report then gives a list of openings in other lines of business besides the above specific ones. This includes domestic hardware, drugs and medicines, rubber goods, glassware and ceramics, stationery and paper manufacture, soap and toilet requisites, sports articles and electrical goods. "In all these lines manufacturing industries have been established in India and they should be in a position, to the extent the internal supply situation allows, to export to the Middle East countries. For example, domestic aluminium articles will find a ready market as the quality of Indian manufacture in this line will bear comparison with the products of more advanced industrial countries."

Competitive Room for India

Analysing the scope for India in the competitive markets of the Middle East, the report states that "in no case should the fact that other countries as well supply similar goods to the Middle East be regarded as discouraging; on the short-term view it is a seller's market where the prevailing scarcity is too great for any cut-throat competition; on the long-term view, the Middle East markets have for years been fed from the most diverse sources and there will be a place for the products of Indian industries just as there has been for the Italian, the Japanese, the Germans etc."

(Continued on Page 561)

INDO-CHINESE TRADE PROSPECTS BRIGHT, SAYS MR. CHETTUR

"THE prospects for India selling her surplus short-staple cotton and tobacco in the China market are bright. No apprehension need be entertained on this score by businessmen in this country. The prospects for the development of Sino-India trade are also equally favourable." Thus observed, in an interview Mr. K. K. Chettur, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department, and Leader of the Trade Delegation which was sent to China in early February by the Commerce Department for exploring possibilities of developing Indo-Chinese trade, with particular reference to the prospect of China absorbing a substantial quantity of our surplus raw cotton and tobacco.

The Delegation return to New Delhi on March 30, after a sojourn of about 6 weeks in China and travelling about 8000 miles by air. It visited Hongkong, Shanghai, Peiping, Tientsin and Chungking, met leading representatives of business organisations and commercial bodies in those places and discussed trade matters with Ministers and other high-ranking officers of the Government of China. Among the Ministers interviewed were Dr. Soong, Prime Minister, Dr. Sunfo, Deputy Prime Minister, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Education, Economic Affairs, and Communications. Other Chinese officers seen were the Heads of the Municipal Governments of Shanghai, Tientsin and Chungking. The Delegation also saw Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, Governor of Hongkong.

Interview with Generalissimo

The interview with Generalissimo Chiang-kai Shek, which lasted about half an hour and at which Mr. K. P. S. Menon, Agent General to the Government of India in China, was also present, was most interesting, said Mr. Chettur. The Delegation spoke about matters of general interest to the two countries. The Generalissimo evinced considerable interest in Indian affairs.

Economic conditions in China did not look too favourable when we first entered China, observed Mr. Chettur. The currency problem, arising out of the Japanese issue of uncontrolled fiat money amounting to millions of dollars while they were in possession of occupied China, was of a complicated nature and called for delicate handling.

The exchange problem was even more difficult. While the official rate of exchange stood at 20 to 1 vis-a-vis the American dollar, the black market rate wildly fluctuated from day to day and was well over 2,000. This exchange chaos had been eliminated, stated Mr. Chettur, by the new exchange control regulations which fixed the rate of exchange with the American dollar at present in the neighbourhood of 2,000 C.N.C. (Chinese

National Currency) and banned certain kinds of exports and imports with a view to conserving foreign exchanges and stabilising the currency. This regulation, in his opinion, is an important step forward in the economic rehabilitation of China.

Exchange banks in China, stated Mr. Chettur, had also recently begun to quote the rupee, although unofficially. It was expected the official rate would be fixed shortly by the Central Bank of China.

Food And Clothing Problems

The four most important economic problems facing China to-day were, according to Mr. Chettur, food, clothing, transport and inflation. The Chinese Government were doing their best to tackle them effectively and their efforts were supplemented by the U.N.R.R.A., which was supplying China with large quantities of food, clothing, raw materials, and other goods like plant and machinery, rails and locomotives, trucks, etc.

Most of the factories and mills in Shanghai and Tientsin had started production, although on a reduced scale owing to lack of raw materials and shortage of labour.

In conclusion, Mr. Chettur said that the Delegation, as a result of its investigations, was very optimistic about developing Indo-Chinese trade.

The report of the Delegation will be shortly submitted to the Government of India.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

(Continued from Page 560)

Finally, emphasising the need to ensure the quality of the goods exported, the report observed that "the next two years will be the time for establishing new lines of business with the Middle East. However favourable the situation be, most will depend upon enterprise and initiative in winning the confidence of the Middle East importers. At this moment scrupulous attention must be paid to adequate quality by Indian manufacturers and exporters; failure in this respect will inevitably do damage to Indian trade."

With effect from May 1 the headquarters of the Resident at Baroda, and for the States of Western India and Gujrat will be transferred, as an experimental measure, from Baroda to Rajkot.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN RAW COTTON

INFORMATION received from Washington states that the International Cotton Study Group, of which Mr. S. K. Kripalani, Government of India Trade Commissioner in Washington, is the Chairman, has concluded its work, with the preparation of a report for its parent body, the International Cotton Advisory Committee.

The Study Group recommends that the Advisory Committee should continue on a permanent formal basis as a clearing house for information and discussion of world cotton problems. It concludes, however that it is not in a position at this stage to agree upon a complete plan of international co-operation in the handling of present and prospective cotton surpluses. The reason is according to the Study Group that not only are some fundamental points or principles unresolved but the fear has been expressed by certain delegations that in any event the present time is not appropriate for the introduction of such a scheme. As a result the Study Group has not given detailed consideration to questions connected with the actual quota shares and prices.

International Co-operation

In approaching its task, the Group considered the primary objectives of an effective arrangement for international co-operation to be orderly liquidation of excessive stocks, equitable sharing of the world's export trade, stability of prices at a reasonable level in the international market, fostering of increased production and increased consumption of raw cotton.

The International Cotton Advisory Committee, which was the outgrowth of a meeting in 1939 in Washington convened by the Department of Agriculture, U.S.A., and attended by the Governments of ten cotton exporting countries set up in April 1945 a special International Cotton Study Group to prepare proposals for international collaboration in the solution of raw cotton problems. It is this Group which has just concluded its work.

The Government of India have decided to allow importers to distribute electric bulbs among dealers and consumers at controlled prices without making any reference to the Department of Industries and Supplies. This decision is taken in view of the fact that the supply position of electric bulbs has improved and large quantities of these are now available, and also because of the closing down of the organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

EXPORTS OF GREY AND BLACK WOOL DECONTROLLED

THE Government of India have decided to de-control the exports of grey and black wool. As regards exports of white and yellow wool the 'established exporter' principle has been abolished. Any one will be allowed to export white and yellow wool to any permissible destination, provided that for every three bales sought to be exported he offers to sell to one of the purchasing agents of the Industries and Supplies Department of the Government of India two bales of wool for use in India.

The offer to sell wool to the Agent should be open for six weeks and at prices fixed by the Industries and Supplies Department. If the purchasing agent certifies that he has purchased a certain quantity of wool from a particular exporter, that exporter will be allowed to export one and a half times the quantity purchased by the Industries and Supplies Department. If such agent certifies that the wool has been offered at the prescribed price but is not required, then two and half times the quantity offered for sale to the Industries and Supplies Department will be allowed to be exported by the exporter concerned. Thus for every three bales exported, two bales will be available for consumption in India.

The purchases to be made by the Industries and Supplies Department are intended to ensure adequate supplies of raw wool to the local woolen manufacturers.

RUBBER CONTROL RELAXED

From April 1, 1946, no rubber will be bought by the Controller of Rubber on behalf of the Central Government; and approved estates and dealers will be required to sell rubber direct to manufacturers, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department on March 30.

Pending the completion of the revised arrangements which are to be brought into force shortly and the issue of the necessary amendment to the Rubber Control and Production Order, 1942, the Controller of Rubber, under the proviso to Clause 11 of the Rubber Control and Production Order, 1942, will issue permits authorising manufacturers to purchase rubber direct from approved estates and dealers at the prices at which Government are now buying rubber from approved estates and dealers as notified in the Government of India (Department of Industries and Supplies) Notification dated February 1, 1946.

STEEL PRICES REDUCED TO HELP BUILDING PROGRAMME

A CONSIDERABLE improvement in the supply position of steel has now enabled Government to abolish the licensing system, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department on March 30. Supplies, however, are not sufficient to meet all demands, and in order to ensure an equitable distribution throughout the country, control will be exercised on the production and distribution from the main producers' works and the works of the principal re-rollers to stockholders. It is hoped that in this way it will be possible to place sufficient steel of the types required in the hands of controlled stockholders and registered stockholders to enable the general public to draw their requirements without undue difficulty and without the delays which are inevitable under any scheme of licensing. Many registered stockholders have yet to receive their full supplies of steel, but it is hoped that in the course of the next three months, it will be possible to raise their stocks to something approximating to normal.

Quota Certificates

To ensure that the demands from Service Departments and Railways do not encroach upon the steel now being made available to the general public, a system of 'Quota Certificates' is being introduced to confine the demands from these quarters to a pre-arranged quota, as was done under the licensing system.

It will be remembered that on July 1, 1945, a substantial reduction of Rs. 30 a ton was effected in the selling prices of all the principal categories of steel. The Government have now announced that with the co-operation of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. and the Steel Corporation of Bengal Ltd., it has been possible to effect further reductions in the price of steel from producers. This reduction has been effected with a view to stabilising prices for a period of one year and thereby to enable the general public, particularly small consumers, to plan their building programmes.

A full schedule of the new prices, which will take effect from April 1, 1946, is being published in the Gazette. The general effect is that consumers, who normally obtain their supplies of steel from producers and controlled stockholders, will pay Rs. 10 less per ton on bars, structurals, plates and black sheets and Rs. 13 per ton less on galvanized sheets. Consumers, who normally buy their steel in the bazaar, will obtain a reduction of Rs. 25 on bars, etc., and Rs. 28 on galvanized sheets, and a further reduction of Rs. 30 per ton from July 1, 1946.

DISPOSAL OF U. S. SURPLUSES

THE Government of India have taken over as part of American surpluses in the country a considerable number of aircraft and large quantities of connected stores and equipment of a highly technical nature. Their custody, maintenance and orderly disposal are of great importance and will have a vital bearing on the air communications of the country. Government have not the technical and other staff required to deal effectively and expeditiously with the custody and disposal of these aircraft and stores. They have, therefore, decided to appoint Messrs. Tata Aircraft Limited, to undertake this work on their behalf.

This Company, which rendered valuable services during the war, was created for the purpose of constructing and managing, on behalf of the Government, a number of factories and other establishments, some of which are still in operation, for the repair and overhaul of Air Force equipment. Government consider that the facilities and staff at the disposal of the Company, and the experience it has acquired during the war, make it the most suitable organisation to undertake this work.

The aircraft, spares and stores will be disposed of in accordance with policy laid down by Government and under their general control. Priorities for Government's own requirements as well as those of essential users will be strictly observed. Government are, and will continue to be, represented on the board of Directors of the Company.

COFFEE PRICES REDUCED

With effect from April 1, 1946, the Government of India in the Industries and Supplies Department have reduced the retail prices of certain varieties of coffee as follows:—

Raw coffee: Arabica Cherry Flats from Rs. 1-1-9 to Rs. 1-1-0 per lb.; Arabica Cherry PB from Rs. 1-3-9 to Rs. 1-3-0 per lb.; Robusta Cherry Flats from Re. 0-14-9 to Re. 0-14-0 per lb.; Robusta Cherry PB from Rs. 1-0-6 to Re. 1 per lb.

Roasted and ground coffee powder, loose: Robusta Cherry from Rs. 1-3-3 to Rs. 1-3-0 per lb.

The prices of other varieties of coffee, both raw and ground, will remain as at present.

STUDY OF MINERAL DEPOSITS IN INDIA

Geophysical Investigation

AN electric investigation on the foundations for a dam in the Damodar Valley is being undertaken by a geophysical prospecting party organised by the Geological Survey of India. Another prospecting party has been carrying out for the last two months a "spontaneous polarization" survey on what is believed to be a pyrites deposit. Both these parties will use mainly equipment constructed at the geological Survey. A third party, using magnetic instruments, which the Survey of India has agreed to give on loan, will start work within the present field season.

These investigations have followed upon the setting up, under Dr. G. Dessau, about six months back of a Geophysical Section under the Geological Survey of India. Dr. Dessau specialised in the study of mineral deposits and has devoted considerable time during the past 20 years to geophysical investigations. In spite of the difficulties of getting specialists and suitable equipment, a good start has been made.

The investigations already begun or about to be started have been chosen mainly from the point of view of the availability of equipment and for their value in giving training to the personnel; and the Geophysical Section of the Geological Survey of India will, probably for a few years to come, devote itself mainly to work in connection with water supply and dam foundation problems and the investigation of metalliferous deposits.

Simultaneously, the applicability of geophysical methods to the study of some of the coal bearing areas of India is also being investigated, although geophysics has till now generally been unsuccessful in this particular field.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* the Gur Control Order 1946 empowers the Gur Controller to fix in any area maximum prices of gur, to regulate the movement of sugar, cane and gur, restrict or prohibit gur manufacture. It *inter alia* provides for seizure of stocks of gur as penalty for infringement of the provisions of the Order. This Order extends to the whole of British India and supersedes the Gur Control Order 1943, but all notifications, rules, etc. issued under the previous Order remain in force until they are rescinded or modified.

BURMA ADOPTS NEW IMPORT TRADE CONTROL

A Press Communique issued in Rangoon on March 16, by the Government of Burma states that a new import trade control system has been introduced by that Government, the main feature of this system being the adoption of an Open General Licence for all goods, with the main exception of foodstuffs on the Reserved Commodity List, which come from Empire countries within the sterling area. In other words, importers in Burma may now import the goods concerned from all Empire countries other than Canada and Newfoundland without restriction.

Special licences are required for the import into Burma of foodstuffs on the Reserved Commodity List irrespective of country of origin and also for imports of goods from Canada, Newfoundland and countries outside the British Empire.

Applications for import licence should be made in the prescribed form and manner to the Deputy Director of Supply (Imports), Secretariat Building, Rangoon.

The system of importers' licence has been abolished. Therefore, no licence is required for anyone wishing to set up business in Burma as an importer.

SIR HUGH HOOD

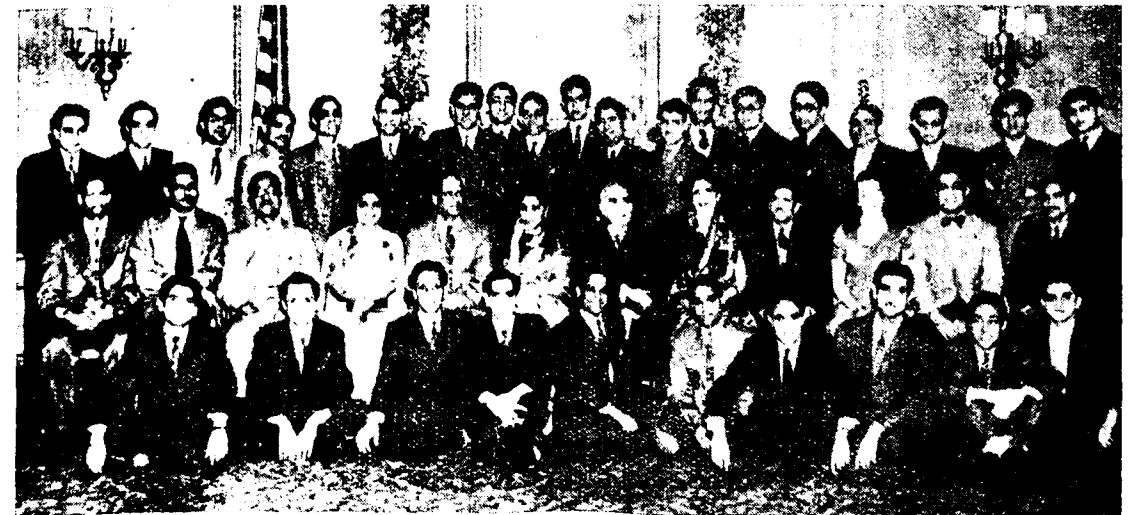
The Hon'ble Sir Cyril Jones, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Government of India, handed over charge of his post to Sir Hugh Hood on April 10, and is proceeding to England on leave. He is expected to return to his post from leave by about September, 1946.

Sir Hugh Hood, the new Principal Secretary, was Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Madras. He was Chairman of the Madras Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee. He was for some time Finance Secretary to the Government of Madras in 1931 and Adviser to H.E. the Governor of Madras from 1939-44, in which capacity he handled the Finance portfolio. He was associated with Sir Archibald Rowlands as a member of the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee. He has lately been Adviser to the Bengal Government on the reorganisation of the co-operative movement in that Province.

Traffic surveys are to be carried out by the Agency of the G. I. P. Railway Administration for a broad-gauge railway line from Belapur Road to Sheogaon, a distance of about 45 miles. The survey is to be known as the Belapur Road-Sheogaon Railway Survey.



The Agent-General for India in the U.S., Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (second from left in picture above) accompanied by Lady Bajpai was at Boston at the graduation ceremony of the M.I.T. on February 25. Sir Girja Shankar entertained all the Indian students, both at Harvard and M.I.T., at an evening party at the Statler Hotel on the previous day. Over 45 students including three women students, attended the party. Prof. Sundaram, Educational Liaison Officer with the Agent-General, introduced the students to Sir Girja Shankar and Lady Bajpai.



SOCIAL SECURITY OF LABOUR

Rege Committee Reports

DATA relating to all aspects of labour conditions embodied in 35 reports running to nearly two million words have been compiled by the Labour Investigation Committee appointed by the Government of India on February 12, 1944, with Mr. D. V. Rege, I.C.S., as Chairman and Mr. S. R. Deshpande, Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar and Prof. B. P. Adarkar as members. Twenty of these reports were placed on the table of the House in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 9, by the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member.

The data collected by the Committee relate to the wages and earnings, employment, housing and social conditions of labour in 38 selected industries, namely: *Mining*—Coal, Manganese, Gold, Mica, Iron Ore and Salt; *Plantations*—Tea, Coffee and Rubber; *Factories*—Cotton, Jute, Silk, Woollen, Mineral Oil, Dockyard, Engineering, Cement, Matches, Paper, Carpet weaving, Coir matting, Tanneries and Leather Goods Manufacture, Potteries, Printing Presses, Glass, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Shellac, Bidi-making, Mica Splitting, Sugar, Cotton Ginning and Baling and Rice Mills; *Transport*—Tramways and Buses and Non-gazetted Railway Staff; and Other Types—Port Labour, Municipal Labour, Central P.W.D., and Rickshaw Pullers. This is expected to help the future planning of social security for labour and legislation by the Government.

The Sampling Method

As it was felt that the peculiar problems of labour had more an industry-wise than a region-wise dispersion, the Committee adopted the sampling method and conducted an industry-wise survey throughout India. During their two years of work, the Chairman and the members individually toured the whole of the country visiting 65 industrial centres as far apart as Srinagar and Trichinopoly, Quetta and Shillong. On-the-spot investigations were carried out in 528 centres including plantation estates and mines. No less than 1,631 establishments relating to various industries were surveyed. Questionnaires containing hundreds of questions were issued to various industrial concerns, Provincial and State Governments, Officials and Employers' and Employees' Organisations. The quantity of factual material analysed on the Committee may be illustrated by the fact that with regard to the wage census alone 34,080 forms were received.

The Committee employed a field-staff consisting of 16 Supervisors and 45 Investigators who were sent out on *ad hoc* surveys. This staff not only collected information on the spot in the various centres but also drew upon every other possible source of information. They personally contacted employers, workers and officials during the course of their investigations.

Representative Centres were selected region-wise for the survey so as to discover differences in the conditions of labour in the same industry in different parts of the country. The selection of a concern was generally based on its importance, size, etc., and whether it was subject to statutory regulations or not. Enquiries related to protection given by existing labour legislation, wages and earnings of labour, working conditions, indebtedness, age and mortality statistics, welfare activities and social security measures.

The Committee were considerably assisted in their work by Provincial and State Governments, local bodies, port authorities and Employers' and Employees' Organisations.

DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

The division of the Labour Department, with the establishment of a new Department of Works, Mines and Power, came into effect on April 8.

The Department of Works, Mines and Power will deal with such subjects as the Central Public Works Department and execution of Central Works Projects, Civil Engineering, Mines and Minerals, the Geological Survey of India, Major Irrigation Works including Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, Electricity and Stationery and Printing.

The Labour Department will continue to deal with all subjects connected with the I.L.O. Welfare of Labour, Labour Relations, Social Security Measures, Legislation and Enforcement of Labour Laws, Safety Measures, Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen and Women, Technical and Vocational Training Schemes, Labour Bureau, Statistics, Research and Investigation.

Both Departments will be in the Portfolio of the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member. Coal production will, however, remain temporarily in the charge of the Industries and Supplies Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior will be Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power and Mr. S. Lall, Secretary of the Department of Labour.

I.L.O. CONFERENCE, 1946

Non-Official Delegates

THE 29th Session of the International Labour Conference will open at Montreal on September 19, 1946, says a Press communique issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on March 29.

The Agenda of the Conference will consist of four items, dealing with subjects relating to Constitutional questions; protection of children and young workers, which will include (a) medical examination for fitness for employment (young workers) second discussion, and (b) restriction of night work of children and young persons (non-industrial occupations) second discussion; minimum standards of social policy in dependent territories (provisions suitable for a Convention) and reports on the application of Conventions (Article 22 of the Constitution).

Employers' and Workers' Delegates

The delegates representing each Member State at the Conference include two Government Delegates, one Employers' Delegate and one Workers' Delegate. The delegates representing employers and workers may each be accompanied by advisers. The duty of nominating the personnel of the entire Indian Delegation rests with the Government of India, who under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, have undertaken to nominate non-Government Delegates chosen in agreement with the most representative organisations of Employers and Workers as the case may be. An Association will be regarded as representative of employers only if it includes among its functions that of dealing with the interests of employers as such (*e.g.* regulating conditions of employment).

Employers' and Workers' Organisations insisting on suggesting names for selection of non-Government delegates may submit them so as to reach the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, as early as possible and, in any case, not later than May 1, 1946. The Organisations concerned may recommend one name for selection of the delegate and a panel of six names for advisers. For the latter, the Organisations would be well advised to take into account the requirements of proper territorial distribution and communal representation.

Allowance (on a scale which can be ascertained by application to the Department of Labour) will be granted to defray the expenses of the Delegates and advisers finally nominated.

Over 34,000 tons of wheat arrived in India during the week ended March 28, 1946.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1946.

I.L.O. MARITIME CONFERENCE

Selection of Indian Delegates

INDIA has been invited by the I.L.O. to participate in the 28th Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference which will begin from June 6, 1946, at Seattle, U.S.A., said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department on April 1.

The Government of India have been asked to nominate two delegates to represent the Government and one each to represent shipowners' and seamen's interests. Each of the delegates may be accompanied by advisers. The expenses of the non-official representatives will be paid by the Government of India on the scale admissible to non-official delegates to the session of the International Labour Conference. The delegates and advisers will be nominated after consultation and in agreement with the national organisations concerned which should each forward recommendations for one delegate and 6 advisers to the Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, so as to reach not later than April 15, 1946. The Government of India trust that while recommending names for advisers, the organisations will endeavour to keep the territorial and communal aspects in view.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference to the 28th Maritime Session are the same as for the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference held in Copenhagen in November, 1945, namely:

- (a) Wages: hours of work on board ship, manning;
- (b) Leave;
- (c) Accommodation on board ship;
- (d) Food and catering;
- (e) Recognition of Seafarers' Organisations;
- (f) Social Insurance;
- (g) Continuous Employment;
- (h) Entry, training and promotion.

These subjects were discussed at the Preparatory Conference and would be adopted at the forthcoming conference after general discussion.

The Central Government have, by a notification published in the *Gazette of India* of April 6, reduced the prices of 7 O'Clock blades from Annas 14 to Annas 11 per packet of 10.

TWENTY-TWO INDIANS ON U.N.R.R.A. STAFF

UP to March 22, this year, 22 Indians have been selected by the U.N.R.R.A. for service in its worldwide organisation. Most of them are to serve in China while three have been selected for the Headquarters Office in Washington and one for the European Regional Office in London. Two are now serving in Italy. The selected persons are to work in various capacities—as auditors and accountants, medical officers, supply observers, economists and stenographers. Among those recently recruited in India, there are eight auditors and accountants, one medical officer, two economists, three supply observers, one reports officer and five stenographers.

Two accountants for the Washington office will draw a pay of \$4,250 and \$5,325 respectively per annum. The pay of audit officers in China will range from Rs. 7,425 to Rs. 13,500 per annum. The one medical officer selected in the group and posted to China will draw Rs. 17,550 per annum. Each of the two economists selected for the same region will also draw a similar pay. The three supply observers who will also serve in China will be paid between Rs. 7,425 and Rs. 15,525 per annum. The only reports officer who has been selected and will serve in Washington will be paid Rs. 700 per mensem. All the stenographers who will be posted to China will draw Rs. 5,400 per annum each.

"Living Allowance"

In addition to their salaries, the Washington personnel will be paid a daily "living allowance" of \$5 each. Those serving in China will be paid a "living allowance" to cover their boarding and lodging expenses which will fluctuate with the constantly changing cost of living in that country.

In addition to their salaries, the Washington appointed is being paid a lump sum grant of \$100 as clothing allowance. Transportation by sea or air to the place of destination and back to the country of origin is provided by the Administration at its own expense.

From the salary of each employee a sum equivalent to 5 per cent. of salary is deducted for Provident Fund; and a sum equal to 7½ per cent. of salary is contributed by the employer; and the total amount is paid to the employee on the completion of his assignment.

STAFF FOR UNITED NATIONS FOOD ORGANISATION

APPOINTMENTS to the staff of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in Washington will be made from India and other member countries, said a Press Note issued by the Agriculture Department, Government of India, on April 2.

Towards the end of January last the Agent General for India in Washington asked the Government of India to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the F.A.O. for the following posts:

Heads of Divisions or Assistants for (1) Nutrition and Food Management (2) Agricultural Production (Crops and Livestock) (3) Economics (4) Fisheries (5) Forestry and Forestry Products (6) Rural Welfare (7) Statistics and (8) Administration.

In addition to these Information (Public Relations) Assistants with international experience in work with press, radio and other mass information outlets will also be appointed.

The salaries for Directors (heads of division) grade 1, will be \$10,000—\$12,000 and for the Assistants, grade 2, \$7,500—\$9,500.

For Information (Public Relations) Assistants the salaries will be \$7,500—\$9,500 for grade 2 and \$6,500—\$7,500 for grade 3.

The salaries are in American dollars free of Federal income-tax.

The Appointment Committee of the Organisation was to meet on February 28 and it was expected that applications should reach by that date.

The Government of India immediately consulted the various Departments at the Centre and the Provincial Governments. No suitable names, however, were received from any quarter. The time at the disposal of the Government of India being too short it will be suggested to the Agent General that the Director General of F.A.O. should be requested to reconsider India's claims for the posts if names of suitable candidates were sent in due course.

Sir John Orr, Director General, is believed to be keen on having experienced and qualified Indian Officers on his staff.

Officials and non-officials alike who would like to apply for the above mentioned posts should immediately get into touch with the Under-Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of India. The Department would wait for a month before making any suggestions to the Agent General.

INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND



Mr. N. Sundaresan

MR. N. SUNDARESAN, Joint Secretary, Finance Department, Government of India, who has been selected to represent India on the Board of Directors of the International Monetary Fund, left New Delhi by air on April 4 for England en route to Washington to take up his new appointment. He will meet Sir Chintaman Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank, in London to discuss various problems arising out of India's participation in the Bretton Woods agreements.

The Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, stated in the Central Assembly on January 28, in his speech on "India and Bretton Woods" that "owing to the fact that the Union of Soviet Republics has not joined as an original member, India becomes one of the Big Five of the Fund and the Bank, and as such becomes an appointed-Director and not an elected-Director." In accordance with this anticipation, India has now secured a permanent seat on the Board of Directors of the Fund and the Bank. While Mr.

Sundaresan will represent India on the Fund, Mr. J. V. Joshi, Economic Adviser to the Reserve Bank of India, will represent it on the Board of Directors of the International Bank. The latter will remain in America for less than a year or so, after which he is expected to return to India to take up his job in the Reserve Bank. Thereafter, Mr. Sundaresan will represent the country both on the Board of Directors of the Fund and the Bank if satisfactory arrangements could be made for his functioning part-time as Director in both the institutions in addition to his holding the post of Financial Adviser to the Agent-General at Washington.

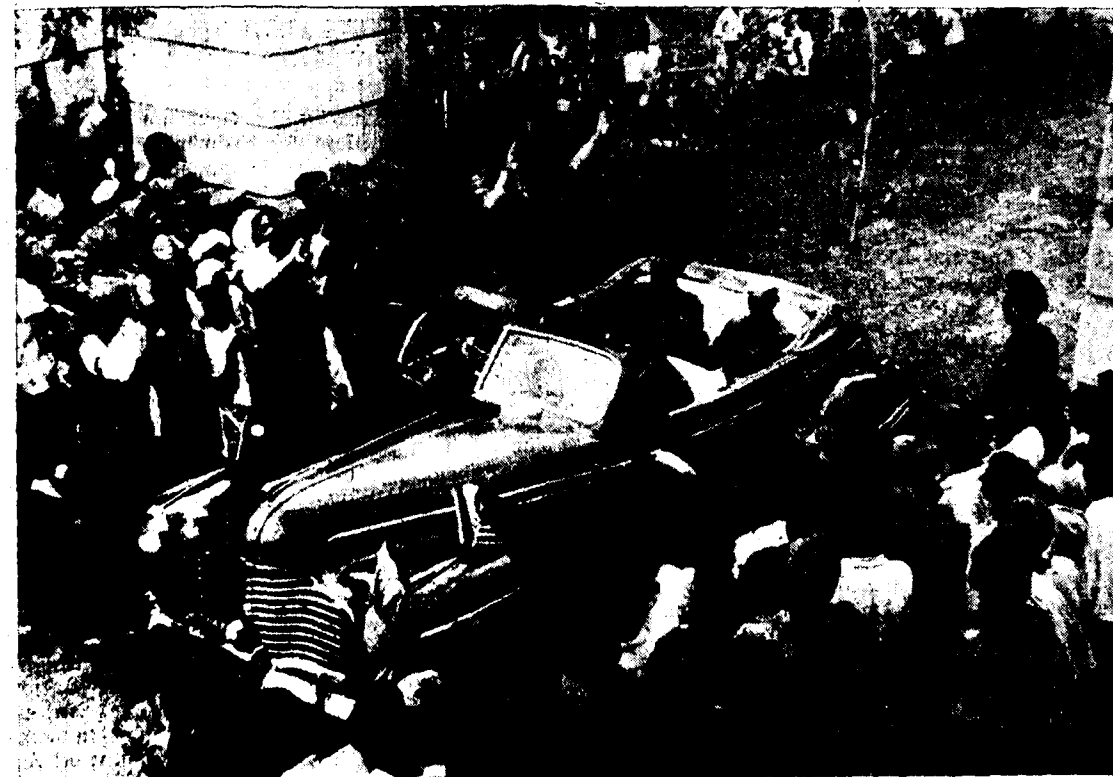
Russia's subsequent entry as member of the Fund and the Bank within the period allotted to her (end of 1946) will not alter the status of India as a permanent member of the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Mr. Sundaresan's Career

Born 50 years ago in a village of Trichinopoly District (South India) Mr. Sundaresan was educated at the Christian College and the Law College, Madras. Later, he joined Government Service, and, in 1923 was deputed to the Empire Exhibition, Wembley where he worked in conjunction with Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, India's representative. Then he served in the Currency and Finance Departments till 1937. Later, his services were lent to the Government of Burma in the newly created Audit Department of that country.

Returning from Burma in the beginning of 1941, Mr. Sundaresan was attached to the Supply Finance as Deputy Financial Adviser. He was posted to the main Finance Department again in August 1942 as Deputy Secretary and was later promoted Joint Secretary. In the Finance Department, he has been Budget Officer during the last four years of the war and was largely instrumental in preparing the first post-war budget of India which was presented to the Central Assembly by the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, in February 1946.

To Mr. Sundaresan goes the credit of having assisted Sir Jeremy Raisman in evolving promptly a scheme of compensation for the victims of the Bombay Docks Explosion in April 1944. Mr. Sundaresan's name is also associated with the Indian Demonetisation Ordinances promulgated in January 1946 whose object was to collar black market operators and tax dodgers. He also contributed to the preparation of the Estate Duty Bill, which is now before the Central Assembly.



Scene at the gates of Government House Singapore, where crowds rushed towards Pundit Nehru's car to have his 'darshan'. (Below, left) the Congress leader shaking hands with a girl who led guerillas against the Japs and (right) Pundit Nehru talking to a Pressman.



PUNDIT NEHRU IN SINGAPORE

Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, the prominent Indian National Congress leader, who recently toured Malaya, received a rousing reception from thousands of Indian nationals and others on his arrival in Singapore. At the Kallang airport, huge crowds assembled to welcome the Indian leader who was received by Maj.-Gen. V.C.H. Kimmins, representing the Supremo, Mr. S.K. Chettur, I.C.S., Government of India's Agent in Malaya, and others. Later, the Pundit drove to Government House where he stayed as the guest of Lord Louis Mountbatten. These pictures show (above) Pundit Nehru and the Supremo driving through Singapore in an open car and (left) Pundit Nehru with Maj.-Gen. Kimmins (centre) and Mr. Chettur.



INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1946.

CONDITION OF INDIANS IN CEYLON IN 1944

LITTLE progress towards achieving understanding between Ceylon and India was made in 1944 and the outstanding problems of the status, franchise and citizenship rights of Indians in Ceylon continued unsolved, according to the annual report of the Representative and the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1944. However, the social contacts established by the Representative and the visits of distinguished Indians to the Island on cultural missions were of considerable help in establishing a friendly atmosphere.

Constitutional Reforms

The draft scheme for a reformed constitution for Ceylon, submitted by the Ceylon Ministers to the Secretary of State for the Colonies roused considerable suspicion among the minority communities in Ceylon, consisting mainly of Ceylon Indians, Ceylon Tamils, Muslims and Malays. The reason was that the draft constitution had been prepared in secrecy and its clauses were not revealed even to the members of the State Council. In July 1944, the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced that a Commission would be sent out to Ceylon towards the end of 1944 to examine the draft scheme and to give an opportunity to the various interests, including the minority communities, to place their points of view before the Commission.

The Ministers took exception to the appointment of a Commission to sit in judgment over their scheme and withdrew the draft scheme, which was afterwards published. The Ministers declared that they would boycott the Commission and in fact the State Council proceeded to draft a bill, popularly known as Free Lanka Bill, which involved the control of external affairs also by the Ceylon Ministers.

Minorities

The minorities in general welcomed the Commission, whose Chairman was Lord Soulbury. The Commission on their arrival in Ceylon in December 1944 issued a Press Communique calling for proposals designed to confer responsible self-government in internal civil affairs on Ceylon and draft criticisms thereon.

Of the 800,000 Indians in Ceylon, over 600,000 were estate labourers working mainly on tea and rubber estates. In all there were 1,516 estates employing Indian labour. The ban on the emigration of unskilled labour from India

to Ceylon imposed by the Government of India in 1939 continued in force during 1944. From October 1, 1944, the Government of India took over the direct supervision of the work under the Indian Emigration Act and a Controller-General of Emigration was appointed. Both tea and rubber continued to fetch good prices during the year. There was shortage of labour on tea and rubber estates and in general throughout the Island.

There was provision for statutory minimum wages for tea and rubber industries which has since been extended to various other industries. The minimum wages fixed by the Wages Boards were about Re. 0-15-10 to Rs. 1-0-8 per day. The wages for a woman and a child were less, being about annas 13 and 11 annas 4 pies respectively. For workers in mid-country and low-country the wages were a few pies less.

The cost of living index stood between 205 and 216 during the year (average prices for July to September 1939 equal to 100). Throughout the year there was considerable agitation against utilisation of controlled prices of various articles on the workers family budget in computing the cost of living index since it was well known that many of the items were unavailable at such prices.

Welfare of Labourers

In addition to the Minimum Wages Ordinance, there were other Ordinances in force dealing with housing, workmen's compensation, maternity welfare, education and care of children. Estates were also responsible for the distribution of food commodities to the labourers under existing food regulations. Officers of the labour, health, education and food control departments inspected the estates to advise the Superintendents on these matters and to see that the various provisions were observed.

During the year, 32 estates were inspected by the Agent and 62 by his Assistant. Non-payment of minimum wages, shortage in the payment of maternity benefits and children's free feeding accounts were the irregularities most commonly observed. It has to be said to the credit of the employers that wherever any irregularity was pointed out, they were always willing to rectify it. A sum of Rs. 4,644 was collected from the Superintendents as shortage under the free feeding account. The Agent dealt with 1,333 complaints and petitions from labourers during the year.

The conditions in which Indian labourers lived and worked on the estates were also

studied at first hand by the Representative of the Government of India. There were 66 hospitals and 116 dispensaries maintained by Government and 98 hospitals and 724 dispensaries maintained by employers in estate areas. The medical staff of the estate institution consisted of 5 qualified medical officers, 3 Indian qualified medical officers (not registered in Ceylon), 1 qualified apothecary and 715 approved dispensers. There were 239 registered midwives and 33 unregistered midwives on the estates. The birth and death rates among the Indian estate population in 1944 were 43.7 per mille and 16.4 mille respectively as against 37.1 and 21.4 for the entire population of the Island.

Education was compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 10 and the estates had to provide schools. But the percentage of children attending schools was only 61.8. Inadequate rates of remuneration and lack of the usual facilities enjoyed by those serving under Government accounted for the failure to attract a better class of persons for employment as teachers on estates. The question of absorbing estate schools into a state system of education was under consideration by the Government.

TARIFF BOARD AT CALCUTTA

The Indian Tariff Board, headed by its president Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, met at the D.G.M.P.'s Office, Calcutta, on April 9, to take oral evidence on the steel baling hoops industry. Four representatives of Messrs. J. K. Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Cawnpore, and the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravati, producers of steel baling hoops, placed their views before the Board.

Evidence, it is understood, related mainly to the financial position and capital composition of the producing firms, estimated total Indian demand for baling hoops of various kinds, productive capacity and actual production of Indian firms. The representatives also furnished the Board with facts regarding the availability of the principal raw material viz. steel billets of the principal raw material viz. steel billets from within and outside the country, the price of raw material, location of works from the point of view of proximity to sources of raw material and markets of finished products, etc.

The staff and students of Mayo College, Ajmer, have made a final contribution of Rs. 3,585-8-9 to H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, which His Excellency has accepted with gratitude.

ADJUSTMENT OF MANPOWER TO POST-WAR SCHEMES

RETURNS showing the monthly employment position and the forecasts of the likely increase or decrease for April, May and June have been asked for from employers in British India by the Director-General of Resettlement and Employment. This step will help the Government to study the trends of employment during the transition period and to correlate their post-war schemes with the available man-power. The statistics will be useful in preventing any large-scale dislocation of labour and in the adjustment of the training schemes of the Government to the requirements of development plans.

Major post-war schemes sponsored by private enterprise will also benefit by advice from the Resettlement and Employment Organisation regarding the availability of suitable workmen. The Organisation will facilitate the movement of the required personnel from one place to another.

Industrial establishments employing 100 or more workers have been asked to send three returns—the first giving the number and various categories of persons employed on August 31, 1945, and on December 31, 1945; the second showing the number and categories of persons employed on the last day of the month as from January, 1946, and the forecasts of the likely increase or decrease during April, May and June in the number of persons employed; and the third giving the forecast of additional man-power requirements under various categories for the next 12 months beginning with April.

Employers have been advised to direct the personnel discharged from their establishments to seek the assistance of the Employment Exchanges in the country in finding re-employment.

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

1. S. M. Azam, Esquire, M.A. (Oxon.), Education Member, His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Executive Council.
2. Rai Bahadur R. C. Kak, Prime Minister, Kashmir.
3. Dr. T. C. M. Royan, M.D., Minister of Education and Public Health, Mysore.

NEW BIAS IN TECHNICAL TRAINING IN INDIA

Progress of Resettlement Schemes

RE-EQUIPMENT of Technical Training Centres so as to give them a definite bias towards production is now under the consideration of the Labour Department, Government of India. This follows a decision taken at the conference held in January 1946 by the Director of Technical Training, with his Deputy and Assistant Directors, at which many aspects of the scheme for training demobilised personnel were discussed.

Suitable Army buildings for the establishment of training centres for the disabled have been selected and preparations for the taking over of hospital premises at Jalahalli and Poona were completed during January, 1946. The services of Mr. J. D. Sutton were secured from the Ministry of Labour and he has taken charge as Deputy Chief Rehabilitation Officer.

Eleven Resettlement Advice Officers and 65 civilian assistants were recruited during the month for the Resettlement Advice Service and a handbook was got ready for them.

Training Course

Fifty-seven Managers and 72 Assistant Managers for the Employment Exchanges were trained by the end of January. Twelve more officers who were under training were ready for posting by the middle of the following month, when another batch of 15 Managers and 84 Assistant Managers started their course. Five nominees of the All India Railwaymen's Federation were trained along with the fifth batch of trainees at the Staff Training Centre.

Four more sub-regional Employment Exchanges were opened during January, bringing the total up to the end of the month to 35.

New registrations numbering 7,416 were made in 18 employment Exchanges during December, 1945 and 1,476 were placed in employment. The corresponding figures in respect of 116 Recruiting and Employment Offices for November, 1945 were 6,248 and 764. There were 21,040 on the register in the Employment Exchanges at the end of December, 1945 and there were 16,366 vacancies. There were 9,125 on the register of the R. and E. Offices at the end of November, 1945.

In all 1,66,835 employment index cards have been received from Demobilisation Centres. Returns from Central Government Departments

for discharged civilian war workers were analysed and it was found that 83,836 civilian war workers had been discharged by January 12, 1946, and the estimated number of worker to be discharged by the end of April, 1946, was 2,31,692.

To assist employers in the selection of ex-servicemen an index of the occupations and trades enumerated in the Services' guide has been prepared and distributed. A civil guide covering iron and steel trades has also been distributed to Employment Exchanges and Government Departments.

RELEASED PERSONNEL TO BE TRADE-TESTED

Trade Testing Officers have been appointed by the Labour Department to assist in the resettlement of ex-servicemen. All technicians who ask for assistance in finding re-employment or require post-release training will now be interviewed, not only by a Resettlement Advice Officer but also by a Trade Testing Officer.

The recommendations of the Trade Testing Officer will be written on index cards and sent to Regional Employment Exchanges, through which suitable training or employment is to be obtained.

These offices are located at 13 demobilisation centres situated all over India. The centres have been chosen as being those through which technicians will be released. They include the Royal Indian Engineers, Indian Signal Corps, Indian Army Ordnance Corps and the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers centres.

Generally speaking, only those technicians who have not passed the Services' Grade III standard or who have passed it but have less than two years' experience will actually be trade-tested, but all technicians are questioned by Trade Testing Officers with a view to assessing their aptitudes and degrees of skill. This system will safeguard and assist the individual and at the same time be a guide to employers.

As it appears that there is a steady demand on the part of institutional investors and the market generally for a medium term investment the Government of India have decided to create a further issue of the 2½ per cent. Loan 1960 for Rs. 20 crores.

The securities will be available for sale on Government account by the Reserve Bank of India through the usual procedure for the sale of special issues at prices to be ascertained from the Bank.

COMPLETE NATIONALISATION OF INDIAN ARMY THE OBJECTIVE, SAYS C.-IN-C.

SPEAKING on a resolution moved in the Council of State on April 8 by the Hon'ble Pundit H. N. Kunzru—that a time limit be laid down for the nationalisation of the Indian Army, the War Member, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, said:

Sir, I am always glad to receive the advice of the Hon'ble Mover, and I welcome his suggestions in the spirit in which they are given, because I know it is a constructive spirit, and also because we have one and the same object. Let me state that object as I see it.

It is to create a completely national army, that is, an army officered and manned throughout by Indians in the shortest possible space of time without lowering the very high standard of efficiency which obtains in the Indian Army to-day.

The Hon'ble Member mentions that other countries have built up a defence organisation quickly and I suppose the inference is that India can do the same.

An Efficient Army

Well, India is fortunate in that she already has a really efficient Army and as this House is well aware the rank and file of that Army to-day is for all practical purposes 100 per cent. Indian. It is the nationalisation of the officer cadre of that Army which constitutes the problem before us to-day. It is the declared policy of the Government of India that the British officers element of the Indian Army shall be replaced by Indian officers as soon as possible, compatible with the maintenance of the efficiency of the Army as a whole. There is, therefore, no ground for controversy on this point.

We are concerned to-day with how quickly Government's declared policy can be put fully into effect.

As regards other countries and their methods, I rather doubt myself whether we can profit a great deal from their experience. Each country has its own separate and distinct problems of defence and must use its own methods, suitable to its own circumstances to solve them. I suggest that our problem is a special one, peculiar to India, and that we should solve it in the way that suits us best. I am very ready to give all my experience and knowledge to help towards a speedy and efficient solution.

Personally, I have no doubt that India can eventually produce sufficient Indians of the right type to provide all the officers likely to be needed to lead the Armed Forces of India in the future.



Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck.

The deeds and prowess in the late war of that small band of Indian regular officers, not more than 500 to 600 all told, which existed prior to 1939, has, in my opinion, proved this beyond reasonable doubt, so far as powers of leadership and technical qualifications are concerned.

Efore I go further, Sir, I wish to make one point, which I believe to be of fundamental importance.

It is this. In civilian circles it is widely believed that because an officer has proved himself a good junior leader in war—on the battlefield—that, therefore, he must of necessity make a good officer in peace. My experience goes to prove that this is a complete and dangerous fallacy. I will not enlarge here on my reasons for this opinion, but I ask you to believe me when I tell you that it is much harder to be a good officer in peace than it is in war. Every country that has an Army worthy of the same demands a much higher standard from its regular officers who have the task of building up the efficiency of its Army in peace, than from the temporary officers it has to create to help

to lead it in war. I do not think that you will find any officer of proved experience who will deny this. At least I have still to meet one.

If, therefore, we are to maintain that essential minimum of efficiency in peace to enable our Army to expand to the requisite size in war, we must have the very best regular officers, and we must keep our standard of selection at the highest possible level.

Sir, yet another point to which I would like to call attention. In war there is a great deal to be said for young leaders possessing fire and dash, and the enthusiasm of youth.

In battle these qualities mean much. In peace however, they require to be balanced by knowledge—not only technical knowledge which can be acquired fairly quickly perhaps by some—but by a deeper knowledge of men and things which can only come from long experience and contact with men. Without this knowledge, from which springs the power to judge men and events soberly and in the right proportion, very few of us can become really good officers. In peace or war, certainly not in the higher ranks of the Army. That is my considered opinion and I beg the House to give full weight to it.

Sir, the House may be interested in a few figures which I can give them.

Future Army

According to my present estimate which is necessarily only tentative for obvious reasons, it looks as if we shall need about 9,000 regular officers in the Indian Army of the future. We hope to get 1,000 regular officers from the 3,000 or so Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers who have applied for regular commissions. There will be about 3,000 pre-war regular officers, British and Indian, left in the Army.

We are about to set up a special class of officer recruited from Viceroy's Commissioned officers and Indian Warrant and non-commissioned officers of long service, to fill certain specialised appointments in units.

We expect that the total number of officers—all Indian of course—in this class will be about 1,000 in the whole Army.

We hope to get by April next year about 100 young regular Indian officers from the new post-war courses now in progress at the Indian Military Academy. These assets give us a total of about 5,100 officers of all ranks. British and Indian, against our estimated future needs of over 9,000. We have, therefore, to find over 4,000 more officers somewhere.

Unless we lower the standard of selection to a point which I am quite sure it would be wrong to accept, we shall get no more officers from

amongst the Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers who came forward in such numbers in the late war. They cannot be compelled to apply for regular commissions if they do not wish to make the Army their career.

As I have said, we have taken about one-third of those who have applied, which is a high percentage and incidentally about the same as has been accepted by the British Army using the same methods and standards as ourselves.

To make up this deficit we must depend mainly on Indian candidates who volunteer for regular cadetships at our Military Academy.

Even if sufficient candidates of the requisite qualifications came forward, we could not accept them all at once, because this would completely upset the age and service balance of the officer cadre, which has to be most carefully regulated, not only in the interests of efficiency, but also in the interest of the officer himself. Moreover, it would be quite impossible to produce the facilities to train such a large number of cadets simultaneously. We are, however, doing all we possibly can to induce youths of the right stamp to come forward and I must stress that it is essential we should insist that they are of the right stamp. Those who are accepted will enter the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, which has just re-commenced to train Indian officers for the regular Army.

For the first course we offered 300 vacancies, had 1,236 applicants, of which 126 were found suitable.

The figures for the second course which begins in May are; required 300, applied so far about 900.

Sir, I think the House will agree that these figures are not too encouraging, but I am optimistic myself and regard the present shortage of suitable candidates as temporary only. I hope I am right.

National War Academy

When the new National War Academy gets into its stride we hope it will produce 500 or 600 officers annually for all three Services, of which the Army will get the majority, but this cannot be for some years to come as the Academy has yet to be built.

Meanwhile, we must have recourse to temporary expedients.

The first of these is the secondment of British officers from the British Army to fill the gap until there are enough Indian officers sufficiently trained and experienced to take over from them. The House is, I think, already fully aware of this proposal and also that no more British officers are to be appointed permanently to the Indian Army; they will in future be attached only for a short specified tour of service.

This does not of course refer to the existing regular British officers of the Indian Army who belong to it permanently.

The second expedient is the retention in the service of Emergency Commissioned officers, British and Indian, who though they do not wish to apply for regular commissions may be willing to extend their service for a year or two.

The third expedient is the granting of a number of Short Service Commissions to Indians already serving in one grade or another. These Commissions would be for five or three years according to the age of the applicant. We hope we may get some 3,000 short service officers by this means which will help to tide over the period until the National War Academy gets into its full stride.

Now Sir, I have stated our problem as briefly and clearly as I can and I think the House will agree that it is not a simple one, assuming, as I do, that they are determined to maintain a high standard of efficiency in the officer cadre when it is fully nationalised.

British Officers

Sir, the Hon'ble Mover has asked that the appointment of British officers in the grade of Captain or Lieutenant be stopped. I have said that no more British officers are to be appointed to the Indian Army. It is my intention that the grades of Captain and Lieutenant shall be filled by Indians as soon as a sufficient number of suitable candidates are forthcoming. The achievement of this object depends entirely on the coming forward of suitable Indian candidates for regular or short service commissions.

At present, as I have explained, there is a definite lack of suitable candidates. Meanwhile, I should be quite wrong to say that no more British Captains and Lieutenants will be attached to the Indian Army, as, in present conditions, any such restriction seriously affects the efficiency of the Army. I think, Sir, that this will be obvious to the House.

The Hon'ble Mover then suggests that the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers be retained for the present. I may say at once that this is the intention of the Government. If we had to replace all the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers by regularly commissioned Lieutenants our total requirements would rise from about 9,000 to 11,000. All other considerations apart it will be obvious from what I have already said that we cannot face, for the time being, a commitment of this size.

Then Sir, the Hon'ble Mover asks that deserving Indian officers should be given accelerated promotion to increase the numbers of

Indian officers required to fill the higher grades in the Army. This is already being done as will, I think, be apparent from a study of the number of Indian officers holding high grade appointments to-day, compared with the figures of say, three years ago.

Undue Haste

I would, however, Sir, once again ask the Hon'ble Mover and this House, to remember the need for knowledge and mature experience in officers holding high appointments in the Army in peace, and I beg that the pace may not be unduly hurried. I say *unduly* and I mean it, as I am sure that *undue* haste in this matter is likely eventually to retard rather than to accelerate progress. I say this in all good faith and with no intent to hinder progress. I hope the House will accept this avowal. I may add that this matter is constantly under my close personal supervision.

Finally, Sir, the Hon'ble Mover suggests that the Indian Army should be nationalised in ten years from now, by which I am sure he means that by that time all British officers from the highest to the lowest shall be replaced by Indian officers.

Well Sir, it may be possible that in some branches of the Army this target could be achieved but I think it would be highly dangerous and most undesirable to make a categorical declaration to this effect.

It would be even more dangerous and unreal I think, taking everything into consideration, to apply such a declaration to the whole Army.

I have tried, Sir, in the course of my speech, to set out the various factors which affect the solution of the problem, and I trust I have made it clear that there are many imponderable and unknown elements in these factors, which, in my opinion, make it impossible to specify an exact period for the achievement of the complete nationalisation of the officer cadre of the Indian Army.

Complete Nationalisation

I claim, Sir, that no one has the present and future interests of that Army more closely at heart than I have. I have pledged myself to give effect to the policy of complete nationalisation as rapidly as may be possible without impairing efficiency, and I say once more that I am applying myself to this task with no mental reservations whatsoever. I shall continue to do this for so long as I hold my present appointment.

I am quite sure in my own mind, however, that having regard to all the factors involved, it would be wrong and unwise for me to accept the Hon'ble Member's proposal for complete nationalisation in ten years time, because I have no certainty that it would be possible to carry it out in the conditions explained by me.

I would, therefore, ask the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution to trust me to carry out my pledge to the very best of my ability and to withdraw that part of his resolution which refers to the setting of a period for the completion of nationalisation.

I would also ask him, and all Hon'ble Members of this House, to do all they can to ensure an adequate flow of suitable candidates for regular commissions in all three of India's fighting Services—not only for the Army, but for the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Indian Air Force, as well!

SUPREMO WELCOMES GOVERNOR OF MALAYA

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia, has sent the following telegram of welcome to the new Governor of the Malayan Union, Sir Edward Gent, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on March 31 to take up his appointment.

"The return of civil government to Malaya after more than four years is a notable event. The Military Administration has of necessity had a difficult time during the past seven months, but the prevention of disease and real want and the re-establishment of peaceful conditions have, I feel, been successfully accomplished.

"Much of course, remains to be done, but I am happy to think you will take over a firm foundation for the rehabilitation of Malaya both politically and economically.

"I wish the people of Malaya a speedy return to peacetime prosperity under your government."

Lt.-Gen. R.A. Savory, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Adjutant-General in India, has been appointed the first Colonel of the Sikh Light Infantry.

Gen. Savory has had long associations with the Sikhs. On his transfer to the Indian Army at the outbreak of World War I he joined the 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs, now the 1st Sikh Regiment. With them he saw service in Egypt, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Persia and Siberia. In World War II Gen. Savory commanded the same unit in North Africa where he won the D.S.O.

ACTIVE SERVICE ORDINANCE AMENDED

CONSEQUENT upon the official termination of war, it has been decided that it is no longer necessary to retain the large numbers of personnel subject to the Army Act, Air Force Act, Indian Army Act and Indian Air Force Act serving in India on active service.

It is, however, necessary to retain on active service the personnel of the Indian Army and Royal Indian Force, who are serving in Hongkong, Malaya, Singapore, Burma, Ceylon and other places outside India, for administrative reasons and to conform with other troops serving in the same area.

Under the Regimental Debts Act and Indian Army Act Section 114 (7) and Indian Air Force Act Section 126 (7), an expeditious method is provided for disposing of estates of deceased Military and Air Force officers when they die on active service. To allow of next of kin being able to benefit by this procedure, it has also been decided to retain active service in India for the purposes of the said Acts in so far as they affect the disposal of such estates.

Active Service Conditions

Under the Active Service Ordinance, 1941, as it stands up to date, it is not possible for the purpose of release from active service conditions to distinguish between personnel serving in different areas, nor to effect such release for some purposes while preserving active service status for the purpose of continuing to deal with estates of deceased personnel under the present procedure.

To enable such distinctions to be made and thereby to facilitate the release from active service conditions of a large number of men, this Ordinance has been amended by the Active Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946, promulgated on March 30.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

The Government of India have appointed Dr. Ishwar Nath Topa, Professor of History, Osmania University, Hyderabad (Deccan), the nominee of the Osmania University, on the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission for a period of five years with effect from November 11, 1945 in place of Mr. H.K. Sherwani resigned.

C.-IN-C.'S MESSAGE TO INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS

"REMAIN disciplined, efficient and loyal to whatever Government may be in power," said H.E. Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck in a message broadcast from Services Radio on March 28. Lt.-Gen. R. A. Savory, Adjutant-General in India, broadcast the message on behalf of the C.-in-C., who was in England.

Gen. Auchinleck in his message said:

To:- Every Officer of the Indian Army.

Your Great Duty.

In the critical period through which we are now about to pass, the Indian Army requires clear and positive guidance. Here it is.

The duties of an army are: (a) To repel an aggressor. (b) To help to keep the peace within its own boundaries.

The first of these duties has already been done and we hope it will not have to be done again for a long time. The magnificent divisions of the Indian Army are world renowned. The Indian soldier will go down to posterity as among the finest fighting soldiers of the world. Let the Indian Army guard its good name.

Peaceful Transfer

What is the situation with regard to the second of these duties? The great event of India's history is about to take place: viz., the transfer of power from Britain to India. It must be a peaceful transfer, with the least possible dislocation.

The object of the British is to hand over a peaceful India. The object of the Indians is to take over a peaceful India. The nationalists of India, who have worked so long and hard for the independence of their country, cannot desire it in any other way, otherwise they will run the risk of failing to reap the reward of their efforts, which is a free India, strong and able to stand on its own feet. Our objects therefore are identical.

Unfortunately there are however in India certain disruptive forces. There are certain to be at a time like this. There may therefore be trouble. If so, it is the duty of the police to deal with it. If, however, the police cannot deal with it, then the army will be called on to help. If however, the army, through inefficiency or unreliability in the performance of its duties in the maintenance of law and order, fails to carry out the orders of the Government in power at the time, then the internal situation may well develop into chaos. Internal chaos means suffering, misery and loss to every one and can only retard progress.

In the last resort the country depends on the Army to ensure peace and order within its frontiers. The army is the anchor of the country.

Remember the Viceroy's words in Calcutta in December:- "India has before her great opportunities, the greatest she has ever had...."

How can the Indian Army help?

(a) By keeping itself disciplined, efficient and calm.

(b) By realizing that if it does not do this, the New India will be saddled with an army unequal to its tasks of repelling an aggressor or keeping internal order.

(c) By all Indian Officers realizing that anyone tampering with the discipline and efficiency of their great army will only, to use an Indian proverb "be cutting his own foot with his own mattock." (*Apne paon ap kulhari mat maro.*) or to use an English proverb "be cutting off his nose to spite his face."

By all British Officers of the Indian Army serving the New India as loyally as, in the past, their Indian comrades have served the present India.

In short the Indian Army may well be the instrument which will ensure that this great period in India's history will pass peacefully and in a spirit of goodwill on all sides.

Remain Disciplined

Let the following points therefore stand out clearly:-

All officers (Indian and British): Remain disciplined, efficient, and loyal to whatever government may be in power.

Indian Officers. Do not cut your own foot with your own mattock. Do not take or connive at any action which may impair the discipline, efficiency or loyalty of the army to the Government of the day.

British Officers: Serve the New India as loyally as in the past your Indian comrades have served the present India. It is your duty to your country and to the army to which you belong to pass on to your Indian comrades, who are to follow you, in a spirit of unselfishness and service, all the experience and knowledge that you have gained in the past, so that they may, in their turn, serve the Indian Army as faithfully and truly as you have done.

Thus may the Indian Army lead the way.



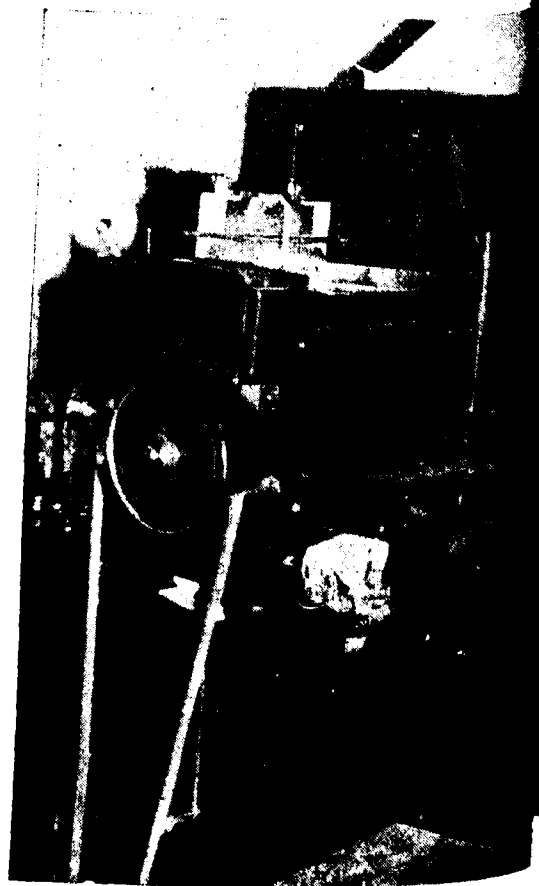
Two Auxiliaries from Nepal at work on wireless in the W.A.C.(I) Signal Training School, Ranchi.



Working the breech of a 5.5 medium gun. A W.A.C. (I) signaller taps out a message.



"THANK YOU FOR



This Indian W.A.C.(I) is working the Hollerith tabulating apparatus at the R.A.F.

Gen. Auchinleck's Tribute to

TRIBUTE to the work done by members of the W.A.C.(I) was paid by Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, in a broadcast from All India Radio, Delhi, on April 9. The C-in-C. took the opportunity of bidding farewell to all members of the Corps, which is to be disbanded.

"To-day is the fourth birthday of the W.A.C.(I), which was formed in 1942, when the Allies needed the help of every woman as well as of every man to stave off the assaults of the Axis," said Gen. Auchinleck.

"For reasons which could not be overcome, it has been decided, greatly to my regret, to disband the Corps, and I want to take this chance of saying farewell to the officers and auxiliaries of the Corps, many of whom will be out of uniform before the end of the year. To them, as well as to those who are remaining

ALL YOU HAVE DONE...."



Machine—a most complicated and delicate machine—a most complicated and delicate machine—Headquarters in New Delhi.

Women's Auxiliary Corps

on until disbandment is completed, I would say: "Thank you for all you have done in the service of your country; you will always be able to remember with pride that you did not fail to answer the call, and that you did your part in helping to save India and the freedom-loving peoples of the world from a terrible fate."

Ill-informed Criticism

"I would ask you not to take too much notice of the criticism that has been levelled at the Corps. Most of it is ill-informed, much of it is so obviously false and malicious that no sensible person would believe it, least of all anyone like myself, who knows the value of the work you have done. The fact that the great majority of you, officers and auxiliaries alike, are willing to

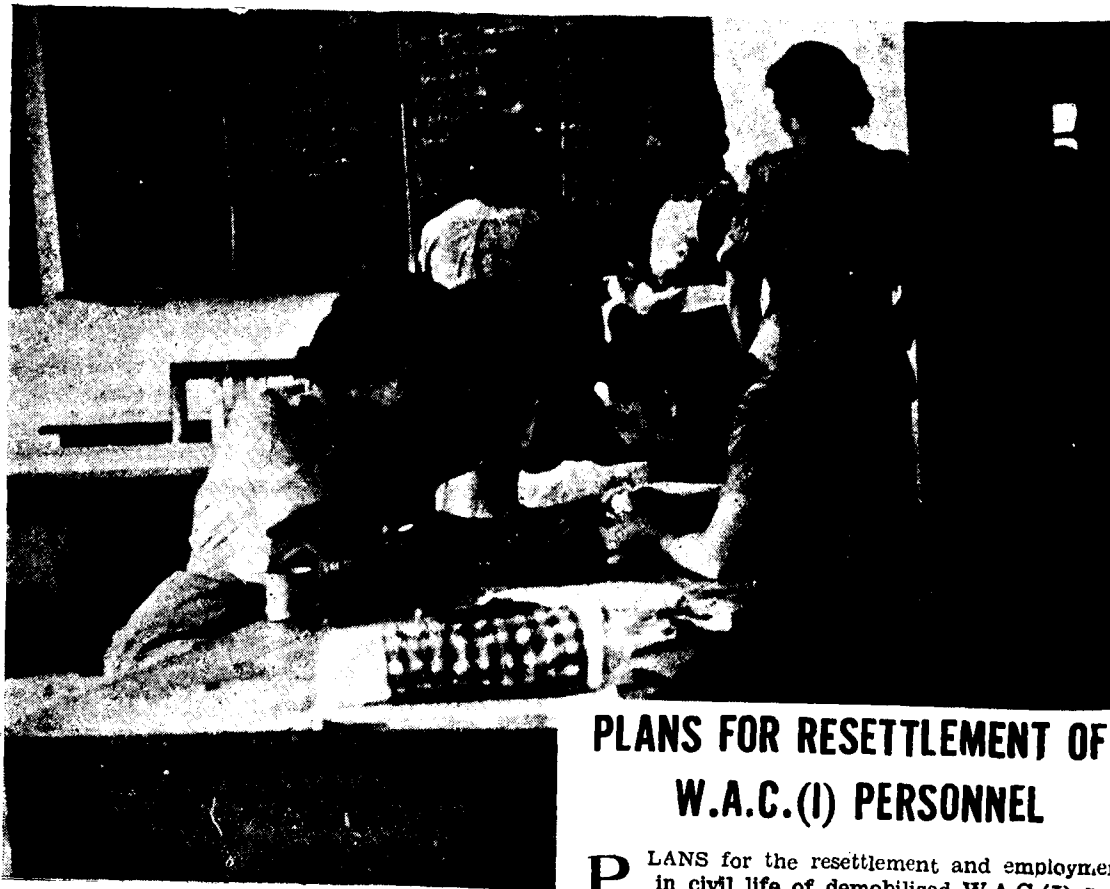


W.A.C.(I)s attached to an M.T. Reinforcement Centre learn about tanks.



Junior Commander R.C.M.A. Khosla, of Lahore, who joined the W.A.C.(I) as a Private in October, 1942, was later appointed Staff Captain to the C-in-C. in India. (Below) Girls at work in an Ask-Ask Operations Room.





Learning the effect of different types of washing material on fabrics these W.A.C. (I) Officers talk things over after a practical lesson in laundry during the W. A. C. (I) Home-making Course, conducted last year at the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi.

PLANS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF W.A.C.(I) PERSONNEL

PLANS for the resettlement and employment in civil life of demobilised W.A.C.(I) personnel have been made by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Labour Department. They include provision of training facilities in a wide range of occupations and vocations and of employment assistance through Employment Exchanges.

A special Women's Section has been set up at each of the nine Regional Employment Exchanges at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Nagpur, Patna, Lucknow, Karachi and Lahore. These sections will be in the charge of fully trained Lady Assistant Managers who have been recruited from the W.A.C. (I).

At six training centres to be set up initially, demobilised W.A.C. (I) personnel will receive training in a number of clerical, commercial, domestic and vocational subjects suited to their special aptitudes and needs. The aim of this training will be to equip them for appropriate civil employment, both Government and private, and for setting up work on their own.

Beauty culture, hair dressing, photography, etc., will be the special subjects in which a limited number of ex-Servicewomen will be trained by arrangement with reputable private concerns.

serve on and defer your release is a sufficient answer to your critics.

"Within the W.A.C.(I) women of all castes and creeds have found it possible to work together in friendship for a common end. This is no small achievement, and its effects will endure even after the Corps is disbanded.

"I wish you all happiness and good fortune and hope that you will be able to look back with pride and pleasure on your days in the Corps."

It has been decided to recognise the Royal Indian Air Force Educational Test for reclassification to Leading Aircraftman as equivalent to the Matriculation or High School Examination of a recognised Indian University for the purpose of employment under the Government of India for such non-matriculate candidates as were recruited to the Royal Indian Air Force during the war.

BRIG. J. N. CHAUDHURI

Q.M.G., Malaya Command

LATE commander of the 16th Cavalry; the oldest regiment in the Indian Armoured Corps, Lt.-Col. J. N. Chaudhuri, O.B.E., has been appointed Deputy Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General, Malaya Command. This new appointment makes him the fifth Indian Brigadier in the Indian Army.

The eldest son of a Calcutta barrister, he was educated at Highgate School, London, and at Sandhurst, which he left in 1928. On being commissioned he was posted to the 7th Cavalry.

Commanded the 16th Cavalry

At the outbreak of World War II as staff officer of the famous Fifth Indian Division Brig. Chaudhuri saw service in Eritrea, Abyssinia, and the Sudan. His last spell of duties in the Middle East was as Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General in his division, when he was awarded the O.B.E.

In 1943, he returned to India to a staff appointment at the Staff College, Quetta. In August, 1944, he took over command of the 16th Cavalry the first unit of the Indian Armoured Corps to be led into battle by an Indian commanding officer.

Early in 1945 the 16th Cavalry made a 3,500 miles march from Quetta to Melktila. Under the leadership of Brig. Chaudhuri they built up a great reputation by inflicting heavy losses on the Japs in various engagements in Central Burma.

INDIAN A.D.C. TO GEN. NORTHCOTT

Capt. Jai Gopal Singh, Central India Horse, has the unique distinction of being the first Indian Army officer ever to become A.D.C. to an Australian General. His appointment as A.D.C. to Lt.-Gen. John Northcott, C-in-C. British Commonwealth Force of Occupation in Japan, has recently been announced.

A regular Indian Army officer, 36-year-old Captain Singh passed out of the Dehra Dun Military Academy with distinction in 1940, writes an Army Observer. During World War II he saw active service in the Middle East, Iraq, and Syria as well as in Palestine and the Lebanon. In 1942 he was posted to the staff of the Indian Armoured Corps Recruit Training Centre at Lucknow.

A native of Lahore, Captain Singh is the son of Sardar Bahadur M. G. Singh, Registrar of the Punjab University.

TWO INDIAN ARMY DIVISIONS DISBANDED

INSTRUMENTAL in turning out hundreds of thousands of trained soldiers for the Indian Army, the 14th and 39th Indian Divisions have now been disbanded. A new development made necessary by modern conditions of warfare, India's training divisions not only provided essential reinforcements for the fighting fronts but gave the soldier an invaluable "live" battle experience before he reached the front line.

Formed in Burma in 1942, the 39th Indian Division was later withdrawn to regroup in Shillong. It moved to Ranchi in March, 1943, where it was completely reorganised as a training division. Later, the 39th's headquarters were transferred to Saharanpur from where its first draft of trained recruits left early in 1944.

Men from every branch of the Army lived and worked under realistic jungle conditions in 39th Division's training area among the Siwalik Hills. More than 70 per cent of them afterwards went into Burma.

14th Division

The 14th Division was raised in Quetta in 1940, saw action in the first Arakan campaign of 1943, and was then reorganised to become the Indian Army's second training division, at Chindwara, Central Provinces.

It also produced many highly skilled soldiers who served in Greece, Italy and throughout the Middle East as well as in Paiforce, on the North-West Frontier of India and in Burma.

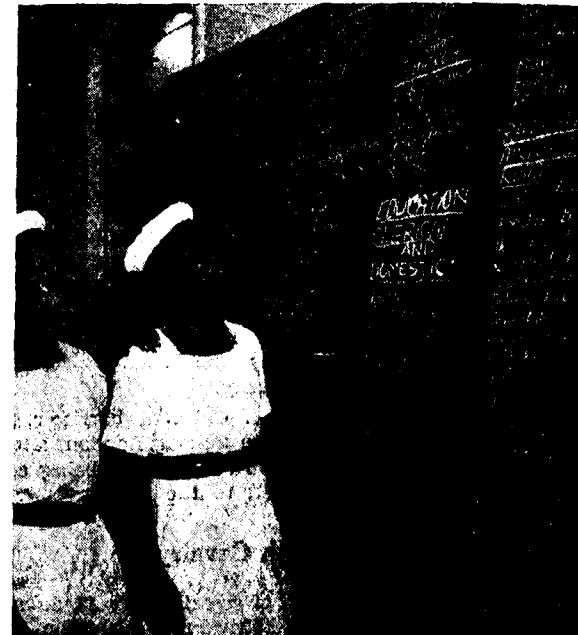
From April 1, the responsibility of maintaining Allied Land Forces, South-East Asia will be taken over by the War Office from India Commands said a Press Note issued by Public Relations Directorate, General Headquarters, India, on March 30.

In future all demands from A.L.F.S.E.A. for food, stores, and equipment will be sent direct to the War Office who will arrange shipment of the materials direct to Singapore and Rangoon from countries of origin or from War Office stores at present held in India. India Command however, will continue to supply items produced in India such as jute products.

Materials at present held in India for A.L.F.S.E.A. will, eventually be transferred in bulk to Singapore and Rangoon, which will act as the main bases for A.L.F.S.E.A. in place of India Command.



R.I.N. RATINGS "DEMOBBED" AT BOMBAY — Surgeon-Lieut. M. R. Jagannathan (right) R.I.N.V.R., of Tanjore, examines ratings before they are demobilised at H.M.I.S. KUKAURI, Marve, Bombay.



Able Seaman P. V. Mathew of Travancore, and Telegraphist N. K. Mukerji study the board at the KUKAURI which lists jobs open to ratings leaving the service.



Lieut. G. R. Keay, R.I.N.V.R., of Wallasey, Cheshire, issues campaign ribbons to A. B. Khan of Campbellpore District, Punjab.

700,000 SERVICEMEN TO BE DEMOBILISED BY THE END OF MAY

NEARLY 700,000 men will be demobilised from the Indian Army by May 31, 1946, says an official announcement from General Headquarters.

As certain units, including the Indian Signal Corps, the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Indian Army Service Corps—particularly the supply and M. T. Branches of the latter are not being disbanded fast enough to provide men for demobilisation, the target date for 850,000 has been put back to July 31, 1946. The original target date was fixed for May 31, of this year.



Commissioned writer J. Pereira, of Bombay, issues cloth to ratings about to be demobilised.

During February, 345 Indian Army units were disbanded and 13 Indian States Forces units were returned to their states, this making a total of 1,258 units disbanded up to the end of February.

A total of 72,412 officers and men were released from the Indian Army in February. This figure includes 53,237 Indian ranks released from Demobilisation centres, 7,844 troops of Indian States Forces returned to their states and a reduction of 10,516 from other causes. The remaining 815 were accounted for by the release of 671 officers from Indian Army and 144 officers of the Indian States Forces who have gone back to their States.

The total decrease in the strength of the Indian Army up to February 28, 1946, amounts to 374,491. This includes 269 W.A.C.(I) officers and 522 auxiliaries.

Before leaving the demobilisation depot, the senior rating receives the divisional Officer, Lt. G. R. Keay.



Including a number in course of release, 269 officers and 1,036 ratings were demobilised from the R.I.N. last month, making a total of 10,453 officers and ratings up to the end of February. Ten officers and ten auxiliaries of the W.R.I.N.S. also returned to civil life last month; the total up to February 28 being 214.

The R.I.A.F. during the month of February released 25 officers and 582 airmen.

ENQUIRY INTO R.I.N. MUTINY

The following prominent Indian citizens and Service officers have been invited to form a Commission of Enquiry to enquire into and report on the causes and origin of the R.I.N. Mutiny. The Chairman and all members of the proposed Commission are completely independent of the Service and localities concerned. They have been chosen to provide the best possible judicial and Service experience.

Chairman: The Hon'ble Sir Saiyid Fazal Ali, Chief Justice, Patna High Court.

Judicial Members: Mr. Justice K. S. Krishnaswami Ayyangar, Chief Justice, Cochin State; Mr. Justice Mahajan, Judge, Lahore High Court.

Service Members: Vice-Admiral W. R. Patterson, C.B., C.V.O., Flag Officer Commanding, Cruiser Squadron in the East Indies Fleet; Maj.-General T. W. Rees, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army, Commanding the Fourth Indian Division

Secretary: Lt.-Col. Visheshar Nath Singh, Indian Army.

It will be recalled that the Defence Consultative Committee recently discussed the situation arising out of the mutiny and recommended that a Commission of Enquiry should be appointed.

The demobilised ratings bid farewell to their officer.



BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET PRAISES H.M.I.S. "SUTLEJ"

H. M.I.S. "Sutlej" one of the two H.M.I. Ships operating in the China Seas with the British Pacific Fleet, elicited high appreciation for efficiency and cleanliness from the Senior Officer, British Pacific Fleet, who recently inspected her Ships' Company.

In a message to the Flag Officer Commanding Royal Indian Navy, on the conclusion of his visit of inspection, the Senior Officer, British Pacific Fleet, says: "It was a great privilege and pleasure to inspect such a well turned out Ships' Company and a remarkably clean ship."

One of the best known ships of the Royal Indian Navy, H.M.I.S. "Sutlej" is a sloop of the modified "Bittern" class, and has a displacement of 1,300 tons. Mounting six 4 inch, and four anti-aircraft guns, she has a maximum speed of 19 knots and a complement of 200 officers and men.

In Sicilian Campaign

Commissioned in February 1941, H.M.I.S. "Sutlej" made headlines in the early stages of the late war, while escorting the last convoy to leave Singapore under heavy Japanese air attacks. In June, 1943, she entered the Mediterranean, participating in the landings on Sicily, and taking part in U-boat hunts on three different occasions.

From the time she was commissioned until the end of September, 1945, H.M.I.S. "Sutlej" steamed approximately 160,000 miles, her highest average during a particular quarter being 170 miles a day. She left Indian waters early this year to join the British Pacific Fleet.

To enable Service personnel to maintain, while on leave, the standard of rations to which they are accustomed in the Services, the Government of India have decided that they shall be given a Leave Ration Allowance of As. 8 per day.

All V.C.O.s., including those of the Special Medical Section of the I.A.M.C., I.O.R.s., non-combatants (enrolled) and the corresponding personnel of the R.I.N. and R.I.A.F. will be entitled to this allowance in respect of all forms of leave, including the recently sanctioned War Leave of 60 days (84 days in the case of Gurkha and Assamese troops), Release and Overseas Leave.

This allowance is an interim measure, pending the report of the Post-War Pay Committee which is at present engaged in formulating a new pay code for the Indian Services.

CALCUTTA MINT TO STRIKE CAMPAIGN STARS

Campaign medals for issue to the Indian Services are to be struck in the Calcutta Mint, says an official statement from General Headquarters. The designs for the eight awards—1939-45, Atlantic, Air Crew Europe, Africa, Pacific, Burma, Italy and France and Germany Stars, were prepared in the Royal Mint and have been approved by H.M. the King-Emperor.

The Stars are to be struck in a yellow copper zinc alloy. Each is a Star of six points, 1½ inches across between the extremities of the points. In the centre is the Royal and Imperial Cypher G.R.I. with the numeral "VI" below, the whole surrounded by a circle with the title of the Star, and surmounted by a crown.

No date has yet been fixed for the issue of Stars to Indian Services personnel. In the U.K. where work has already begun in the Royal Mint and is about to start in the Royal Ordnance Factory, Woolwich, it will be two years before the striking of several millions of medals is completed.

SENIORITY OF INDIAN OFFICERS: WAR SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

In the debate on the Finance Bill in the Central Assembly on March 26, Mr. P. Mason, War Secretary, is reported to have declared that the number of British officers immediately senior to the first batch of Indian officers, who passed out of Sandhurst, after World War I, was only 30.

This is not what Mr. Mason said. His actual words were: "I was looking at the Indian Army List on this subject and I looked up all the senior of the Indian officers who came from Sandhurst in the first batch immediately after the last war. Several of them are now acting as Brigadiers.

"I looked through the 30 names in the list immediately senior to them, those 30 being British, and I see among these 30 also one or two Brigadiers, one or two acting Colonels, the majority being Lieutenant-Colonels, and one acting Major-General."

An air service is being run by Tata Airlines Limited twice a week between Bombay and Calcutta (via Nagpur) from April 1. Surcharged air mail is being carried by this service at the same rates and under the same conditions as are applicable to inland air mail correspondence generally.

All information regarding latest hours of posting for the air mail service will be provided by local post offices.

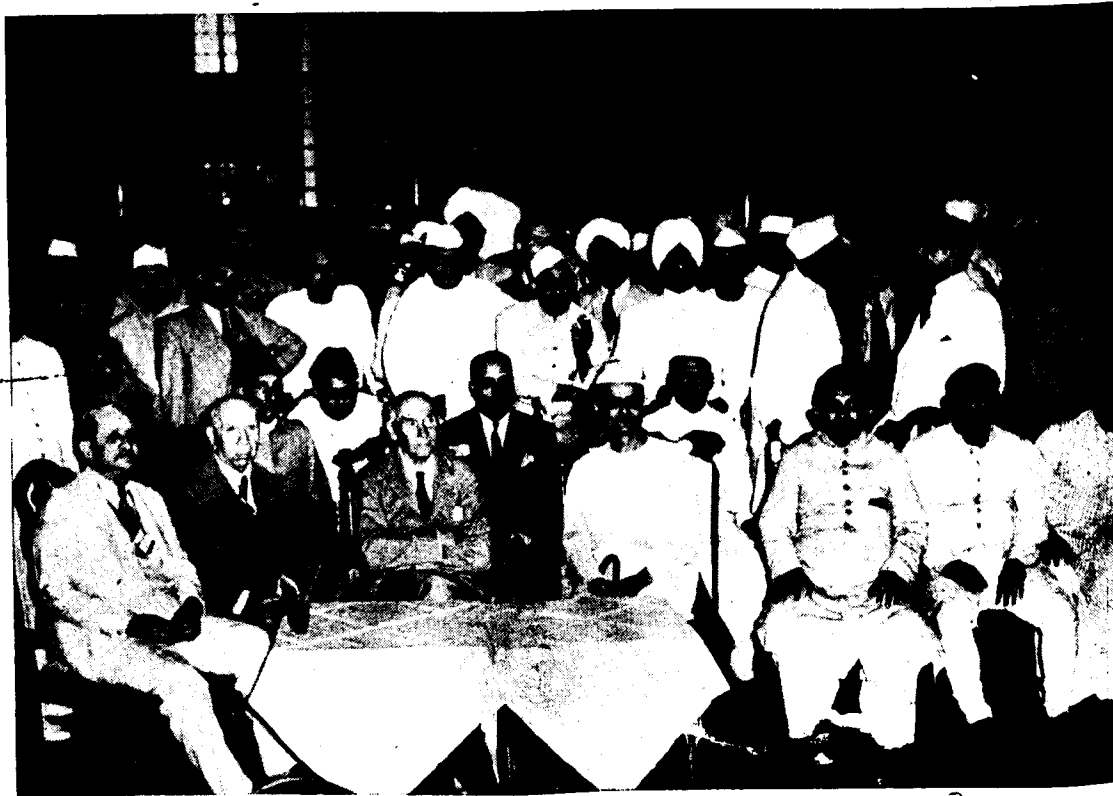


PUNJAB'S NEW GOVERNOR ARRIVES IN LAHORE

H.E. Sir Evan Jenkins who has succeeded Sir Bertrand Glamcy as Governor of the Punjab, arrived in Lahore on April 8 to take charge of his new office. He was received at the Lahore Railway Station by the Premier and Ministers of the Punjab Government, Judges of the High Court and other high officials.

These pictures show (above) Sir Evan Jenkins being greeted by the Premier, Malik Sir Khizar Hyat Khan Tiwana and (below) Mr. Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan being presented to the new Governor.





LEGISLATORS MEET CABINET MINISTERS

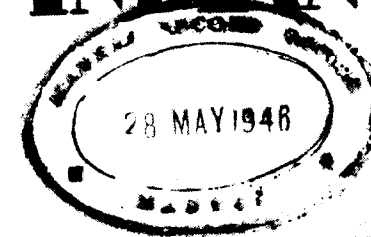


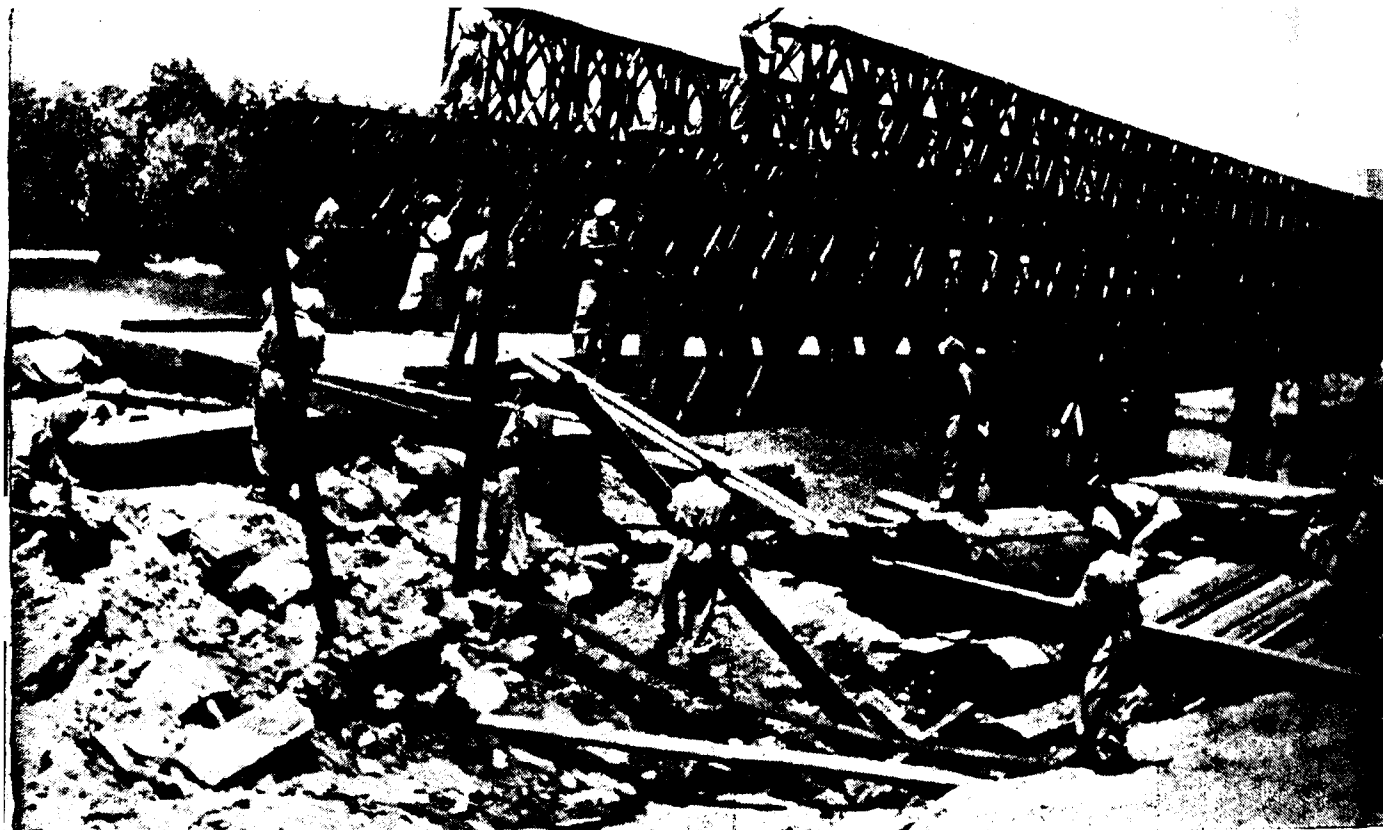
The Empire Parliamentary Association (India Branch) gave a reception at the Council House New Delhi, on April 11, to meet Lord Pethick-Lawrence (Secretary of State for India) and Mr. A.V. Alexander (First Lord of the Admiralty) members of the British Cabinet Mission. (Above) Picture shows Lord Pethick-Lawrence (third from left) with Sir Manekjee Dadabhoy (second from left) President of the Council of State, and Mr. G. V. Mavlanka (fourth from left) President of the Central Legislative Assembly.

(Left) Mr. G. V. Mavlanka receiving Lord Pethick-Lawrence.

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INDIAN INFORMATION





MALAYA'S LARGEST SINGLE-SPAN BAILEY BRIDGE: Men of 405 Indian Field Company, Madras Sappers and Miners, at work on the 300-feet long Bailey Bridge at Juru, 45 miles north of Taiping in north Malaya. The Single Span is 190 feet long. The bridge was recently opened by Gen. Sir Frank W. Messervy, G. O. C.-in-C., Malaya Command.

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Star of Nepal for M. E. Lord Wavell	597
Rege Committee Reports:	
a. Mica Mines	599
b. Woollen Factories	601
c. Iron Ore Mines	603
d. Rickshaw Pulling	604
e. Silk Industry	609
f. Shellac Industry	607
Combined Food Board's Allocations to India: Sir J. P. Srivastava's Statement	610
Supplementary Grant for U.N.R.R.A. Commerce Member's Speech in Central Assembly	620
Remobilising for Peace: Mr. S. F. Hasan's Radio Talk	628

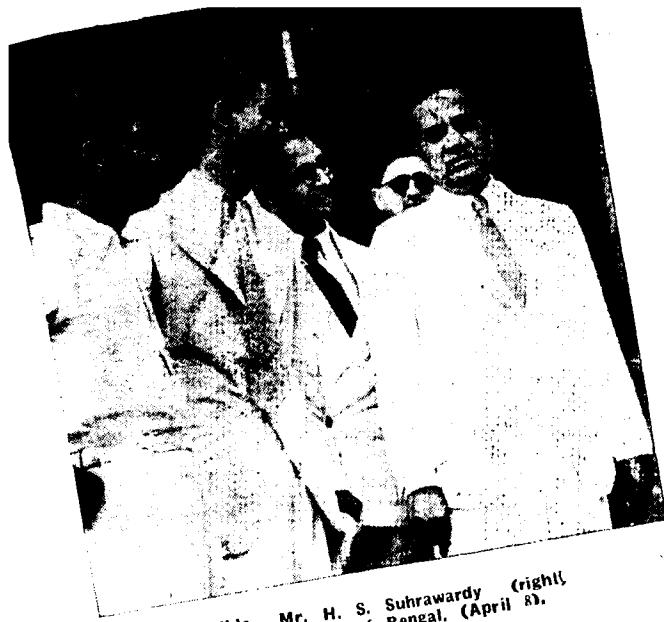
COVER PAGE PICTURE: Mr. Gandhi photographed with Lord Pethick-Lawrence after their meeting in New Delhi on April 18.

CABINET MINISTERS VISIT THE TAJ

Lord Pethick-Lawrence and Mr. A. V. Alexander, British Cabinet Ministers now in India, visited the world famous Taj Mahal at Agra on April 14. Picture on right shows the two Cabinet Ministers standing in front of the tombs of the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal.



(Left) The Cabinet Ministers went round the Taj Mahal and saw the four minars.



The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy (right),
Premier of Bengal. (April 8).



The Nawab of Chhatari (centre) President
of H. E. M. the Nizam's Executive Council.
(April 9).

Mr. Frank R. Anthony, M.L.A., and Presi-
dent of the Anglo-Indian and domiciled
European Association. (April 10).



Mr. N.M. Joshi, Bombay Labour leader. (April 9).

Mr. C. P. Lawson, M.L.A., Deputy Leader
of the European Group in Central Assembly,
(April 10).



Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar (second from
left), Dewan of Travancore, met by Pressmen
as he arrived at the Viceroy's House on April
9 for his talks with the Cabinet Mission. He
signs an autograph for a journalist.

(R. to L.) Mr. M. Ruthnaswami, Mr. B. L.
Rallia Ram and Raja Sir Maharaj Singh,
Indian Christian leaders. (April 10).



Sir Mirza Ismail (right), Prime Minister of
Jaipur. (April 9).

Mrs Hansa Mehta. (April 11).

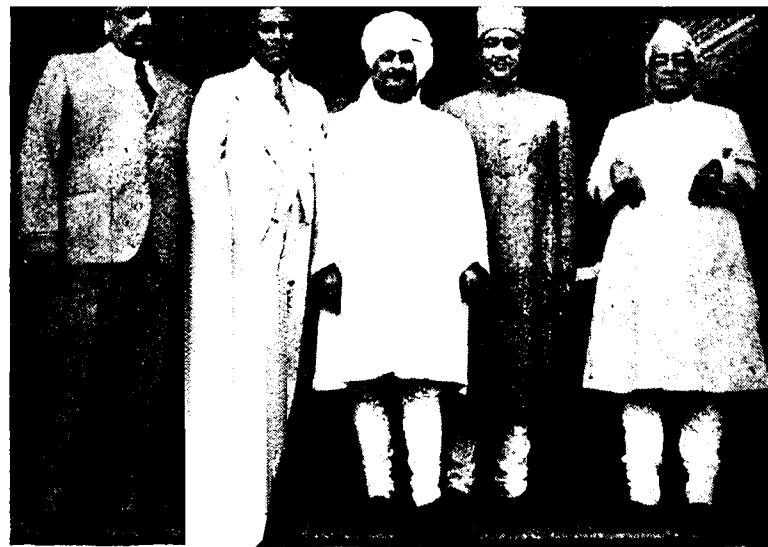


Miss Maniben Kara. (April 11).

LEADERS MEET CABINET MISSION—
These photographs show some of the
Indian leaders who met the British
Cabinet Ministers at the Viceroy's
House last month to discuss India's
future Constitution. (The date of
interview is given within brackets).



Dr. M. R. Jayakar. (April 11).



(L. to R.) the Maharaja of Parlakimedi, Nawab Sir Muhammad Yusuf, the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga, the Maharaja of Burdwan and the Maharajkumar of Vizianagram. (April 15).



Mr. M. A. Jinnah's second meeting with the Cabinet Mission took place on April 16 at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. (Below) Members of the Muslim League Working Committee were entertained by the British Mission at an evening party in New Delhi on April 27. Picture shows some of the League leaders who attended the party.



Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee (left) and Mr. L. B. Bhopatkar, Hindu Mahasabha leaders. (April 15).

(L. to R.) Khwaja Abdul Majid, President All India Muslim Majlis, Mr. Zahiruddin, President, All-India Momin Conference, and Mr. Hisamuddin, President, All-India Ahrars. (April 16).



Maulana Husain Ahmad Madni, President of the Nationalist Muslim Parliamentary Board, (April 16)

Mr. Huseinbhoj Laljee, President, All-India Shila Conference, (April 16).





On April 17, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Indian National Congress, accompanied by Mr. Asaf Ali met the Cabinet Mission at the Viceroy's House.

CABINET MINISTERS' VISIT TO SRINAGAR

The Cabinet Delegation and their staff reached Srinagar on April 19 in two Dakotas, which, travelling by different routes, landed on the Srinagar airfield within three minutes of each other. Mr. Alexander called at Rawalpindi on the way. The Ministers were met by the Prime Minister of Kashmir, R. B. Pandit Ramachandra Kak, the Resident, Lieut.-Col. W.F. Webb, and other officials. The three Ministers and the senior members of their staff were the guests of His Highness the Maharaja at two of the State Guest Houses. Others of the party were given hospitality by the Resident and his assistants.

In the afternoon, at the invitation of the State authorities, the delegation visited the Shalimar and Nishat Bagh Gardens. They were met there and shown round by the Prime Minister and other officials of the State and tea was served at the Shalimar Gardens in the black marble pavilion, surrounded on all sides by fountains which were playing specially for the occasion.

The following day, a private expedition was arranged which gave the Ministers an opportunity to do some fishing and see the surrounding countryside. They had a most successful day fishing and the catch included some of the trout

Invitation for Tripartite Talks

The following statement was issued from the office of the Principal Information Officer, British Cabinet Delegation on April 27:

On their return from Kashmir the Cabinet Delegation decided to initiate, by informal contacts a further attempt to find a basis for a settlement by agreement between the two main parties.

As a result, the Delegation, have to-day invited the Presidents of the Congress and of the Muslim League to nominate representatives of the Working Committees of Congress and the Muslim League to meet together with the Delegation to continue the negotiations.

for which Kashmir is famed. The expedition lasted all day and the party did not return until the early evening.

On the morning of April 21, the Ministers attended the Easter Day service at All Saints Church, Srinagar, and Lord Pethick-Lawrence read the lesson. Afterwards the Cabinet Ministers lunched with His Highness the Maharaja.

The Cabinet Ministers returned to New Delhi by air on April 24.

STAR OF NEPAL FOR H.E. LORD WAVELL

Ceremonial Parade at Viceroy's House

COMMANDING General Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana pinned the Order of the Star of Nepal on the breast of Field Marshal Lord Wavell at a brief ceremonial parade in the forecourt of the Viceroy's House on April 29. Her Excellency Lady Wavell, the Rt. Hon. Lord Pethick-Lawrence and the Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander were among the interested spectators.

The Commanding General Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana was accompanied by Col. Daman Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, first cousin of the present Prime Minister of Nepal, and Lieut.-Col. Yudhishtar Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, nephew of the Commanding General Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana. Facing a contingent of 49th Gurkhas and the Rajputana Rifles drawn up in line abreast opposite the great staircase, the Commanding General read the citation. He said:

"Your Excellency,—By command of my august Sovereign, His Majesty Maharajadhiraja Tribhubana Bir Bickram Jung Bahadur Shah Bahadur Shum Shere Jung Dev, I have been deputed by His Highness Maharaja Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana to present to Your Excellency the honourable Insignia of Honorary



(Continued on page 602)

Commanding-General Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana pins the Order of the Star of Nepal on the breast of H. E. Lord Wavell. (Below) Lord Pethick-Lawrence (second from left) and Mr. A.V. Alexander (fourth from left), British Cabinet Ministers, were among those who watched the ceremony.



INDIANS IN S. AFRICA

Issue to be Brought Before U.N.O.

SPEAKING in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 16 the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, the Leader of the House, said:

The Government of India has watched with great concern the deterioration in the position of Indians in South Africa during the past two years. In particular, it has been seriously concerned with the legislative measure now before the South African Parliament restricting the Indians' right to occupy and acquire land.

The Government of India has done its best to persuade the South African Government to drop the measure and to discuss the Indian question at a conference with Indian representatives. The Government of India has also conveyed to that Government the intense feeling aroused in this country, which is shared by the Government regarding the injustice of such a measure.

The Government regrets to note that in spite of all its efforts the bill is being pushed through the South African Parliament and is likely to become law. The Government of India has, therefore, to consider what further steps should now be adopted in addition to those which have already been taken or have been indicated. The suggestion has been made that international intervention should now be invoked and that the issue should be placed before the United Nations Organisation.

In normal circumstances, Government would be reluctant to indicate, in advance of the actual steps, taken the course which Government proposes to adopt in a matter which is the subject of a conflict between two Governments. In view of the special circumstances of this case and taking cognizance of the very widespread feeling in the country that some indication of the Government's attitude should be given as early as possible, I wish to state that the Government of India has come to the conclusion that, in the event of bill being passed into law, it will take steps to bring this issue before the United Nations Organisation.

The fact that there is no difference of opinion between the legislature and the Government of India on this subject will, I trust, give sufficient confidence to the public that every step will be taken which is required by the situation and is in consonance with the dignity and prestige of this country.

Payment of Interest on Malayan Dollar Loans

The following arrangements made by His Majesty's Colonial Office for payment of interest due to holders of Malayan and Hong Kong Dollar Loans and also for payment of interest on Singapore and Penang Municipal Loans are notified for public information.

Payment of current interest on Malayan Government Dollar Loans has been resumed in Malaya as from April 1, 1946. Holders of such loans are advised to write immediately to their agents or servicing banks in Malaya. If servicing banks receive no instructions from holders, current interest warrants will be sent direct from Malaya in accordance with the usual practice in such circumstances. Arrears, where due, will be paid as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

Holders of Hong Kong Government Dollar Loans are advised to communicate with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Hong Kong as regards future interest payments and also past interest payments, where due.

Payment of current interest on Singapore Municipal Loans will be resumed as from the interest due on March 31, 1946, and in the case of Penang Municipal Loans as from the interest due on May 1, 1946. Payment of arrears of interest where due, will be made as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made locally.

SIR ATUL CHATTERJEE

Sir Atul Chatterjee was unanimously elected by the League of Nations Assembly as one of the nine members of the Liquidation Board charged with the responsibility for finally winding up the affairs of the League.

His name was proposed by the Canadian delegate and supported by the Chinese delegate. The latter also secured a seat on the board thus bringing Asiatic representation to two out of nine. The Financial and Administrative Committee of the League held its last session on April 17 when warm tributes were paid by the British and French delegates to Sir Atul who was President of this Committee.

M. Paul Boncour and Viscount Cecil were among leading delegates of other countries including China, Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Switzerland and the British Dominions who attended an at home given by Sir Atul Chatterjee on April 16.

DEPLORABLE LABOUR CONDITIONS IN MICA INDUSTRY

Rege Committee Says Radical Remedy Necessary

A 'radical' remedy is required for saving the Indian mica miner and worker from 'exploitation'. This is the verdict of the Report on the Mica Mining and Manufacturing Industry prepared by the Labour Investigation Committee appointed by the Government of India to collect factual data on labour conditions with Mr. D. V. Rege as Chairman and Mr. S. R. Deshpande, Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar and Prof. B. P. Adarkar as members.

According to this Report, a certain degree of 'lawlessness' seems to prevail in the industry, owing to the fact that the mica mines are in forest areas far from civilisation. Mica piracy has, in consequence, become a first rate problem and labour laws are being disregarded if not openly defied. Conditions in and about the mines are most deplorable. The labour force itself is highly unstable with excessive absenteeism and low morale. The wages, especially of the splitters, are perhaps the lowest in the world and it is largely due to this fact that India holds a monopoly in the splitting trade.

Need for Control

The disparity between this wage level and the enormous profits earned by exporters and dealers of mica cannot be removed, says the Report, unless the industry is controlled by the Government not only at the production end but also at the distribution and export end. Nearly 250,000 workers are employed directly or indirectly in the industry while 500,000 more are dependent on them for their livelihood. In view of this and because of the strategic value and importance of the mineral it is necessary to place the industry on a sound footing not only on the technical and commercial side but also on the labour side.

The principal evils which exist in the mines are due to the defects in the Indian Mines Act and the laxity in its application. Mica mining is extremely hazardous. The mines are sometimes as deep as coal-mines but the owners are not inclined to invest sufficient capital in widening shafts, providing lifts, etc., owing to the speculative nature of the industry. Usually the mines are very unhealthy, damp, ill-ventilated and dark. Workers have to climb up and down wooden ladders and injuries due to falls are common. The roofs are so low that one has to bend to avoid bumps. Men have to ply heavy hammers in the dim light of lamps or candles, breathing

The Labour Investigation Committee, which was appointed by the Government of India on February 12, 1944, has prepared 35 reports containing data relating to the wages and earnings, employment, housing and social conditions of labour in 38 selected industries, namely: Mining—Coal, Manganese, Gold, Mica, Iron Ore and Salts; Plantations—Tea, Coffee and Rubber; Factories—Cotton, Jute, Silk, Woollen, Mineral Oil, Dockyard, Engineering, Cement, Matches, Paper, Carpet weaving, Coir matting, Tanneries and Leather Goods Manufacture, Potteries, Printing Presses, Glass, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Shellac, Bidi-making, Mica Splitting, Sugar, Cotton Ginning and Baling and Rice Mills; Transport—Tramways and Buses and Non-gazetted Railway Staff; and Other Types—Port Labour, Municipal Labour, Central P.W.D., and Rickshaw Pullers.

the fume-and-dust-laden air. Often there is no escape, if the light goes out after dynamiting. Dry-drilling is largely prevalent and causes a high incidence of silicosis among the miners.

Outside the mines the conditions are no better. The mica fields are in malaria-infested jungles, inaccessible by road or transport. The miner has to walk several miles daily from his home often in complete darkness. No housing 'worth the name' is provided near the mines. The few huts that exist have little privacy and no sanitation. Fresh water is quite rare in the area. The dirty pond-water supplied to the miners is the cause of many diseases like dyspepsia, hookworm and rheumatism. There are no hospital facilities if the worker falls sick or has an accident. The nearest hospital is usually about 10 miles away and there are no ambulances. In the case of accidents lumpsum compensation is paid which is far less than that prescribed under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Most of the upperchalla workings are not covered by any law, nor is there compensation for accidents. Although a large number of women of child-bearing age were employed not only on the surface but also underground, there was not a single case of maternity benefit having been paid. Welfare activities are non-existent. Canteens, creches, entertainments, washing and bathing facilities are unheard of.

In 1943 there were 113,810 workers in the mines, including women and children, employed

in violation of the law. As most of the labour comes from the villages there is seasonal migration during agricultural operations. Absenteeism is high on account of the drink evil and lack of medical facilities.

The relations between employers and workers are governed by custom. No effort has been made to formulate any standing orders. There are no leave rules even for the monthly paid staff. Most of the mines are now working two shifts of 8 hours each. Previously there were three shifts continuing into the night. There is a widespread practice of employing the same workers for 9 shifts in the course of 6 days. Even here, the workers are cheated, for while the usual rate for an unskilled worker is 9 as. to 13 as. a day, he is made to agree to work on 8 as. per shift if he wants to avail of the privilege of working extra hours!

Mica Manufacture

The worst evils on the manufacturing side are low wages employment of children, cheating by contractors and absence of regulation of factory labour. Vices, like drinking and gambling and indebtedness, are widely prevalent among the workers.

The skill of the Indian mica worker is of such a high order that sheet mica is sent to this country from Brazil, the U.S.A. and Canada to be split. As a result of the war, the Indian worker has learnt new processes such as the manufacture of condenser films. He is so efficient that the micrometer used for testing the thickness of the film is dispensed with, and he tests it by his sense of touch alone.

Men's wages in the factories in Bihar range from 4½ as. to Rs. 1¼- per day, women's from 4½ as. to 11 as. and children's 3 as. to 6 as. The wages and earnings are still lower in the domestic manufacture of splittings, which is the most important section of the industry, employing nearly 100,000 persons. A contractor class serves as liaison between the factory owners and these workers. Home-workers in Bihar do the splitting at piece-rates namely, 2½ as. to 3½ as. per seer. As nearly 80 per cent. of these workers are women, assisted by children, they are often cheated by the manipulation of weights by the contractor.

Even in the factories which come under the law the prohibition on the employment of children is not enforced. In the small factories overcrowding, insanitation, bad lighting and ventilation are common. Only one shift of about 12 hours is worked and Sunday is an unpaid holiday. Indebtedness is fairly widespread.

Conditions in the mines and factories of Madras are not far different from those in Bihar.

There is no apparent incidence of silicosis among the mine workers but they are affected frequently by an occupational eye-disease. Most of the workers suffer from tuberculosis and the majority from venereal diseases.

Mica labour in Rajputana is healthier, better fed and better clothed. The mines here are shallow and open. Wages are according to the prevalent rates for other kinds of labour. The percentage of children among total employees in mica factories is higher in Rajputana than in Bihar and Madras.

Remedial Measures Suggested

The Report suggests the following remedial measures for immediate action in regard to the mining industry: enforcement of the Indian Mines Act and Maternity Benefits Act; extension of the Payment of Wages Act; regulation of wages and hours of work; compulsory wet drilling; substitution of ladders by cage-lifts; provision of better lighting, drinking water, sanitation, anti-malarial measures, hospitals and dispensaries, educational facilities for children and adults, and free housing; supply of cheap grain and other consumer goods; and control of liquor.

In respect of the labour employed on the manufacturing side the steps recommended are: enforcement of the Employment of Children's (Amendment), Act 1939, the extension of the Factories Act to the mica factories or the enactment of a special measure like the C.P. Unregulated Factories Act, the creation of a special Factory Inspectorate, regulation of wages and hours of work, provision of medical and educational facilities, sanitary arrangements cheap grain and consumer goods, training of child labour and control of liquor and gambling.

DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The 19th meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee was held on April 20 in the office of H.E. Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C. in India, who presided.

The C-in-C. made a statement on the contemplated size of the post-war Army, Navy and Air Force, the future officering of the Defence Forces, and the future of V.C.O.'s. In the discussion that ensued stress was laid on the necessity of maintaining balance between the three Services and quickening the pace of nationalisation.

Among other subjects discussed were the purchase of cruisers for the R.I.N., future policy regarding the W.A.C. (I) and the progress made by the Indian National War Memorial Committee.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN WOOLLEN FACTORIES SATISFACTORY

Rege Committee's Report

"WITH one or two exceptions, it can be said that Labour conditions in the industry, taken as a whole, are not unfair," states the Rege Committee's Report on the woollen textile industry in India.

"The growth of the industry since the outbreak of the war observers the Report, 'has been due to war requirements.' Before the war, the smaller units in the industry were never too prosperous and there is much apprehension in the minds of their managements about the future. This probably explains the disparity in conditions of work and wages in the industry as a whole. There is no reason, however, why the long established units should not aim at a further improvement in the conditions of work and wages of their operatives, particularly in the direction of making a more adequate provision for the future of their work-people."

The rise of the woollen industry in India is comparatively recent, although it has flourished as a cottage industry from ancient times up to the present day particularly in the Mysore and

Kashmir States. The two World Wars gave it a fillip, and in 1943 there were 32 woollen mills in India (including the states) employing on an average 18,000 persons and producing about 15 million lbs. of wool a year.

Originally confined to the wool-growing district, the industry is now scattered all over the country. The main centres are Cawnpore, Dhariwal, Amritsar, Bombay, Bangalore and Srinagar. A substantial proportion of the production is controlled by European management.

There is little employment of women in this industry and except in a factory in Kashmir, no children are employed.

"Speaking generally," says the Report, "working conditions inside most of the mills are satisfactory." Adequate provision has been made by the managements for lighting and ventilation, and in a mill at Dhariwal the most up-to-date measures have been provided for the safety and comfort of the workers.

Owing to the seasonal demand for woollen goods in the country most of the factories never worked more than one shift before the war and employment was also irregular. The position

Some of the 12,000 workers in a South Indian Spinning Mill leaving the mill compound after work.



changed after the war and now generally two shifts per day are worked, with a 54-hour week.

No case of Anthrax was noticed in any of the units covered by the Committee's enquiry.

Basic wages have been increased in many units by more than 25 per cent. since the war. The rates of dearness allowance vary from Rs. 30 per month in Bombay to Rs. 10 per month in Kashmir. The wage level approximates to the levels in other organised industries in the same centres. It is the highest in Bombay with about 70 per cent. of the workers earning a wage of As. 12 to Rs. 1-4, and the lowest in Kashmir where nearly 70 per cent. of the workers are getting a daily wage of As. 6 to As. 8. Approximately 60 per cent. of the workers in Amritsar receive As. 12 to As. 14 per day. In Mysore, nearly 48 per cent. of the workers earn a daily wage of less than As. 10, while about 40 per cent. of them are in the wage group of As. 8 to As. 10.

With the high rate of dearness allowance in Bombay, no worker there receives less than a rupee per day and nearly 90 per cent. get more than Rs. 1-6. About a quarter of the workers earn Rs. 2-6 to Rs. 2-8 a day. Similarly in Cawnpore 84 per cent. of the workers earn more than Rs. 1-8 per day. In Mysore the largest unit pays a dearness allowance of Rs. 15 per month. The earnings of workers in Kashmir are the lowest, nearly a quarter of the workers earning less than As. 6 per day, and another quarter between As. 10 to As. 12 per day.

Workers in the larger units of the industry in Bombay, Cawnpore and Bangalore receive a profit bonus ranging from one-sixth to one-fourth of the earnings, exclusive of dearness allowance. The largest unit in Mysore State was paying a profit bonus even before the war and has a regular system of linking it up with dividends.

Housing

Wide disparity was observed in welfare work, such as the provision of housing and medical relief. In Dhariwal, employers have shown considerable imagination in providing for the reasonable needs and comforts of the workers and their families. In Cawnpore and Amritsar less than one-third of the workers have been given accommodation. Only a small percentage of the workers in the unit in Bangalore have been provided with accommodation but the housing colonies are well laid out and looked after. Owing to the lack of housing facilities in Kashmir, workers, particularly on the night shift, are put to great hardship, especially in the winter. On account of the scarcity of land in Amritsar, housing has become an acute problem

which is "not easy of solution without energetic State action".

Dhariwal is mentioned as an outstanding example in the provision of welfare facilities. It has hospitals, dispensaries, schools, playfields, co-operative societies and other amenities. Medical relief and recreational facilities are generally provided by all the units except in Kashmir.

Gratuity schemes have been established in Cawnpore and in Mysore. Cawnpore workers are given pensions on retirement. One unit in the Mysore State has a Provident Fund Scheme for its permanent workers. In none of the other units is there any provision for safeguarding the future of the operatives.

NEPALESE HONOUR FOR VICEROY

(Continued from page 597)

Supradipta Manyabar Nepal Tara and the sword and hat of an Honorary General in the Nepalese Army in recognition of the services rendered by Your Excellency during the late war as Commander-in-Chief in India when Nepalese and Gurkha troops had the honour of serving under your Command. I assure Your Excellency how very much they appreciate the friendly gesture on Your Excellency's part in accepting those honours. Our people, too, are very glad of it while our army feel elated at the thought that they have got as one of their Generals an eminent soldier statesman like Your Excellency.

"I count myself fortunate indeed in being deputed to perform this pleasant task. Having had the honour and privilege of serving under Your Excellency as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Nepalese Contingent in India during the last Great War, I feel particular satisfaction in being able to congratulate Your Excellency on these high honours."

Earlier, H. E. Field Marshal Lord Wavell, accompanied by the Commanding General, inspected the troops on parade and took the salute at the march past. Besides the Royal Salute, a salute was given in honour of His Majesty the King of Nepal.

By a notification in the *Gazette of India* the Central Government have directed that retail selling prices of American publications obtained from the publishers' agents in the United Kingdom shall be the agents' invoice prices converted into Indian currency as follows:—

At the rate of 15 annas to the shilling if it is a book.

At the rate of Rs. 1½/- to the shilling if it is any other publication.

IRON ORE MINING LABOUR

Abuses in Contract System

INDIA has the biggest iron ore mine in Asia and the total quantity of ore in the Bihar and Orissa belt, estimated at 2,832 million tons, is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Indian producers for a thousand years. The iron content of the Indian ore is the highest in the world and, according to Dr. Sir Cyril S. Fox, "these ores, both in quality and quantity, exceed any other ores of the same kind including the great American occurrences of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan". With the availability of coal in the neighbourhood and of cheap labour in the surrounding area, the mining industry is on a sound footing and promises to provide steady employment to miners. But the wages paid to the mining labour are extremely low and the contract system prevalent in the area has led to grave abuses. These facts are brought out in the Rege Committee's Report on labour conditions in the iron ore industry.

Biggest Mine in Asia

Iron ore mining, the backbone of Indian iron and steel industry, is located mainly in Bihar and the adjoining States of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar. A few mines exist also in the Mysore State about 25 miles from the Bhadravathi works. But the superior and most valuable ores are only available in the Singhbhum District of Bihar and in the iron belt of Orissa. Here is Noamundi (on the B.N. Railway), the biggest mine in the whole of Asia and it is owned by the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. This and the other important mines are all well within a hundred miles from Jamshedpur.

Owing to the rich quality of the iron ore, the production cost of pig iron is low and according to an estimate by the Tariff Board, it has resulted in the saving of Rs. 8 per ton of steel production. On the other hand, the lack of phosphorus content has made it impossible for the cheaper Bessemer process to be adopted in the production of iron. Difficulties such as lack of transport and exodus of labour from the mining areas to Assam were felt during wartime, but it was only a passing phase.

The total employment in the industry is estimated at 16,000, of which Bihar alone accounts for nearly 10,000. A large proportion of this labour is recruited by contractors. There were 6,644 such labourers in 1939 and 4,981 in 1944. Although contract labour is showing a decline, it is still a serious problem. "In spite of the precautions taken by the companies there is reason to believe that the workers employed by contractors are not fully secured against

exploitation." It has led to serious abuses such as underpayment of wages, miserable housing, sweating conditions and disregard of labour laws. In these respects, Company labour is very much better off in general. There is, therefore, no doubt that abolition of the contract system will better the lot of the workers.

Labour turnover and absenteeism are also high, especially at the time of harvest and during the monsoons. The chief reason for this is that work at mines is not sufficiently remunerative or attractive to the workers. It is stated that workers make an exodus to the land at the time of harvest and stay away during monsoons for reasons of ill-health, want of proper housing and the need on their part to go about in search of fuel for cooking. Addiction to drink was also admitted as a cause of absenteeism. The state of affairs can only be remedied by improving the general conditions of labour in regard to wages, housing, etc.

There has been no increase in the basic wages of the workers since 1938. There are two main categories of workers, cutters and loaders. Cutters are paid on the basis of the Box system, Tub rate, the Cubic Foot rate and the Tonnage rate. Whichever system is in force the result is the same. The cutters' earnings including dearness allowance vary between 13 as. 6 ples to Re. 1 per day. The wages of the loaders vary between 5 as. and 8 as., different rates being paid to male and female workers. Weighment and measurement are often fraudulent and workers seem to prefer the Box system as being the simplest. Dearness allowances on a sliding scale are paid by the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., while other concerns pay extra food allowance at a flat rate. Profit and attendance bonuses are also paid by the Tata Company. The payment of Wages Act does not apply to the iron mines and quarries and, therefore, contract labour is not sufficiently protected from malpractices.

Housing and Sanitation

While company labour has an 8-hour working day, contract labour has to work 12 hours per day. There are different shifts for different types of work but night shifts are rare excepting when there is pressure of work. No shelters worth the name are provided for the miners for rest and meals. There are no sanitary arrangements near the mining faces. Supply of drinking water is not adequate; most of the workers have to carry their own water with them.

Housing has been provided at most of the mining centres. The houses built by the companies are satisfactory while those provided by the contractors are poor; some of them may be

described as unfit for human habitation. The employers stated that they had a big programme for housing which had been held up by the war. All the big companies have established free dispensaries and hospitals. Educational facilities are adequate but the medium of instruction, which is Hindi, seems to be resented by the workers. Schools for industrial or vocational training do not exist. There are neither canteens nor creches. Excepting occasional sports for the workmen, there are no welfare activities.

Company labour is generally better treated than contract labour so far as the provisions of the Indian Mines Act and the Mayurbhanj State Mines Order are concerned. In particular, employment of children under 15, and of adolescents without doctor's certificates is frequent, in contravention of the law. Inspection of the mines leaves much to be desired. Accidents among contract labour are not always reported and compensation is usually paid at a rate lower than that prescribed by the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Report emphasises that compulsory insurance of some kind is badly needed. The Indian Mines Maternity Benefit Act came into force only recently in this industry and it seems to be working fairly well. In 1944 there were nearly 2,200 women working in the three important mines, Noamundi, Gorumahisani and Gua.

TARIFF BOARD ENQUIRY

The Indian Tariff Board has submitted reports to the Government of India on four industries, namely, calcium chloride, antimony, grinding wheels and sodium thiosulphate, sodium sulphite and sodium bisulphite. It has also, concluded oral examination of witnesses in connection with three other industries, namely, phosphoric acid and phosphates, steel baling hoops and bichromates. Besides completing the reports of these three industries, the Board will conduct enquiries into three other industries, namely aluminium, coated abrasives, and caustic soda and bleaching powder, during the next two months. It will visit factories engaged in the production of these articles in South India, and will take oral evidence in connection with these industries at Ootacamund on the dates shown below:

Aluminium: May 9, 10 and 11; coated abrasives May 23 and 24; caustic soda and bleaching powder: June 6, 7 and 8.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated April 27 the Government of India have directed that the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance shall not apply to the Magnesium Chloride, China Clay, Mutton Tallow and Vegetable Tallow Substitutes.

RICKSHAWS SHOULD GO

Offensive to Human Dignity

“**W**HATEVER ameliorative measures may be undertaken for improving the condition of pullers the fundamental fact should not be overlooked that this type of labour is a degradation to human personality,” says Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar, Member of the Labour Investigation Committee in his Report on Rickshaw Pullers. He stresses that the ultimate aim should be to abolish this form of conveyance as it is an offence against human dignity and adds: ‘If light motor-cycle rickshaws could be introduced as part of an organised transport service in all towns, the stigma attached to rickshaw pulling would disappear and the rickshaw puller of today may be enabled to become the motor-rickshaw driver of to-morrow.’

Cheapness and Suitability

The rickshaw, which is believed to have been introduced first in Madras by some officers of the French East India Company from the East Indies at the close of the last century, has become common in several parts of India during the past few decades. When this exotic vehicle was first brought into Calcutta, the pullers and owners were entirely Chinese. Indians were reluctant till 1915 to take to this calling, the novelty of which provoked the scorn and jeers of crowds who shouted *baghair dum ka ghora* (horse without a tail). But its cheapness and suitability in the narrow streets of crowded cities or the ups and downs of hill stations have made it popular. The rise in the price of horses and carts and petrol rationing during wartime have resulted in a large increase of rickshaws and pullers.

Although Madras and Calcutta have limited the number of public rickshaws to 4,000 and 6,000 the number of licensed pullers in 1944 were 6,122 and 30,000 respectively. In Calcutta especially, this state of affairs has given rise to a particular abuse. On account of the restriction on registration, the price of a number-plate was reported to be as high as Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 whereas even the inflated price of a rickshaw was not more than Rs. 300.

Labour for rickshaws is drawn almost entirely from villages and suburban areas, the majority of the pullers having been driven into this profession by lack of full employment, rack-renting or indebtedness. In Calcutta a number of factory hands and Corporation menials have taken to it to supplement their income.

The Chief peculiarity of this urban labour is its lack of homes. There is no proper housing for the pullers in any of the centres. In

Madras, the Tamil rickshaw puller literally lives and sleeps on the pavements. Insanitary huts in *cheris* and overcrowded tenements, house married labourers and the Telugu pullers. A majority of them in Calcutta are lodged in *Khatals* and *Bustees* which are lacking in even elementary amenities like water and light. Pullers in Simla have to sleep in the rickshaw sheds. The absence of a home and the lack of timely meals and other amenities have been responsible for much unhealthy life amongst them, and there is a strong case for provision of suitable housing and shelter for vehicles by the municipal authorities.

Physical Strain

The frequent exodus of pullers to the villages follows from the same cause. In Madras over 60 per cent. of the pullers are away from the city for 4 to 6 months a year and in Calcutta nearly 67 per cent. absent themselves for 4 to 9 months. A large proportion of the Labour drops out of the profession after a few years. The reason for this is physical incapacity due to the strain of pulling.

This inference is strengthened by the fact that 64 per cent. of the pullers in Madras, 57 per cent. in Simla and 72 per cent. in Calcutta are between 21 and 35 years of age. On the other hand about 15 per cent. of the pullers in these centres are found to be between 15 to 20 years of age. It is, therefore, desirable that the lower and upper age limits should be fixed at 20 and 45 on the plains and 20 and 40 on the hill stations.

Most of the pullers are in the prime of their manhood and so their general health is not unsatisfactory. But owing to insufficient clothing and food and excessive hours of work, want of adequate shelter and medical aid, the workers are susceptible to cold, cough, bronchitis, varicose veins, etc. There is need, therefore, for a stringent medical test before the issue of licences to pullers and for the provision of medical aid preferably by means of mobile dispensaries. Further hours of work should be restricted by adopting day and night shifts. Canteen facilities could help them to buy nutritious food at cost price. The provision of entertainments and games would go a long way to relieve the drudgery of their lives.

The earnings of pullers vary from place to place and fluctuate from day-to-day. It can be said roughly that the monthly earnings of a rickshaw puller are Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 in Simla, Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 in Madras and about Rs. 45 in Calcutta.

Almost all public rickshaws are owned by petty capitalists or *Chawdhris*. While in Simla the *Chawdhris* share the earnings with the pullers, in Madras and Calcutta pullers pay a fixed

hire charge for the vehicles. This system while relieving the pullers of some responsibility, leads to their exploitation. Three alternatives are suggested by the Report as a remedy for this—municipal ownership, co-operative society for owning and maintaining rickshaws, and individual ownership by pullers through a compulsory hire-purchase system.

The majority of the pullers are Hindus. The labour in Simla consists of 1,733 Hindus (mostly Rajputs, Julahas and Brahmins) and 334 Muslims. In Madras 78.5 per cent. are Tamils (mostly Adidravidas) and the rest Telugus. In Calcutta Bengali pullers form a very small percentage, the majority, coming from Bihar and U. P.

The percentage of literates among pullers is very small. Most of them are addicted to drink and other vices. Indebtedness is widely prevalent, the *per capita* debt being Rs. 482 in Simla, Rs. 120 in Calcutta and Rs. 112 in Madras. Marriages, inherited legacies and drink are the chief causes of such indebtedness. The burden of interest charges is exceedingly heavy. It is pointed out that efforts should be made to promote literacy and thrift by organising adult classes and co-operative credit societies.

PRICE OF TENNIS BALLS REDUCED

The Government of India have, by a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated April 27, 1946, reduced the prices of Tennis Balls, Ping Pong Balls and Squash Balls. The prices of Golf Balls and English Football Bladders remain the same.

The ceiling price of Tennis Balls was Rs. 39-10 per dozen; the revised wholesale and retail prices are now Rs. 19-12 and Rs. 24-4 respectively in respect of Tennis Balls packed in cardboard boxes of half a dozen balls. For Tennis Balls packed in tins of four balls each, the wholesale and retail selling prices are now Rs. 23 and Rs. 27 per dozen respectively. The revised retail prices of Ping Pong Balls and Squash Balls are Rs. 3-12 and Rs. 15 per dozen respectively. The prices of Golf Balls and English Football Bladders remain unchanged at Rs. 42 and Rs. 30 per dozen respectively.

The wholesale prices are to come into effect from May 15, and the retail prices from June 1, 1946.

The Government of India have further extended the date of the registration and issue of identity certificates to evacuees desirous of returning to Burma till May 31, 1946. No further extension of time will be allowed. Such evacuees as wish to return to Burma must get themselves registered for the issue of identity certificates before this date.

"DISMAL CONDITIONS" IN SILK INDUSTRY

LABOUR conditions in the manufacture of silk, the Queen of Textiles, "can only be described as dismal on the whole," observes the Report of the Rege Committee on the Silk industry in India. It adds: "Considering that this a luxury trade which in normal times at any rate caters mainly to the vanity of the rich, and in time of war, manufactures some of the most delicate and precise types of fabrics, it would appear, that if ever there was a case for guaranteeing basic minimum conditions to labour employed in an industry, the silk industry in India is a case in point."

Anxiety is still felt about the future of this ancient and, at one time famous and flourishing industry which has gone through more vicissitudes of fortune than any other industry in this country. Fierce competition after World War I, resulting from the influx of raw silk and fabrics from China and Japan and the imports of artificial silk, hit the industry so hard that a certain measure of protection was given by the Government on the recommendations of the Tariff Board.

The present war has shown that silk is a strategic material and is necessary in the production of parachutes. In 1941 when the Government decided to make parachute cloth, it was found that pure silk which was required for this purpose was not available in sufficient quantities, nor was there enough supply of the seed required for rearing silk-worms. Special efforts were then made to produce Iranian cocoons and develop the pure silk industry in India with Government assistance. As a result, 300,000 lb. of raw silk were produced in 1943. The estimated production for 1944 was 600,000 lb. and it was expected that production would go up to a 1,000,000 lb. during 1945.

Wages and Earnings

Although the silk industry is scattered all over India, the mulberry silk-worm is confined to the Mysore and Kashmir States, four districts in Bengal, one taluq in Madras and a few villages in Assam and the Punjab. Rearing of the *Tasar* (tussore) silk-worm is carried on in Bihar, Orissa, the Central Provinces and in the United Provinces. In 1943, there were about 11,000 persons engaged in the manufacture of pure silk. Besides this, there were thousands of families employed on mulberry growing, silk-worm rearing and in handloom weaving. The majority of the labour employed are women, especially in Mysore and South India.

Uncertainty about the future of the industry seems to come in the way of any long-range policy regarding conditions of work and wages of the workers. Wages and earnings are very much lower than those prevailing in sister industries like cotton. It was observed in one centre that the workers found it more remunerative to work on the roads than in a silk manufacturing concern. The basic wage rates for reelers in some centres were as low as As. 5 per day.

In Bengal a weaver was getting only As. 7 per day as his basic wages, his average total earnings for a month amounting to Rs. 10/15. Wages in Kashmir are higher but the worker is not sure of full employment in the month. Dearness allowance is paid at varying rates but except in Bombay it is not commensurate with the rise in prices. Mysore pays Rs. 8 per month to adults and Rs. 5 to half-time workers and Kashmir 50 per cent. of the earned wages as dearness allowance. In Bengal the rate varies from As. 1 1/2 to As. 5 per rupee of the total earnings. In Bombay the rate is linked to the cost of living index number and at the time of the enquiry was As. 13 1/2 per day.

Working Conditions

Working conditions inside silk factories are on the whole satisfactory. The hours of work in many factories are actually less than those prescribed by the Factories' Act. No provision, however, exists for the housing of workers, Welfare work does not go beyond the provision of a dispensary or a grain shop.

Except in one or two factories in Mysore, there are no schemes of Provident Fund or Service Gratuity. Trade unionism is in an extremely weak position. The silk factories, particularly in Bombay, attract only the most inefficient and the least skilled workers owing to the inferior conditions of work and wages prevailing.

DEVELOPMENT OF FRUIT INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Sardar Bahadur Lal Singh, Fruit Development, Adviser to the Government of India, who was deputed to visit Australia to study the fruit industry in that country, has returned after two months tour.

During his stay in Australia the Fruit Development Adviser studied the latest methods of research in fruit culture and preservation, as also the type of fruit processing machinery in use there.

Sardar Bahadur Lal Singh will shortly submit his views to the Government for the development of fruit industry in this country.

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR INDIAN SHELLAC INDUSTRY

Unsatisfactory Labour Conditions

A 'bright future' for the Indian Shellac Industry is predicted by the Rege Committee's Report on Labour Conditions in the Shellac Industry, which stresses that "State action designed to establish shellac-using industries in India would hasten prospects of employment and welfare."

The Report discloses the prevalence of "unsatisfactory" labour conditions in the industry, such as sweating, arbitrary dealing and insecurity of work and rights. These evils, observes the Report, are common to all small-scale industries in which the workers are poor, illiterate and unorganised. Some sort of legislation is no doubt essential, but more important than this would be its proper enforcement; "and this implies the establishment of full-strength inspectorates."

Importance of Shellac

Shellac, like mica, is of key importance to industry and particularly to the manufacture of gramophone records, electrical apparatus, paints and varnishes, sealing wax, bangles, toys, hats, etc. New uses of lac have recently come to the fore, as in the making of anti-gas fabrics, oilcloth, water-proof material, laminated boards, plywood and moulding powders. Although synthetic resins have invaded the fields in which lac was once supreme, instead of diminishing its importance they have only opened out extensive prospects for its use as in the manufacture of plastics. India holds a monopoly of this material, valuable for its excellent gloss and resistance to abrasion, moisture and electricity.

Lac, the dark red resinous secretion of an insect, is the raw material from which shellac is made. The insect is 'inoculated' on to certain trees such as *Kusum*, *Ber* and *Palas*. The encrustation on the twigs and branches of these trees are known as stick-lac which when scraped, ground and washed yields seed-lac.

References to the Indian lac and lac-dye are found in the literature of the early Christian era, and until 1900 it was the dye which made up the bulk of the Indian export. The discovery of synthetic dyes put an end to this trade altogether, but in recent years the resin of lac has commanded a growing international market. The average annual export of all varieties of lac during 1934-39 amounted to 32,136 tons.

As in the case of mica, the U.S.A. is India's

best customer. About 39 per cent. of the total export before the war went to the U.S.A. and over 24 per cent to the U.K.

An economic price for shellac is very important to keep the industry going. In the last 30 years the prices of crude and refined lac have fluctuated between Rs. 242 per cwt. in 1922-23 and Rs. 20 in 1938-39, due mainly to competition from cheap synthetic resins, which have been selling at about 9d. to 1s. per lb. (Rs. 30 to 40 per maund). Before the war, the price of shellac went down to Rs. 14 a maund. Importers, particularly the U.S.A., began to prefer seed-lac over shellac, on account of its cheapness. Shellac workers in India have even rioted in order to prevent the export of seed-lac. (Nevertheless the Report believes that increased production of shellac at a price between Rs. 30 to 40 per maund should not be difficult).

The Indian Lac Research Institute, the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, have carried out researches which have resulted in the establishment of several new industries in India using shellac. It has been computed that the internal consumption of shellac has now risen to 33 per cent. of the total consumption.

The main regions that cultivate and manufacture lac are Bihar, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, Bengal, Assam and the Central India and Eastern States. About 68 per cent. of the total stick-lac is produced in Bihar which leads in shellac manufacture also.

The total number employed in the seed-lac and shellac industry is estimated at between 25,000 and 30,000 of which about 12,000 to 13,000 are in Bihar.

Labour Conditions

Referring to labour conditions the Report says: "Barring a few of the power-using factories of Calcutta, it can be roundly stated that no labour law is properly respected in this industry, nor have the relevant Acts been enforced to a desirable extent. In particular, the employment of Children (Amendment) Act, 1939, which applies to all shellac factories, whether regulated or unregulated, is openly infringed in most places". The main reason for this seems to be the inadequacy of the inspecting staff.

Except in Bengal where large-scale factories have been established, the industry maintains its rural traditions. The shellac factories in general are neither perennial nor seasonal, although there are four seasons for the harvesting of stick-lac. They work irregularly according to the availability of the raw material. The capital outlay is insignificant and there are hardly any overhead charges. Most of the labour is employed on piece-rate basis.

In Bihar there is no difficulty in recruiting labour which is available at the factory door. Owing to the unorganised and irregular nature of the industry, labour turnover and absenteeism are high. There is no training of apprentices, no graded promotions, and no holidays with pay. During the war wages of skilled workers have risen by 150 per cent. at Balrampur and by 95 per cent. at Jhalda. A peculiar feature of the industry is that the melter and his two helpers are jointly paid. In Bihar they receive Rs. 3 per day. Wages have increased in the washing and crushing sections also. But coolies and women labour are still on low wages which range from 5 As. to 12 As. per day. There is a Mazdoor Sabha at Balrampur.

In Central Provinces

In the C.P., where about 4,000 people are employed, the skilled workers have been imported from the U.P. and other places. The joint wage rate for the melter and his helpers has gone up by about 88 per cent. over the pre-war level while the coolie's wages have increased by about 100 to 150 per cent. Children are not found employed here probably because there is a greater demand for them in the local bidi factories. Working conditions in the factories are unsatisfactory, ventilation and lighting poor. Housing has been provided by some employers. There is a registered trade union which is quite active.

Mirzapore is the main centre of the industry in the U.P. It has a fairly long tradition and remains the main source of supply of skilled labour to new centres in the rest of India. There are about 2,000 workers employed of which about 55 per cent. are men, 40.5 per cent. women and 4.5 per cent. children. The workers are all directly employed, but recruitment is made through salaried jamalars. They get a commission which is deducted from the wages of workers. Wages rates have gone up by about 100 per cent. over the pre-war level, mainly owing to the efforts of a trade union which is functioning successfully. There are no fixed hours of work, no amenities in factories and no housing for workers. The U.P.

Government have recently opened a welfare centre in the neighbourhood for labour in general.

The shellac industry sprang up in Bengal, with the import of lac from Burma, Indo-China and Siam. The factory opened at Cossipore in 1863 is now the biggest of the kind in the country which uses mechanical processes for extraction. On account of the stopping of lac imports during the war, only four out of seven factories were working at the time of the investigation, and were employing about 1,000 workers.

Wartime conditions have increased labour turnover and absenteeism. Wages have risen 119 per cent. for melters and 60 per cent. for coolies and cleaners. Working hours are not more than 9 and except in one factory, the single shift system prevails. Sanitary conditions in small factories are not satisfactory and no housing is provided. Excepting in the biggest concern which has provided a Provident Fund and dispensary for its workers, there are no welfare activities.

CEILING PRICE OF RAW RUBBER

The Government of India have had a thorough cost investigation made of the rubber production industry in all its aspects. The report has been received and one conclusion is that a considerable amount of replanting and regeneration and general improvement should be undertaken in the interests of a product of great importance for the national economy.

To enable producers to devote the necessary labour, effort and expense towards this replanting and regeneration, Government have decided to fix the ceiling price for future sales at Rs. 87.5/- per 100 lb. Group I raw rubber. It will be incumbent on owners of estates to make adequate provision out of this price for the improvement measures. The Rubber Production Commissioner will be required to satisfy himself that the necessary steps of replanting and regeneration are carried out and will report to Government periodically. In the light of these reports Government's further action will be considered.

Government propose in the near future to examine the whole position of the rubber industry in India in consultation with the interests concerned. This study would have special reference to the necessity for continuing price control and organised marketing.

With the ceiling price now fixed, manufacturers of rubber products will be able to buy raw rubber at about Rs. 15 per 100 lb. less than what they have been paying hitherto.

ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

AN All-India Council for Technical Education has been constituted by the Government of India, with Mr. N. R. Sarker as Chairman, to study the needs of the country for higher technical education.

The Council will survey the whole field of technical education and advise in what areas technical institutions should be established and for what respective branches of technology they should provide.

The Council will be composed of representatives of the Central Legislative Assembly, the Council of State, various Chambers of Commerce, the Trade Union Congress and Technical Institutions etc. Their names are:

Personnel

Elected by the Council of State: The Hon'ble Ral Bahadur S. K. Das and the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali.

Elected by the Legislative Assembly: Pandit Govind Malaviya, Miss Maniben Kara, Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan, Sri. S. T. Adityan and Sardar Narayanrao Ganpatrao Vinchoerkar.

Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, Calcutta: Mr. A. S. Trollop, C.I.E., and Mr. W. F. Scott Kerr.

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, Bombay: Mr. M. A. Master and Dr. K. A. Hamied.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi: Mr. K. D. Jalan and Sir Shri Ram.

Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Delhi: Dr. Waheed, Ph.D.

The Employers Federation of India, Bombay: Mr. G. V. Apte and Sir Frederick Stones, O.B.E.

The All-India Trade Union Congress: Mr. Chakkrai Chettiar and Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

The Indian Federation of Labour, Delhi: Prof. B. N. Bannerji and Mr. M. A. Khan.

All-India Railwaymen's Federation: Mr. S. Guruswami.

Central Advisory Board of Education: Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh and Mr. S. M. Azam, Education Member, H. E. H. the Nizam's Government.

Inter-University Board India: Sir A. L. Mudalliar, B.A., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.O.G., F.A.C.S., and Prof. N.K. Sidhanta.

Association of Principals of Technical Institutions (India): Mr. W. W. Wood F.R.I.B.A., M.I. Struct. E., E.I.I.A., M.I.E. (Ind.) and Mr. P. N. Joshi, M.Sc. Tech.

The Institution of Engineers (India): Mr. N. V. Modak, C.I.E., J.P., B.E., M.Inst. C.E., M.I.E. (India) F.R. Sen. I.

Government of India's Representatives

Nominated by the Government of India: Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtoola, C.I.E., B.A. and Mr. G. L. Mehta.

Sir John Sargent, C.I.E., M.A. D.Litt., Educational Adviser to the Government of India, will be member ex-officio.

Besides these there will be 12 representatives of the various Departments of the Government of India and 11 representatives of the Provincial Governments.

There will also be representatives of the following Indian States: Hyderabad, Mysore, Indore, Baroda and Travancore.

Dr. S. R. Sen Gupta, Deputy Educational Adviser to the Government of India, Department of Education, will act as Secretary to the Council.

DRUGS RULES TO COME INTO FORCE FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1947

In accordance with the recommendation of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board the Government of India and all the provincial Governments, except the N.W.F.P. Sind and Orissa Governments, have decided to bring into force the Rules framed under the Drugs Act, 1940 one year after the final publication of the Rules. The North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Orissa Governments have not yet reached a decision.

The Rules framed by the Central Government were published on December 21, 1945 and the Rules framed by Provincial Governments were published on various dates in December 1945 and January 1946.

For uniformity February 1, 1947 has been fixed as the date for enforcement of the Rules in all Provinces except the N.W.F.P., Sind and Orissa, and of the Central Government Rules.

The date for enforcement of the Rules in the three remaining Provinces will be announced later.

"INDIA'S ALLOCATIONS MUST BE MET IN FULL"

—Sir J. P. Srivastava

"I WISH to state categorically that if the supplies allocated to India by the Combined Food Board are now reduced or relegated to a low movement priority, the results in the scarcity areas will be most disastrous," stated the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava addressing a Press Conference at New Delhi on April 17.

He characterised as "incorrect" certain statements which were being made in America to the effect that the rainfall in North India in February and March had effected a substantial improvement in the food situation in India. "It is possible" he stated "that the rainfall in question may have done some little good in a small part of the country but this rain will not in any way affect the shortage that has already occurred due to the failure of the monsoon. The improvement in the *rabi* crop is likely to be negligible in relation to the overall shortage of three million tons of *rabi* grains for the current year in addition to the loss of three million tons of the *kharif* grains.

"As against India's demand of four million tons for the calendar year 1946, the Combined Food Board promised 1.4 million tons of wheat and 145,000 tons of rice. There is no justification now for further whittling down our allocation or giving it a low movement priority. India's allocations must be met in full and speedily moved."

The *rabi* plan for the period May 1946 to April 1947 is now being discussed at New Delhi by the representatives of the Provinces and States and the Punjab has not yet offered any surpluses, as against her declared surplus of 700,000 tons during the last *rabi* year. No improvement therefore can be expected to justify any reduction in India's wheat quota of 1.4 million tons for the first half of the year as against the stated requirement of two million tons.

Exports

Advantage had been taken of the recent visits of the Provincial Premiers to Delhi to discuss the food problem as it affected the several Provinces. There was common agreement on the question of mobilising the internal resources of the country to the maximum, and one of the most effective methods was to tighten up the procurement systems. The U.P. is the latest Province to enforce a levy scheme on the cultivators.

The recent controversy over the alleged export of rice will, it is hoped, now end. During

Mr. B. R. Sen's visit to Calcutta about ten days ago, discussions were held with Mr. Khemka, President, Marwari Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta and the Customs Daily Exports Lists were examined. Two facts emerged as a result of such examinations: (1) During the war for security reasons, Ceylon was listed as a foreign country. (2) Publications in the Export Daily Lists do not necessarily represent actual shipments.

It often happens that consignments get shut out partly and even entirely. Of the total quantity of 62,000 tons of rice shown as exports last year, 42,000 tons were sent to Ceylon on a replacement basis, 16,000 tons were sent to Marmagao for Mysore and 4,000 tons were not shipped though as explained above, this figure was included in the Export Daily List for the Calcutta port. Mr. Khemka has since issued a statement to the Press, accepting these facts.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar Repudiates

Mr. J. J. Singh's Statement

The Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar has issued the following statement from New Delhi on April 20:

I have seen a statement by Mr. J.J. Singh, President of the India League of America, regarding food allocations and the work of the Indian Food Delegation. I have not seen the statement of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and, therefore, I do not know where the contradiction lies between the statement that I made and that of the Agent-General.

I should, however, emphatically contradict the statement of Mr. Singh that "though in public statements Members of the Indian Food Delegation kept asking for two million tons of wheat for the first half of the year, in private conversation they left the impression that the Delegation had asked for more than was actually required."

Both as Leader of the Delegation and on behalf of every individual Member of the Delegation, I emphatically repudiate the suggestion. Mr. Singh does not disclose the source of his information but, whatever the source may be, the information is a wicked lie. Mr. Singh may consider the desirability of placing more credence on the statements of his own countrymen.



Mr. Herbert Hoover in New Delhi

Mr. Herbert Hoover, ex-President of the U. S. A., who recently visited India to study the food situation in the country, arrived in New Delhi by air on April 23. He met Mr. Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and high officials of the Government of India. (Above) Mr. Herbert Hoover (centre) with Mr. George Merrell (left) American Commissioner in India, and Sir Robert Hutchings, Food Secretary, Government of India at the Willingdon Aerodrome on April 23. (Left) Sir J. P. Srivastava Food Member, gave a cocktail party at his residence in New Delhi, on April 23, to meet Mr. Hoover. Picture shows Mr. Hoover (right), Sir J. P. Srivastava (centre) and Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Joint Secretary, Food Department.

INDIA RICH IN FISHERIES: NEED FOR PROPER EXPLOITATION

"THE available supplies of fish are quite inadequate to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing population of the country and its production should be increased at least 10-11 times of its present figure," states the Report of the Fish Sub-Committee appointed by the Government of India to suggest how the production of fish may be increased.

There is ample scope, according to the Report, for the development of the fish industry, for "the fishery resources of India are not only very extensive and varied out extremely rich both in regard to the types and numbers of fish of prime edible qualities."

The Committee suggests that in order to place the fish industry on a firm footing there is need for "a comprehensive long-range programme based on an all-India policy of survey, exploitation and development."

There are two main classes of fisheries in India—Inland and Marine. The inland fisheries have further to be divided into Freshwater and Estuarine, while Marine fisheries have to be considered under the heads: Foreshore, Offshore and Deep Sea Fisheries. The Committee makes a number of recommendations for the development of the industry.

Recommendations

The need for research and experimental work and the setting up of a permanent organisation at the Centre for co-ordinating and directing fishery research on an all-India basis is emphasised. It is suggested that fishermen should be provided with suitable and efficient types of fishing boats and nets, ice should be available at cheap rates for the preservation of fish and arrangements must be made for rapid collection and transport of catches by power launches, as also for better marketing facilities.

It is also necessary to improve the economic condition of the fishermen. The Committee recommends the introduction of co-operative movement to enable them to buy boats and tackle required for their profession at a lower cost than would otherwise be possible and to market their catches at favourable rates.

Another suggestion is that equally with such measures as may be taken for increasing production of fish, it is essential that efficient arrangements are made for the handling and preservation of the catches and for their proper

preservation, storage and rapid transport from the fishing areas to the consuming markets.

Legislation for the preservation of river fisheries and to avoid pollution of water is also recommended.

Subsidiary Industries

Pending the establishment of the proposed Central Fishery Research Institute, the Committee recommends that the Government of India should send as soon as possible a sufficient number of State scholars to the Torry Research Station, Aberdeen, for training. The Committee also suggests for development of subsidiary industries for the production of fish meal, fish manure, fish oil, fish glue, isinglass, etc., by utilizing fish wastes and offal and fish not suitable for human consumption.

The Report is under consideration of the Government of India. Some action has, however, already been taken by the Centre and Provinces and States on the lines recommended by the Fish Sub-Committee.

Post-War Schemes

A memorandum on "Post-War Development of Indian Fisheries" has been prepared by the Central Government and a scheme drawn up by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the establishment of a Research Institute with two stations, a main for Marine Fisheries and a sub-station for Inland Fisheries.

As a result of the Council's efforts Provinces and States have developed the shark liver oil industry. The Government of India are exploring the possibilities of introducing power vessels for developing the rich offshore marine fisheries.

Madras and Travancore have been dealing with technological problems, while extensive piscicultural operations have been initiated in almost all Provinces for developing the inland fisheries. Protective legislation is being planned in Madras and other Provinces to stop the destruction of brood and young fish.

The Government of India have directed that the discount to be allowed by importers to dealers in cartridges shall be 15 per cent. instead of 20 per cent, as before, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India on April 26.



Fishermen on the Coromandel coast launch a masula boat. Masula boats are seaworthy and their stitched sides are elastic enough to stand up to the great combers which pound India's eastern shores. (Below) A 60-foot net is drawn ashore. (Right) Sorting the day's catch. After something has been put aside for the family pot, wives and daughters carry the rest of the catch by headload to market.



INDIAN ARMY FULLY MOBILISED AGAINST FAMINE

NOW fully mobilised against its latest and most deadly enemy of all—famine—the Indian Army is tapping every source to help relieve the shortage of food in this country.

Military farms are well to the fore in helping the Army to become as self-sufficient as possible. Their output, which increased during the war by 350 per cent, included 56,256 tons of fresh milk produced in 1944-45 against the figure of 9,664 tons for 1939-40. Nearly 60 per cent. of the total Services needs in milk and 16.5 per cent in evaporated milk are now provided by these farms. In addition, they are also increasing their output of grain crops.

The Army has put several thousands of acres into recent cultivation. A regiment of the Indian Armoured Corps at Muttra is planning to plough 400 acres to grow *barani* crops. At Meerut 100 extra acres are being devoted to vegetable production; at Babugarh several hundred acres are being handed over to the civilian authorities with tube wells provided.

As regards eating less food, Army rations were cut last November and animal rations are now being reduced. As a result of this the monthly saving in *dhal* amounts to 945 tons, in *atta* 630 tons, sugar 263 tons and flour 83 tons.

Military Canteens

In Madras efforts to help in solving the food shortage are being made by military canteens and voluntary canteens run by the Red Cross, the W.V.S., Y.M.C.A., T.O.C. and the Salvation Army. Military canteens now abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the Government in respect of hotels and restaurants.

In the four Army Commands military transport is being placed at the disposal of the civil authorities for transport of essential foodstuffs. Central Command, for instance, is lending 300 three-ton lorries to the United Provinces.

Servicemen are warned against the wearing of a medal ribbon purporting to be that of a so-called "1945 Victory Medal". There is no such medal and the wearing of this ribbon is unauthorised.

This ribbon has an extremely broad red centre with very narrow vertical stripes of blue and yellow on each side. Shopkeepers are advised against stocking it.

JAT REGIMENT TURNS OUT BETTER FARMERS

MEN of the Jat Regimental Centre at Bareilly are going home, after a period of pre-release training, with many new ideas on farming and cottage industries.

At the 35-acres farm attached to the Jat Regimental Centre—it was a barren waste a few months ago—they are learning scientific methods of agriculture. The yield of crops on what is now rich agricultural soil has shown them what can be done with better seed and proper manuring of the land.

The men also learn the secret of growing vegetables of all types as well as fruit. Nearby is the poultry farm in which the troops take a great interest and are taught improved methods of poultry-rearing.

At the Cottage Industries School men awaiting release are learning cloth weaving, newar work, carpentry and basket making. The results of their labours are displayed for sale.

The regiment is proud of the Hafiz Memorial School which commemorates the heroism of Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, V.C., who gave his life in the Arakan in 1944, while fighting in the 3rd battalion. The School building has been built with tiles and bricks manufactured by the troops themselves and further blocks are to be added to the school in due course.

ARMY'S COLD STORAGE INSTALLATIONS

One of the Army's most important wartime innovations for the preservation of foodstuffs has been its expansion of cold storage facilities. Since 1943, when there was only a small amount of civil cold storage accommodation in India, 2,000-ton cold storage installations have been built at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and about 30 smaller plants scattered all over India.

As a result, two permanent obstacles to the ready distribution of food supplies in India have been overcome—the climate, which affects fresh foodstuffs in a short time, and the distances between towns and villages.

From the Army's cold storage installations throughout India, meat from Australia has been distributed by road and rail to British and West African troops. Quantities have been sufficient to enable three issues a week to be made. To the 14th Army in Burma, frozen meat went by road, rail, boat and plane and cartons of meat were flown to forward airstrips.

INDIAN ARMY STARTED FIRST CANNED BUFFALO MILK FACTORY

First factory in the world to produce canned buffalo milk a military dairy farm at Lahore has played an important part in supplying the Army with its milk requirements. The manufacturing process was devised by its own research staff.

Before the war the Army imported all its annual need of 400 tons of tinned milk. Plant for canning milk was installed on one of the military farms at Lahore in 1942 and in 1943-44 it was turning out 445 tons of evaporated milk. By the following year production had risen to 660 tons.

With the establishment of another factory at Okara, in the Punjab, the Army's productive capacity of canned milk rose to 3,250 tons a year. About 880 tons of cheese were also manufactured—sufficient to meet the peacetime demands of the Forces.

In peace as in war the military farms continue to serve the Forces. But the Forces are the servants of the country and their farms are a potential base for the expansion of the dairy industry and the small livestock industry in the country as a whole.

KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS

Acknowledging the generous flow of contributions from overseas to King George's Fund for Sailors during the six years of war, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, President of the Fund, says in a message:—

"I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks, on behalf of our seamen, to all those of you overseas whose generosity has helped King George's Fund for Sailors to alleviate the suffering caused by six years of war, and I hope that you will help us with the commitments with which we shall be burdened for some time to come as generously as you have helped us in the past."

The Fund endeavours to ensure that the officers and men of all the sea services, their families and the dependents of those who lost their lives in the war, shall receive assistance if they are in need. It assists various seamen's societies, homes, clubs, orphanages and hospitals, including those concerned with the welfare of Indian seamen.

The total receipts in the Fund from all parts of the world amounted to £2,302,994 on December 31, 1945, of which £163,153 was subscribed from India.

70,000 ARMY ANIMALS TO BE "DEMOBILISED"

AFTER six years of active service in various theatres of war more than 70,000 Army animals are being "demobilised". Only about 13,000 horses and mules will be retained in the Service.

Those animals certified fit by Remount and Veterinary officers are being sold to Provincial Governments, local bodies and also to private individuals at auctions.

The Agricultural Department and certain Government services are proving to be the Army's best customers.

Even in these days of mechanised warfare animals have an important part to play. They were of immense value to the 14th Army during the Burma campaign, when pack mules, pack ponies and even pack bullocks were used to maintain forward troops. During the enemy onslaught on Imphal, 5,000 mules were flown in from the Arakan and helped roll back the Jap invasion.

In the Arakan mules shared the dangers and discomforts of our troops. They suffered many casualties, which were dealt with by the mobile hospitals of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps.

The Army Remounts Directorate handle the task of breeding and purchasing animals. During the war, they held many thousands of brood mares and maintained large remount depots, most of them in the Punjab and U.P. A number of advanced remounts depots were set up throughout the 14th Army area to provide replacements for battle and other casualties.

Flags of the British Commonwealth Nations were broken, on April 13, on the summit of a hill overlooking the once great Japanese naval base at Kure. At this unique ceremony, senior officers of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces as well as representatives from America were present.

India's flag was broken by Company Havildar-Major Mian Mohd. of Nalli village, Kushab district, Sargodha (Punjab). Music was provided by the Kumaon band.

A guard of honour, representing every Commonwealth Nation and including Gurkhas from the British-Indian division, was inspected by Gen. John Northcott, B.C.O.F. C-in-C. Major-Gen. D. T. Cowan, Commanding Brindiv troops, was by his side.

ADULT LITERACY DRIVE

In many cities and smaller towns of India to-day a number of centres run by public-spirited men and women are engaged in the work of adult education. They, however, touch only the fringe of the problem of eradicating illiteracy among the adult population of the country. The task awaiting planners in this field has perhaps for the first time been brought out in the report on post-war educational development submitted by the Central Advisory Board of Education, appointed by the Government of India. The report includes a scheme for adult education which provides, among other things, that within 25 years from the beginning of the scheme, every person under 40, irrespective of sex, shall have been taught to read and write. About 90 million adults would be made literate at the end of this period, and teaching staff numbering about 2,58,000 would be employed at the peak period.

The Board has recommended that educational facilities for girls and women must equal in extent those provided for boys and men. The aim should not be merely the eradication of illiteracy, but literacy should be the means of further education. Village libraries would help



A class of grown up women students in a Bombay adult school.



These four elderly workmen, formerly illiterate, now enjoy reading a newspaper printed in big type after a short course in an adult school.

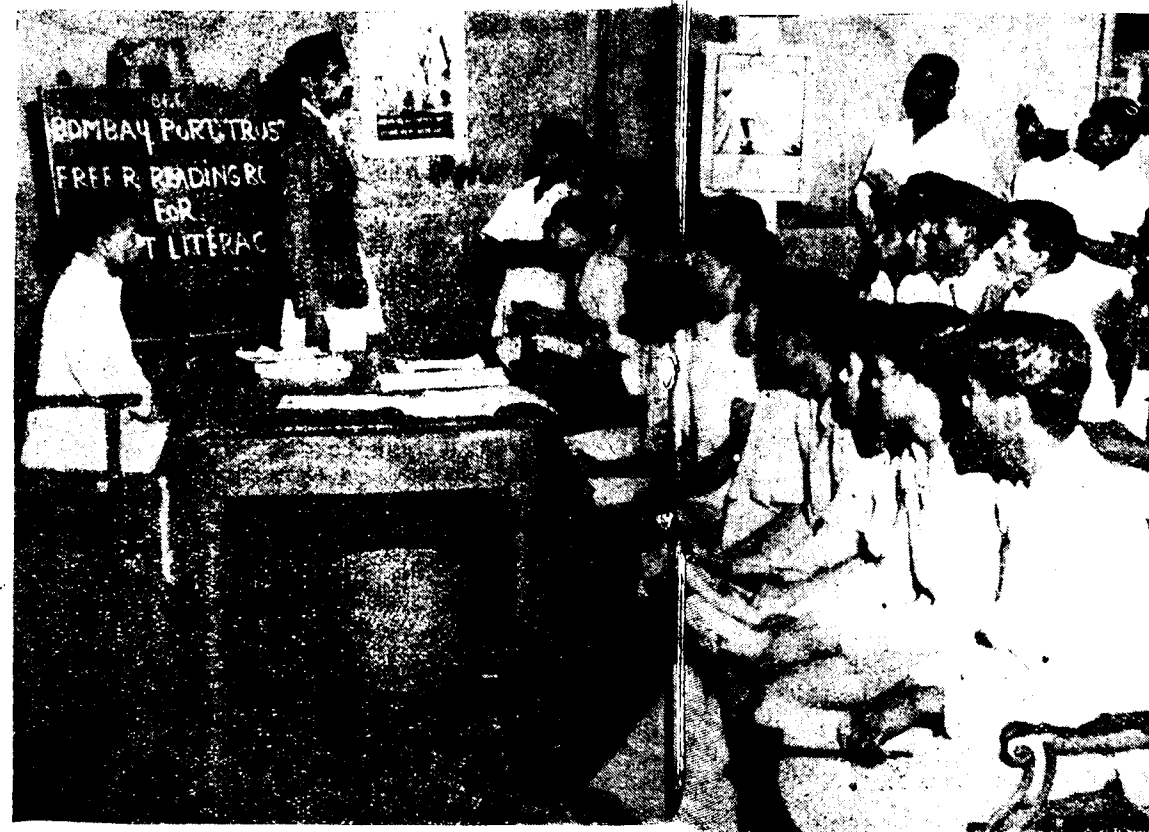


Special magazines are issued free to those who have learnt to read. Here are some.

converts to remain literate, and wherever possible mechanical aids such as radio and visual education would be employed to make instruction more interesting and accelerate progress. The report also recommends compulsory and free basic education for all children.

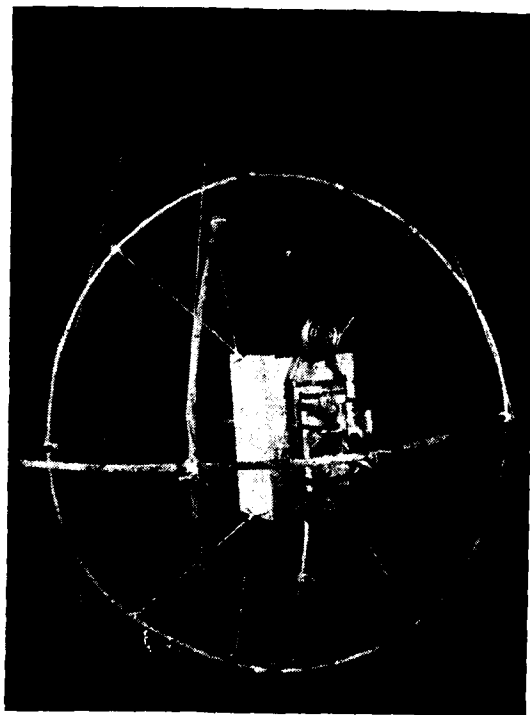


This old woman, too, is learning to read and write. (Right) A class for grown-ups in progress in the Bombay Port Trust Free Reading Room.



The woman on the left, the wife of a Bombay workman, has a family to look after but that does not affect her determination to become literate. She is spelling out words with the help of a woman teacher.

THE RADIO-SONDE—MINIATURE FLYING OBSERVATORY



The Radio-Sonde.

THE radio-sonde, a miniature flying observatory, developed by the India Meteorological Department in its workshops in New Delhi, is described in an illustrated article in the March issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

The instrument is based on the principle of Lange's radio-meteorograph. It is carried aloft by a free hydrogen-filled balloon, and is complete with transmitter and high and low tension batteries. The meteorological data such as temperature, pressure and humidity are instantaneously transmitted to a ground station where an electrically operated recorder automatically registers the elements in a graphical form. The observer on the ground interprets the data and prepares a coded message on the thermal structure of the atmosphere for transmission to forecasting stations. All the elements of the instrument were designed and made in the departmental workshops.

Benzidine and its analogues are employed on a large scale in the manufacture of direct

cotton colours. These intermediates are obtained by the reduction of nitro-compounds, and a large number of patents have been taken out for their commercial production. A comprehensive investigation of the methods described in patent literature was considered to be of special value in order to ascertain which of the several methods would be suitable for large-scale production; and having selected the method, to ascertain the optimum conditions for commercial operation. This elaborate investigation, financed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, was undertaken in the Presidency College, Madras. The results obtained have been reported in a series of three articles in the issue of the *Journal* under review. A description of the pilot plant is also included.

Coal Tar By-Products

The electrolytic reduction of nitrobenzene in alkaline emulsion at an iron cathode is best suited for adoption on an industrial scale. The yield of benzidine is 90 per cent. The electrolytic method is also applicable for the production of para-aminophenol, which finds application in the fields of dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals and photographic developers. Full details of the electrolytic cells and the procedure for the recovery of aminophenol have been described in the *Journal*.

Among the products recovered by the coal tar distillation industry in India are road tars, pitch, creosote oil, tar acids, naphthalene, anthracene, pyridine, benzene, toluene and xylene. An article in the *Journal* gives the relevant details relating to these products including specifications for commercial application, output and uses.

At the instance of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Government of India have decided to encourage indigenous production of atabrine by providing facilities to Indian manufacturers to import the intermediate chemicals required in its synthesis.

A Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on April 26 stated:

Telegraph service with Palestine is suspended except for Haifa, Jaffa and Telaviv. Telegrams to these places and also to Trans-Jordan are subject to indefinite delay.

INDIAN TECHNICIANS TO STUDY GERMAN PRODUCTION METHODS

AT the request of the Government of India, His Majesty's Government have arranged to include 30 more technicians from India in teams of British and American experts who are to investigate German industrial and technical processes likely to be advantageous to Allied industrial production.

In November 1945, the Planning and Development Department of the Government of India, with the assistance of H.M.G., arranged for a visit to Germany of five Indian technicians to study German production methods; and Government now consider that as many Indian technicians as possible should be sent to take advantage of opportunities for study and investigation which German industries now offer.

The thirty technicians will leave India for the U.K. in batches, the first batch left on April 21. The study tour will cover two months and the technicians will present their reports to the British Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee Secretariat of His Majesty's Government. The reports will be the property of H.M.G. and later on will be made available to Indian industry through the Government of India.

Selected Personnel

The technicians selected for the tour are: Mr. Kaiser Ahmed (Footwear Industry), Rai Bahadur B. M. Das (Leather), Mr. R. P. Bhargava (Paper), Dr. A. Nagaraja Rao and Diwan Nanak Chand (Heavy Chemicals), Mr. Manibhai B. Amin (Fine Chemicals and Drugs), Mr. K. A. Verghese (Fertilizers), Mr. S. M. Mistry (Vegetable Oil and Hydrogenation Industry), Mr. Raffi Butt (Medical—Surgical Instruments), Dr. S. Guha, Mr. Rajaram Kirloskar and Mr. N. B. Baghat (Engineering), Dr. A. H. Pandya (Structural Engineering), Mr. C. M. Latif and Mr. B. K. Nehru (Machine Tool), Mr. P. K. Bhuskute (Glass Technology), Dr. Atmaram (Glass Technology and Ceramics), Mr. Ganpule (Potteries), Mr. M. G. Baghat (Ceramics), Mr. P. C. Chanda (Paints and Varnishes), Mr. S. Sachdev (Tin Printings), Mr. S. G. Mohammad (Glue), Mr. R. K. Mehta (Non-ferrous Metals), Dr. L. Thoria (Fibre Rayon), Mr. P. Kumar, Dr. M. T. Ahmad and Mr. N. G. Ayyangar (Electrical Machinery and Equipment including radios and manufacture of electrical goods), Dr. Pheroze Kutar (Iron and Steel—Steel Rolling), and Dr. K. Venkataram (Dyestuff). A name is under consideration for tractors.

"A GREAT SERVANT OF INDIA"

Tribute to Late Mr. V. S. S. Sastri

Touching the death of the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, the two messages of condolence have been conveyed to his son, Mr. S. Sankaran, by the Hon'ble Dr. N.B. Khare, Member for Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, and Mr. Ramrao Deshmukh, High Commissioner for India in South Africa.

The message from Dr. N.B. Khare reads: "In the death of the Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, India has lost a great servant of India and of Indians abroad. He did most valuable work as the first Agent of the Government of India in South Africa. It is an irony of fate that his death has synchronised with the action of the Union Government aimed at the effacement of the results so ably achieved by him."

Mr. Ramrao Deshmukh says: "I have just learnt with most profound regret the sad news of the death of the Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri. His work as the first Agent of the Government of India lives in the hearts of all Indians here, and even through these recent difficult years the example of his high purpose and moral dignity has not been lost on a wide circle of Europeans with whom he was brought into contact in South Africa. In his passing, India has lost a worthy representative of her culture and her aspirations. To his surviving relatives I extend on my own behalf and on behalf of all South African Indians my deepest sympathies."

BURMA VICTORY EXHIBITION

Indian soldiers in action at Kohima and Imphal, Japs driven out of their strongholds and fleeing for their lives before the terrible onslaught of Allied troops, are among the subjects dramatically depicted by the Burma Victory Photographic Exhibition, which has been touring India since January, this year.

The Exhibition has already visited Bombay, Madras, Trivandrum and Bangalore. In Madras nearly 45,000 people saw this Exhibition in eight days.

The pictures also portray the Chaung landings made by the Royal Indian Navy. The R.I.A.F. is well represented with fine photographs taken on the Burma airstrips and others reveal the devastating results of their bombing.

FURTHER GRANT PROPOSED FOR U.N.R.R.A.

Commerce Member's Speech in Central Assembly

"I want to draw the special attention of this House to the fact that in the matter of food for India the U.N.R.R.A. has rendered a great assistance and I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude all the work that they have done in the way of publicising this in America. I feel that the reason why I have to bring this motion at the fag-end of the session is that having joined an international organisation, a decision having been made by the international organisation that extra grants should be made, it should not be for the executive government to say one thing or the other without bringing it before the Legislature for the final decision in the matter."

Thus stated the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Huque, Commerce Member, speaking in the Central Assembly on April 17, on the motion for a supplementary grant of "not exceeding Rs. 4 crores" in 1946-47, being a further contribution to U.N.R.R.A. proposed to be made by India.

The Commerce Member said: I will not take much time to explain the reason why this motion was brought before this House. The House will remember that after U.N.R.R.A. was brought into being for sending relief to the war-affected areas, this House, in a motion brought before it, agreed to participation in the U.N.R.R.A., with the rider that any area important to military operations of the United Nations and stricken by famine or disease, should be included for the benefit of the U.N.R.R.A. This resolution was by the wish of the House sent to U.N.R.R.A. and it was accepted in September, 1944. Then in the last budget, not in this one, but in the previous one, an item was put in for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 8 crores.

India's Contribution

I might here say that when this U.N.R.R.A. organisation came into being, they met together and tried to find out what would be the actual needs of the relief organisation in terms of money. It was the decision of the U.N.R.R.A. that contributions approximately equal to one per cent of the national income should be granted, but with a rider that where any such grant would be in conflict with the war demands or excessively burdensome, it would be for the country to vote an amount less than that.

It is well known that India has a very low per capita income and we have certain special responsibilities in India arising out of the distress and famine conditions in the country, and

therefore we did not agree to accept the formula of one per cent of the national income and it was on a question like that that I consulted the leading members of the different parties and with their agreement a sum of Rs. 8 crores was put in the Budget which was agreed to by the House. I might say in this connection that it was explained at that time that, though the contributions were allotted in terms of money, in fact a very small percentage, namely, 10 per cent, is given in money. The rest is given in commodities which can be spared by this country.

Representatives of U.N.R.R.A. came to India and discussed this matter and, having regard to our difficult commodity problem, we were unable to give them what they wanted. But they were very pleased to get certain commodities which we could spare, such as jute, raw cotton, tea, pepper, coir, manganese ore and surgical instruments. Raw cotton and surgical instruments were for China.

The original contributions were merely in the nature of an estimate as to what would be the ultimate liability of every country. At that time it was thought that the amount of money then sanctioned would be enough for the entire relief operations. When in fact the relief operations were undertaken, it was found that both in the East and in the West the problem was of such magnitude and the work of relief and rehabilitation required so much of the finances of a country, that they have come with a request for further assistance to all the participating countries granting relief.

Relief to China

Sir, I might say that the war did not end simultaneously in Europe and in Asia. As the war in Europe ended first, naturally the task of relief and rehabilitation was first taken up in Europe. China and the Far East being war zones adequate relief could not be sent. To the extent relief could be sent it was sent to China and as far as I know 6½ to 7 per cent was allotted to China and, in spite of the difficulties of transport and the commodity problem, relief was sent to China.

Having gone to Europe for the task of rehabilitation, if the nature of the problem is realised, nobody can say that he must keep aside 50 per cent of the money saying that he would need it, in the face of the agonies of humanity, starvation, disease, hunger and all other problems. Having gone to render relief in Europe they could not stop at that figure, saying that we could not proceed further because we have to divide the money into two parts.

The result was that almost the entire sum which was allotted for relief purposes was exhausted in relief to Europe and now we are confronted with the problem not only of continuing relief in Europe but also with the task of relief and rehabilitation in China and the Far East, where the problem is of very great urgency and importance.

As far as we have been able to study the materials, I find from the estimates of this year that roughly about 47 or 48 per cent of the entire relief operations will go to China. Therefore the relief for China is a matter of great importance both to India as well as to the world and that is the consideration which has made me to bring this matter before this House.

Additional Contributions

Commodities to the extent of a little over 2½ million tons were sent to China in spite of transport difficulties, in spite of the operations in Europe and in spite of the war not being over. These were sent actually to China as a matter of relief operations and the situation today is that more funds are needed.

Already some of the major participating countries have allotted a considerable amount of money as additional contributions to the U.N.R.R.A. for this purpose. For example, the United States has allotted an additional sum of 1,350 million dollars for this year's contribution and this roughly will come to about 400 crores of rupees. The United Kingdom has allotted 302.25 million dollars for this year's additional contribution and that comes roughly to a little over Rs. 90 crores. Canada has already allotted 69.3 million dollars for this purpose and that comes to about Rs. 20 crores. These have been the additional contributions of these countries so far as the present year's operations are concerned.

A question may be asked as to the difficult position in India but I might say that the U.N.R.R.A. does not want any part of our food from India or any part of the food which India is receiving from any of the countries from which food is coming. Though these relief operations consist in terms of food, clothing, rehabilitation, reconstruction and a thousand other small matters, all that they want is additional funds for the purpose of helping them in their work.

So far as India is concerned they require particularly jute, tea and such other commodities as we can spare. I may say in this connection that they have been very helpful to us in every way and they have never for a moment tried to create any difficulty even on the ground that we promise something which we could not give subsequently. As we are well aware, we promised a certain amount of groundnuts. The moment the Indian food situation deteriorated we said we could not send our groundnuts but they said we could substitute it by jute. And

that shows to what extent they themselves realised the difficulties of the Indian situation.

I should like to take this opportunity to mention what was reported in some sections of the Press about what was alleged to have been said by Mr. La Guardia, viz., that the promised wheat shipments to India might be diverted to the U.N.R.R.A. I am authorised to say that Mr. La Guardia never made that statement. On the other hand the whole of the U.N.R.R.A. organisation in the United States has been trying their level best to create public opinion in favour of more sacrifices not merely for Europe and China but also on behalf of India to enable us to get our food allocation.

I have got to mention this here because in the last statement President Truman made it quite clear that they have never asked for anything whatsoever to be taken from India's quota or from the share which she is entitled to. There the U.N.R.R.A. is well aware of the food situation in India and they have all along made special efforts in America to see that the supplying countries from which food will have to come out do help not only the U.N.R.R.A. but also the other countries where the need for food is as great as ours.

These two things are being simultaneously publicised by the U.N.R.R.A. organisation and to that extent American public opinion is being created for more sacrifice and for sparing more food.

India's Help to U.N.R.R.A.

So far as India is concerned I might say that in spite of our difficulties India's generous contribution has greatly assisted the relief work of the U.N.R.R.A. organisation and the reports that we have got show to what extent this relief has helped the organisation. I hope there will be no confusion between the two issues, namely India's need for more food and U.N.R.R.A.'s need for more money. Because U.N.R.R.A. has asked for money India's case for food should not be brought in. The question should be decided whether in the circumstances of the case we ought to pay the amount which has been asked for by the U.N.R.R.A.

I will show to what extent the propaganda of U.N.R.R.A. has been of great value so far as the food position in India is concerned. I shall quote from what appeared in an Indian paper a few days ago. Mr. Hendrickson said:

"Today's situation in India is even more tragic. Unless India can obtain 4 million tons of cereals, which it must have, from 5 to 15 million people will lose their lives in the months lying ahead. It is a mathematical certainty that without grain from the Western hemisphere more people will perish in India in 1946 than died in the Bengal famine. The very lives of scores of

millions of men, women and children in the Far East depend utterly on the actions by the food exporting countries in the Western hemisphere. In China, Indo-China, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies and India famine is no longer a spectre: it has arrived.

"Although the U.N.R.R.A. is not empowered to provide physical assistance to the people of India it is taking every possible opportunity to emphasise during the critical time of global food shortages that every human effort must be exercised by the more fortunate food producing countries to make available sufficient food not only to the U.N.R.R.A. for those countries dependent upon its aid but also to all other nations as well which must import food at this time in order that mass starvation may be averted."

U.N.R.R.A.'s Help

I want to draw the special attention of this House to the fact that in the matter of food for India the U.N.R.R.A. has rendered a great assistance and I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude all the work that they have done in the way of publicising this in America. I feel that the reason why I have to bring this motion at the fag-end of the session is that having joined an international organisation, a decision having been made by that international organisation that extra grants should be made, it should not be for the executive government to say one thing or the other without bringing it before the legislature for the final decision in the matter.

It is for this reason that I have brought it. I do not want to enter into the issue of the Combined Food Board and the U.N.R.R.A. and the relation between the two. I have tried to show the reasons why in the midst of the present difficult situation in India it is absolutely essential that the American public should be with us in order that the food allocation which has to come to India might be facilitated and no difficulty might be created.

The Government of India promulgated, in December 1945 an Order called the Fruit Products Control Order designed to ensure that fruit products manufactured only under proper hygienic and sanitary conditions were offered for sale to the public.

This Order was to come into force from May 1, 1946. Owing to certain unavoidable circumstances and to the fact that almost half the number of manufacturers have not yet applied for the licences required, it has been found necessary to postpone the enforcement of the Order till June 1, 1946.

INDIA AND BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS

HERE is the Second Interim Report of the Committee of the Central Assembly on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements, which was laid on the table of the House on April 17, by the Hon'ble Finance Member:

The Committee considered the report submitted by Sir Chintaman Deshmukh on the proceedings of the inaugural meetings of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development held at Savannah, Georgia U.S.A. from March 8 to 18, 1946.

We note that no clarification has been made by His Majesty's Government on the issue of sterling balances, and we reiterate what we said on this subject in the last report dated February 26, 1946, the relevant extracts from which are reproduced:

Sterling Credits

(1) "We strongly endorse the statement made in the course of the recent debate by the Hon'ble the Finance Member that India is not bound in any way by the terms of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement of December, 1945.

(2) "In our view the final decision whether it would be to India's advantage to remain a member of the Bretton Woods institutions may be determined to a very considerable extent by the outcome of the negotiations which His Majesty's Government are committed to undertake with the Government of India on the subject of liquidation of sterling credits. If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."

As the whole question of India's constitution is under examination, the Committee would prefer further action to be postponed until the outcome of such examination is known.

We accordingly recommend that Government should take advantage of every possible provision in the Articles to postpone payment of the subscriptions due to the Fund and the Bank till the last moment, but if after consultation with these Institutions it becomes necessary to take a final decision before the Assembly meets again, Government should summon the Committee and a decision should be taken in consultation with them, the Committee being specially summoned for this purpose.



H. E. Sir Evan Jenkins with Ch. Shauk Mohammed whose Sahiwal heifer, "Bachi", won the Sir Jogendra Singh Challenge Cup. It was sold for Rs. 1,300.

AMRITSAR CATTLE SHOW

The cattle show in Amritsar concluded on April 19, when H.E. Sir Evan Jenkins, Governor of the Punjab, distributed the Challenge Cups at the second auction sale of pedigree cattle sponsored by the All-India Cattle Show Committee.

The cattle fair grounds where the show was held had on display some of the finest animals of Sahiwal and Ravi breeds. The show was opened by Mr. G. Williamson, Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India.

The Sir Jogendra Singh Challenge Cup for breeder of a bull or cow of Sahiwal breed which fetched the highest price at the auction sale was won by Chaudhury Shauk Mohammad. His

Sahiwal heifer was "Bachi" purchased by Din Mohammad of Ambagh (Amritsar) for Rs. 1,300. This is a record price paid for a heifer in an auction sale.

The winner of the Walker Challenge Cup was Rai Sahib Mahla Singh who bred a Ravi buffalow cow "Maidi" for which Mohan Singh of Muradpura (Amritsar) paid Rs. 900. A number of other Sahiwal and Ravi buffalow cows, young bulls and heifers were sold which fetched for their owners fancy prices.

In requesting the Governor to distribute the Challenge Cups and prizes, Mr. Williamson said: "The principal activity of the Cattle Show Society, that is the holding of an annual All-India show, has been in abeyance during these past years of war and instead the Society has been supporting numerous local shows throughout the country. During that time the large part which the private cattle breeder and

non-official societies must play in production of 250,000 superior bulls which India needs annually has been more and more apparent. Government farms aim only at maintaining or improving the quality of the foundation stock of the country. The multiplication of pedigreed stock must continue to be the duty of the private breeder.

Demand For Indian Cattle

"The Society whose aim is encouragement of breeding of pedigree stock of the best type by a paying market has determined to do all in its power to cultivate such a market. Breeding of pedigree cattle of the kind required involves a great skill, considerable trouble and expense. The outlay must bring its return or the work cannot proceed. It has been a fashion to decry both the cattle of India and the breeders of these cattle. Bad cattle are to be found in all countries. Here too many are to be seen in India, but the fact remains that India still possesses cattle breeders of great skill and breeds of cattle which are wonderfully suited to conditions under which they must live and for the purpose for which they are bred.

"The value of the Indian cattle is becoming known abroad. From both Government agencies and private individuals there has been demand for Indian Cattle from countries like U.S.A., Brazil, West Indies, West Africa, Tunisia, Kenya, Tanganyika, Malaya, China, etc. As India for the time being needs all her pedigree stock these potential buyers have been disappointed and it has appeared to the Society that if he is to be denied the benefit of prizes in the foreign market he should be encouraged to obtain prizes in the domestic one.

Governor's Observations

"It is for that purpose, Your Excellency, that the Society has organised these sales and your presence here to-day encourages the Society in the belief that it is fulfilling the function which its first distinguished patron Lord Linlithgow envisaged, and that it is following the advice given by its President, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, that the Society should take its full share in promoting progressive livestock breeding."

After distributing Challenge Cups and prizes, H.E. the Governor said: "I was informed while I was on leave in England that the second auction sale of pedigree stock would be held at this Baisakhi fair and I was most anxious to attend the fair, because I think that no opportunity should be lost of encouraging improvements in cattle breeding. There are many activities in the economic field which

require in the first instance expenditure of very large sums of money, but I have always felt in my journey about the Punjab districts that if the importance both to cities and to villages of improvements in cattle breeding were once realised those improvements could be rapid and could be made largely self-supporting.

"The cattle are after all one of the main assets of the farmer, and if he makes the fullest use of the opportunities available to him for improving his stock he can with a comparatively small outlay earn very considerable profits. The subject is one which appeals to wealthy farmers and to small holders alike, and as the importance of better milk supplies in cities is more widely realised I have no doubt it will appeal to substantial men in cities also. I wish all success to the measures which have been undertaken for improvement of our pedigree stock."

MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Legislature for Agriculture held recently in New Delhi the question of control over the export of cattle from India was considered. The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Agriculture, presided.

Other questions that came up for consideration were control on import of fruit products, vegetable seeds and fertilizers; development of tube-well irrigation; control regarding distribution of imported tractors; and debt legislation for the Centrally-Administered Areas, etc.

During his N.-W.F.P. tour Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck inspected over 20 units in Peshawar District on April 25. He showed keen interest in the Army's "Grow More Food" campaign and talked to the men to gain first-hand knowledge of the transition from wartime to peacetime conditions.

At an impressive parade by the 15th Cavalry Regiment - a unit with a large number of Indian officers - Gen. Auchinleck praised the high morale of the men.

He also visited the men of the 15th Punjab Regiment and the 2 King's Own Scottish Borderers and presented the I.O.M. to Hav. Sadhu Singh of the 4th Punjab Regiment.

By an amendment to the Drugs Control Order published in the *Gazette of India* of April 20, the expression "district of Calcutta" occurring in clause 17 of the Order has been defined as having the same meaning as that given to it in the Bengal Excise Act.

REFUSAL OF SEA PASSAGES TO UNITED KINGDOM

THE Government of India are perturbed at a tendency to refuse passages when offered. There is reason to believe that many of these refusals are prompted by a desire to secure a passage in a commercial ship as opposed to a transport. The Government must emphasise that there can be no picking and choosing at a time when many persons cannot secure passages at all. Moreover, the proportion of commercial ship passages is very small and may not exceed 10 per cent. of the total number of passages. Also, if a passage is refused it means that it must be offered to the next person in the priority list at shorter notice, causing difficulties all round.

Commercial sailings are, as far as possible, offered to elderly persons and to those with medical priorities; beyond that, the priority system can only be effectively worked by offering accommodation as and when it becomes available to persons in their order of priority. It has, therefore, been decided that, when offering accommodation in the future, travel agents should not mention the name of the vessel. It has also been arranged that no person who refuses a passage should subsequently be offered a berth in a commercial vessel. The Government trust that all concerned will acknowledge the fact that, when shipping is so short, passages must be accepted as and when offered in whatever vessel.

Civilian Allotment for May

A total of 1,380 civilians secured passages in March, 750 of them being family passages, which broadly speaking covered the first five priorities.

For April an allotment of 2,205 passages was secured, about half being male passages and half family passages. By the end of the month this should provide passages for the first five priorities and for a few males in priority VI.

For May the civilian allotment is 2,850 passages, again roughly divided equally between male and family passages. If this allotment matures it will provide passages for the first six priorities and for some in the seventh priority of males, and for the first five priorities plus a few in priority VI for women and children.

It should, however, be noted that the first two civilian educational sub-priorities, covering children between the ages of 9-16 with parent

or guardian, have been raised from priority VI to priority V. It follows that parents or guardians with children of these ages who have already been allotted priorities VI-a and VI-b may reasonably expect passages in the month of May. A copy of the revised schedule of priorities has been communicated to all shipping and travel agents.

This allotment will leave a civilian waiting list at the end of May of 3,500, consisting of about 2,700 women and children and 800 males. The future is still uncertain and Government regret that they can make no statement at the present time as to the likelihood of these persons securing passage. The Government will, however, make every endeavour to see that the improvement secured for May will be maintained.

NO VACANT BERTHS ON TROOPSHIPS LEAVING INDIA

A Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I) on April 13 stated:

Statements in the Press that troopships are sailing from Bombay for the U.K. without their full complement of passengers and that S.S. *Britannic* "is believed to be the sixth consecutive vessel to leave that port with a number of berths vacant" are unfounded.

Not only was every berth in S.S. *Britannic* occupied but 300 British officers travelled on troop decks.

Berths frequently fall vacant owing to last minute civilian cancellations, but when there are no civilians on the spot ready to take them up they have always hitherto been filled with Service personnel so that the accommodation has not been wasted.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated April 27, the Government of India have empowered the Hon'ble the Resident at Hyderabad to exercise within the Hyderabad Administered Areas certain powers under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945, which have been delegated to Provincial Governments. Similarly the Paper Controller appointed by the Resident for the Hyderabad Administered Areas has been empowered to exercise within those Areas the powers under the said Order which have been delegated to Paper Controllers appointed by Provincial Governments in different provinces.

GROWING DEMAND FOR AIR TRAVEL

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Civil Aviation, on April 20 stated:—

The Air Priorities Board, India, observe a growing demand from the public for the grant of priority travel for business and other private purposes on these air services. This is contrary to the principal which the Government of India wish to establish, namely, the restoration of normal travel system and the abolition of the priority system as soon as practicable.

The Air Priorities Board have reviewed the demands for air travel and have decided to release from priority control a greater proportion of the load capacity on some of the services. It must be pointed out that 50 per cent. of load capacity was released early this year. No priority demand will be recognised on these internal commercial air services except for the purposes of Government. All air bookings for business, private or other non-official transportation on these services must be made direct with the air transport companies against the space which is at their disposal for this purpose. All Air Priorities Boards in India have been instructed to refuse requests for air priority for air travel for other than Government purposes.

Control on External Services

The air travel capacity on services to and from India, both to the West and to the East, is severely restricted. There has, in fact, been a reduction of capacity available for air transport to and from India by reason of the extension of these air services to newly opened regions which produce additional traffic. In consequence, it is not possible to meet all the demands for allocation of priority for travel abroad and there is an accumulation of traffic in both directions from India in excess of the capacity available. Requests for air priority for the public can only be granted if they are justified on the strongest reasons for urgent business of importance. The grant of priority for civilian air travel is considered in the cases set out below but in present conditions, the extent to which the demand can be met in any class is severely limited:—

- (a) Persons proceeding on official duties and sponsored by Government.
- (b) Urgent medical cases supported by a certificate from the Provincial Medical Board, clearly stating that air passage is essential to save life or reason or serious and permanent impairment of health.

- (c) Extreme compassionate cases.
- (d) Businessmen and industrialists sponsored by the appropriate Government or Department of the Government of India.
- (e) Indian students and European children of school going age, only in cases where the object cannot be accomplished by a sea passage and subject to Government sponsorship.
- (f) Officials and non-officials proceeding to the U.K. under the civilian Key Leave Scheme.

Commercial Air Services

Early this year the Government of India announced the establishment of commercial air services on certain internal air routes by Tata Air Lines and Indian National Airways Limited. Intimation was given to the public that the Government of India would retain priority control over a proportion of the load capacity of these services necessary to meet essential transportation requirements for Government passengers and freight and for air mails and that the remaining capacity would be available to the public on a non-priority basis. Under this arrangement, 50 per cent. of the capacity of these services was released to the air transport companies for non-priority traffic.

Applications for air priority for civilians should be sent to The Civil Secretary, Air Priorities Board (India), 'H' Block, New Delhi.

COTTON PIECEGOODS EXPORTS TO CHINA

An agency report from Shanghai, published in a few papers some time ago, that "a large shipment of surplus cotton piecegoods will be made from India shortly to Shanghai" is incorrect. The piecegoods quota fixed for export to China for the first half year of 1946 is only 80 tons which is a very small percentage of India's total production of cotton piecegoods.

The entire question of Indo-Chinese trade relations for the future, with particular reference to the possibility of a substantial offtake of India's short-staple cotton by China, has been investigated by the Chettur Trade Delegation which was sent recently to that country by the Commerce Department. The Delegation will submit its report in due course and no decision will be taken thereon without due consideration of the paramount needs of this country.

TWO MILLION HOUSES FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Mr. S. Lall on Employment Problem

THE Central Government's scheme to build two million houses for industrial workers was referred to by Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Labour Department when he opened the Conference of Regional Directors of Resettlement and Employment in New Delhi on April 22.

Mr. Lall said that the houses would be built of standardised material and components which, if produced on a mass scale, would bring down the cost of construction of a single unit to about Rs. 1,300.

The scheme had a dual purpose: it would not only supply much-needed housing for labour but would also provide employment for a large number of persons, including ex-servicemen. Of special advantage was the fact that the scheme would be capable of adjustment to suit the varying needs of employment in the country. "We can speed up housing in one part and slow down elsewhere according to the requirements of particular zones."

Group Employment Schemes

It was his view that for the next few years the country's employment problem would depend largely on public works rather than on private industry which would take time to import capital goods necessary for industrial expansion.

Mr. Lall disclosed that the Central Government had recently agreed to subsidise group employment of 5,000 ex-servicemen in the Central Public Works Department and another 5,000 in the Railways. Group employment schemes had been worked successfully in Madras and were likely to become popular in other parts of the country in the course of time.

Referring to Employment Exchanges, Mr. Lall observed that on their success would depend the future of the employment policy of the country as a whole. He stressed the importance of statistics which should be collected by the Employment Exchange machinery so that it could prepare a manpower budget of the country. This would give a clear indication of the amount of manpower available and the type of employment that would have to be created to absorb all available manpower. The technical and vocational training schemes of the Resettlement Organisation had to be so designed as to suit the future needs of the country.

(Continued on page 640)

REVISED CEILING PRICES OF PAPER AND BOARDS

THE Government of India have, by a notification published in the "Gazette of India" dated April 16, 1946, issued a revised schedule of ceiling prices of different varieties of paper and boards. The new prices are lower by 5½ pies per lb. than the existing civil ceiling prices in the case of white printing paper. Proportionate reductions have been made in the prices of other varieties of papers and boards other than millboards and strawboards.

The other amendments made in the notification to the Paper Price Control Order 1945 have reduced the amount of discount payable by paper mills to their distributors from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent. of the civil ceiling prices. Similarly, the commission which a distributor can charge for the sale of paper to persons other than dealers in paper has been reduced from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent. over and above the controlled mill price. The dealers' margins of profit on wholesale and retail transactions have likewise been reduced from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent. and from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. respectively, above the civil ceiling prices.

The revised prices as well as the reductions in the rates of discount and in the margin of profit of all mill distributors and of dealers in wholesale and retail transactions will take effect from June 1, 1946. All paper whether manufactured before or after June 1, 1946 and whether or not labelled with old prices, will have to be sold at the revised prices from that date.

At an informal ceremony in Singapore, Maj.-Gen. L. H. Cox, Singapore District Commander, has recently opened a new cinema for Indian troops.

"Nishat", as the cinema is called, is a neat and comfortable Nissen hut constructed by men of the Royal Engineers. It is being run by the Combined Kinematography Services.

Built at a cost of about 24,000 Malayan dollars "Nishat" has a maximum capacity of 600 and is daily screening shows of the latest Indian films.

Since the beginning of this year more than 1,500,000 Indian troops of South East Asia Command have been provided with free cinema shows by the Combined Kinematography Services.

REMOBILISING FOR PEACE

Mr. S. F. Hasan on Resettlement of Demobilised Personnel

"THROUGH the Employment Exchange, get the right man for the right job expeditiously and advantageously", said Mr. S. F. Hasan, Regional Director, Resettlement and Employment, Punjab and N.W.F.P., in a broadcast talk on "Remobilising for Peace" from A.I.R., Lahore, on April 10.

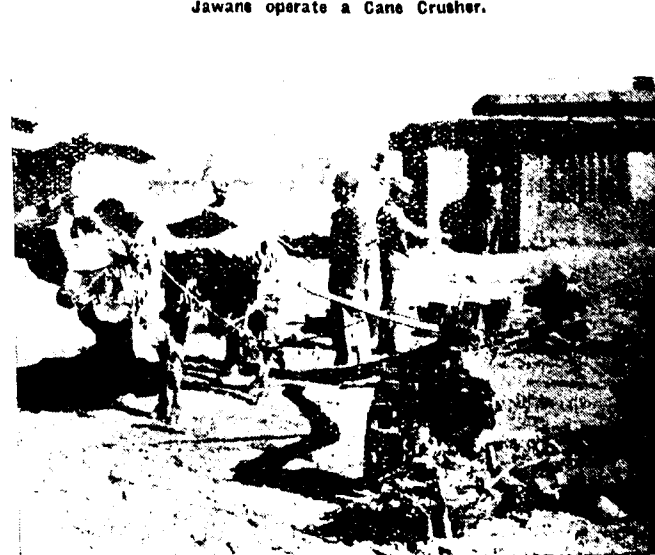
Mr. Hasan said that demobilisation had set in and that one of the biggest problems of the day was to stem the rising tide of unemployment due to the termination of the war. Both released Services personnel and discharged war workers were coming out in batches in the Punjab as elsewhere. To make use of their experience and skill and to employ them usefully was undoubtedly an economic necessity for the good of the country and a moral obligation towards those who risked their lives and kept India safe and secure from enemy attack.

The Punjab, according to the latest figures, contributed over 20,000 technicians trained under the wartime Technical Training Scheme of the Central Government's Labour Department, for the needs of the war—the greatest

Blacksmiths' class at the I.A.M.C. Centre Rawalpindi.



PRE-RELEASE TRAINING IN INDIAN ARMY:—
Soldiers cutting sugarcane grown at the Frontier Force Regimental Centre, Sialkot. (Below) Jawans operate a Cane Crusher.



Men groom calves on the military dairy farm of the Animal Transport Reinforcement Centre, Jullundur. (Below) Feeding the ducks and geese.



Employment Exchanges were in full swing at Amritsar, Jullundur, Ambala and Rawalpindi. Recently, Sub-regional Employment Exchanges at Multan, Sialkot and Jhelum had also been opened and managerial staff for the remaining Sub-regional Employment Exchanges at Dharamsala, Rohtak and Lyallpur had also been posted.

Another phase of remobilising for peace, as decided under the Resettlement and Employment Scheme of the Government of India, was the Post-War Technical Training Scheme in which trades selected were those for which there was keen and heavy demand and the syllabus of training was carefully selected to meet such demand. Training was thus being imparted in engineering and building trades such as blacksmiths, carpenters, electricians, engine drivers, turners and surveyors. The period of training varied from individual to individual and from trade to trade but on an average it would extend to twelve months.

In conclusion Mr. Hasan also referred to a separate scheme for Vocational Training in a wide range of trades and occupations such as commercial, clerical, professional, semi-professional, agriculture and allied occupations, cottage industries, domestic and social services. The scheme for rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled Services personnel was another phase of the reconstruction for peace.

At work on a hand-loom at the Royal Garhwal Rifles Resettlement Centre, Kotdwara.



contribution made by any province in India. Under the Bevin Training Scheme the Punjab had sent 13 batches of technicians for advanced practical training in the U.K. About 80 Punjabi Bevin Boys had returned, well trained, keen and active, with broadened outlook and with up-to-date knowledge of technique and machinery.

Resettlement

Mr. Hasan said: "Let us invite their co-operation and help. Let us avail ourselves of their experience and ability. Let us improve our industry and run our factories on up-to-date and modern lines to raise our own standard of life and industrialise India to the full."

Referring to the Resettlement Advice Service of the Department, which contacts demobilised Services personnel at Release Centres, Mr.

Hasan said that ex-Servicemen on their coming into civil life have their intelligence and aptitudes assessed beforehand for further training or employment under the Resettlement and Employment Scheme. They are given detailed information and advice regarding facilities for post-release technical and vocational training.

Mr. Hasan referred to the network of Employment Exchanges set up under this scheme in the Punjab and to the Punjab Government's schemes for post-war reconstruction in various Departments. He suggested that employers could save time and expense by sending in their requisitions to the nearest Employment Exchange and can be sure of getting suitable candidates for employment. In the Punjab the Regional Employment Exchange was already functioning in Lahore at 38, Abbot Road, and Sub-regional



INDIAN SAPPERS MAINTAIN MALAYAN RAILWAYS

At Ipoh in Malaya, the Bombay Sappers and Miners are once more maintaining communications, and helping to restore some order after the chaos of war. They had just finished five months' work on the railways in Siam, when the employees of the F.M.S.R. staged a strike. The Bombay Sappers and Miners took over, and are now engaged in reconditioning and maintaining the locomotives and rolling stock. (Above) Driver Ghulam Mohd. from Bannu, N.-W. Frontier, and Sapper Ram Singh from Sheikhpura District (Punjab) see a sign-post—they are a long way from home. (Right) Sappers at work on a large lathe.



RS. 3½ CRORES FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Government Sanction Additional Relief

THE grant of the present rate of dearness allowance with retrospective effect from July 1, 1944, to January 1, including, for the same period, an extra Rs. 3 per mensem to every employee getting dearness allowance of over 17½ per cent. of pay; liberalisation of leave rules, and the counting of 50 per cent. of dearness allowance as pay for computing gratuity and special contribution to provident fund, are the main items in the additional relief to be granted to railway employees.

Other decisions affecting railwaymen are the appointment of a Commission to consider post-war scales of pay of Government servants including railway employees, and the appointment of an Adjudicator to go into certain differences between the Railway Administrations and railway employees.

Railwaymen's Demands

Government have received from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation a number of communications during the last few months and several discussions have taken place between the members of the A.I.R.F. and the Railway Board. The demands put forward by the Federation have been connected with Pay and Allowances, Hours of Work and Leave, Retrenchment and Dearness Allowance.

The Railway Board have gone carefully into all these demands put forward by the Federation and have arrived at certain conclusions which have been communicated by a letter dated April 15, addressed to the General Secretary A.I.R.F.

The Federation has raised a number of points in regard to pay and allowances. The policy of the Railway Board has been, during the war, to compensate railway servants for the increase in the cost of living by way of relief in cash and in kind. The Railway Board firmly believe that this method meets the requirements of railway staff in an equitable fashion. Any large-scale interim revision of basic scales of pay is not possible for any examination of the pay structure cannot be confined to any one class of Government employees and a compartmental revision would result in chaotic conditions. Government are, therefore, appointing a Commission to examine the whole question of the pay structure of all Government servants including railway employees.

In order to facilitate and expedite the deliberations of the Commission the Board have

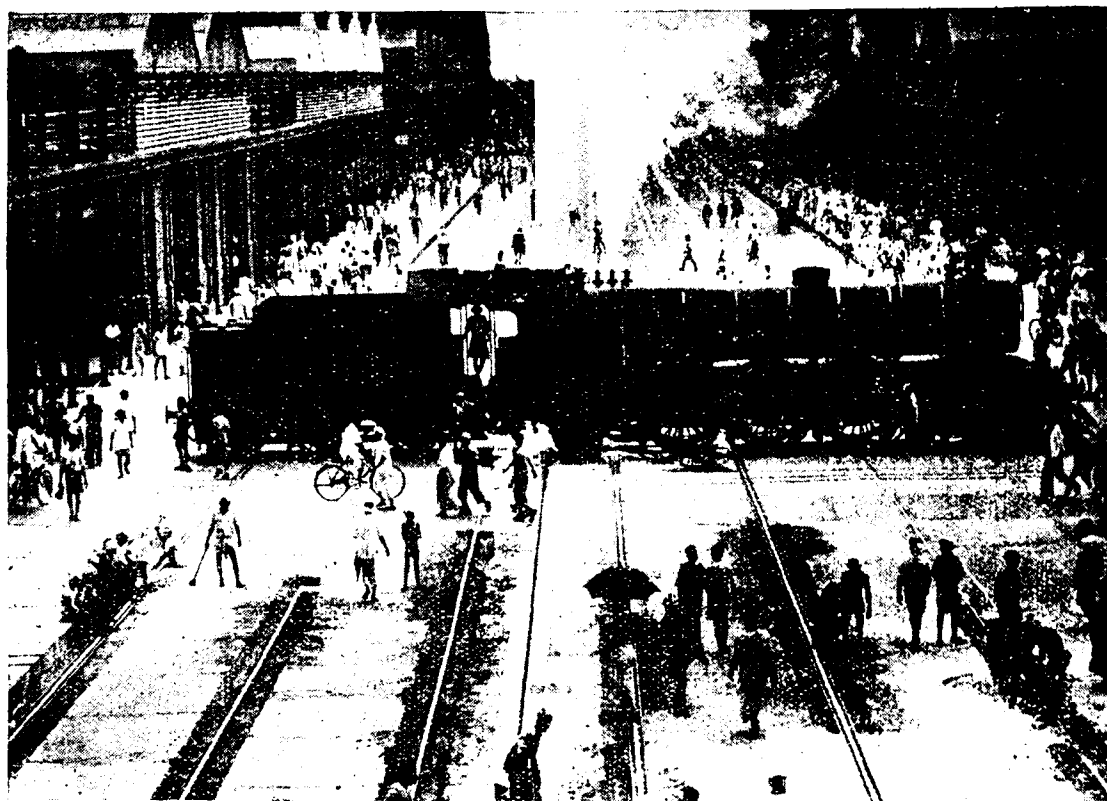
instructed the various railway administrations to go into this matter on certain lines, one of the objects being a greater degree of uniformity and simplicity. Though the present instructions are confined to the monthly rated staff, the post-war pay structure for daily rated staff and for running staff is also being actively considered by the Railway Board. Together with the question of post-war scales of pay, the question of local allowances as well as the method of calculating the total emoluments of running staff is being considered.

The Railway Board have taken steps to investigate the possibility of liberalising the Hours of Employment Regulations and instructions have been issued to Railway Administrations to take steps towards this end. The Board have also under consideration the question of leave reserves, a matter not unconnected with hours of work. Although the leave rules for daily rated staff and inferior servants have lately been liberalised, the Railway Board have accepted the expediency of adjudication in respect of matters concerning hours of employment, leave reserves and leave rules and an announcement on this subject will be made in the near future.

Retrenchment

On the subject of retrenchment the Railway Board have given repeated assurances to the Federation that every effort will be made to keep existing staff in employment, surplus staff being reabsorbed in other Railway employment where possible. Monthly statements giving figures relating to the surplus staff, discharges and reabsorption have been issued at regular intervals for the past four months, the present situation being that out of a total strength of between 850,000 and 900,000 employees, 34,000 men have been declared surplus since the end of the war of whom 19,000 have been absorbed and 15,000 discharged, many of the latter having been employed on work for other departments. Everything is being done to develop alternative employment for surplus staff by various *ad hoc* expedients apart from rehabilitation and new projects which will demand many new hands.

Early in the war Government announced the general policy of reserving a certain number of permanent vacancies for war service candidates. The Board have clearly pointed out to the Federation that Government are not prepared to repudiate the undertaking which was given at that time. They do not, however, believe that any appreciable number of railway servants appointed to the permanent post in a temporary capacity during the period June 1942 to December



Scene in an Indian railway workshop the siren has gone and the workers are hurrying to their nearby quarters for the midday meal.

1945 will have to be discharged as a consequence of the absorption of ex-servicemen.

As to temporary employees, while Government have made it quite clear that their policy is to maintain the level of employment on the Railways as far as possible, this level must ultimately depend on the volume of traffic, and in the case of such discharges as are inevitable, the Employment Exchanges set up by the Government will do everything possible to find the men alternative employment outside the railway industry.

Dearness Allowance

As regards dearness allowance, Government have the structure of dearness allowance constantly under review and if any alterations are necessary action will be taken accordingly. The Board, however, reiterate that no reduction in relief will be effected while prices remain at their present level. Apart from this, it has been decided that the dearness allowance as sanctioned with effect from January 1, 1945, shall now be allowed to have effect from July 1, 1944.

It is recognised, however, that relief in kind is a part of the total relief provided for railway

employees, so it has further been decided to sanction an additional grant of Rs. 3 a month for the period July 1, 1944, to January 1, 1945, to all those drawing dearness allowance at rates in excess of 17 1/2 per cent. of pay. The total cost of these concessions will be between three and three-and-a-half crores. Orders authorising the issue of lumpsum payments in this respect will issue shortly.

Lastly, it has been decided that 50 per cent. of dearness allowance will be allowed to count as pay for the purpose of those who, on retirement, may be entitled to special contribution to Provident Fund or to gratuity.

The total number of staff who have become surplus up to March 31, is 34,658. Of these 18,910 have been absorbed in other railway activities, while 15,748 have had to be discharged. The figures for the month of March which are included in the above mentioned figure are 4,483 surplus, of which 3,492 were absorbed and only 991 discharged.

NEW RAILWAY CONVENTION TO BE DRAWN UP

THE Railway Board have embarked on a detailed inquiry in connection with a revision of the Railway Separation Convention governing the division of railway surpluses between Railway Reserve and General Revenues, and the review of machinery for the financial control of railway expenditure, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on April 26.

It added: The necessity for an early consideration by Government of several very serious problems in connection with railway finance and their eventual examination by Committees of the Legislature was referred to by Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, in his budget speech this year. During the budget discussions several non-official members of the Assembly had also stressed the need for such an examination.

Revision of Convention

The revision of the Convention depends upon the quantum of surplus falling due for division between the Railway Reserves and General Revenues. Such a revision involves:—

- (a) an estimate of Railway Revenues and working expenses in the post-war years;
- (b) a re-examination of the annual contribution to the Depreciation Fund which in turn involves a comprehensive inquiry into the lives of assets, including their obsolescence, the effect of the level of prices on the Fund, etc., and
- (c) a review of the rules of allocation of expenditure between Capital, Revenue, Depreciation Fund and Betterment Fund with particular reference to the allocation of the replacement cost of an asset.

The review of the machinery for financial machinery for Financial Control involves:—

- (i) a revision of the Demands for Grants of the Railway Budget, as desired recently by the Public Accounts Committee;
- (ii) an examination of the schedule of powers of General Managers (the standing Finance Committee for Railways had asked for this examination in respect of works expenditure to be undertaken after the war), and

- (iii) a review of the machinery for financial scrutiny of, and control over, expenditure within the powers of General Managers of Railways.

The collection of the necessary data from Railway Administrations and other preliminary work was undertaken by the Railway Board sometime ago and a detailed examination of these intricate problems is already proceeding.

In view of the large programme for construction of railway lines in the post-war period the Railway Department is also taking this opportunity to review financial arrangements between the Centre and the Provinces for financing such development lines as may not prove remunerative. This involves an examination of the policy followed by Government since 1925.

In addition, the question of simplifying the procedure for inter-railway adjustments, is also engaging the attention of the Railway Board. Some simplification should be possible now that all main railway systems have come under Government management as well as Government ownership. This will necessitate, *inter alia*, the examination, in due course, of the procedure of accounting in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and the principles underlying such procedure.

ADJUDICATION IN RAILWAY DISPUTE

The trade dispute between the Railway Administrations and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation representing the Unions of Railway workers has been referred to Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha for adjudication, according to a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* issued on April 23.

The points for adjudication relate to the demands made by the workers in respect of the reduction of working hours, compulsory weekly rest for all staff including 'essentially intermittent' workers, the adequacy of leave reserves and the extension of leave facilities and holiday concessions to daily-rated and inferior service-men.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated April 27, the Central Government have replaced clause 18E of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1945, by a new clause under which manufacturers having 25 or more powerlooms and manufacturers having a spinning plant have been prohibited from undertaking or carrying out any ancillary process such as printing, dyeing, bleaching or calendering of any cloth and yarn not manufactured by them.

LITTLE RETRENCHMENT IN RAILWAY PERSONNEL

"TRAFFIC level is almost as high as during the war and I do not anticipate much drop this year. We have also on hand one of the largest construction programmes in the history of the railways, and this together with the rehabilitation schemes in progress, will create more work for the railways and will help in the reabsorption of railway staff rendered surplus by the cessation of wartime activity," said Sir Arthur Griffin, Chief Commissioner of Railways, in reply to a Press correspondent's question on railway retrenchment policy at a Press Conference held in New Delhi on April 18.

In reply to another question on the hours of work Sir Arthur Griffin explained that the Factory Act applied only to certain categories of railwaymen who in fact had not for years worked beyond the maxima recently laid down by the amended Factories Act i.e. it was the laggards who were being brought into line with the railways and other progressive employers.

Railway Pay Structure

Asked about alterations in the basic pay structure, he explained that the railway pay structure was complicated by various factors entering into a determination of pay scales. Different railways had different scales of pay for the same type of labour; while the type of work varied greatly; electrical, mechanical, transportation, civil engineering and others. He also revealed that in order to help the Pay Commission, an Officer of the Railway Board had been working on these problems for some time and about ten days ago the Member for Staff had a full dress discussion on the same subject with the Staff Officers of the various railways.

"As a matter of comparison," said Sir Arthur, "I might inform you that the United Kingdom book on Railway pay scales is a small pamphlet while each of the Indian Railways have a thick volume to set out their scales of pay. That will give you an idea of how complicated the pay structure is." He regretted that the Federation's advice which was sought in helping the Board to arrive at a satisfactory formula for the simplification of pay scales had not so far been obtained owing to this body's refusal to meet the Board and discuss the matter. The invitation of the Board was, however, still open.

Railway Wagon Construction

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways met on April 17, 1946 under the chairmanship of Mr. I. S. Puri, C.I.E., Financial Commissioner of Railways, and approved of the proposals to enter into contracts with firms in India for the building of 4,100 wagons and for the construction of a branch line and sidings at an estimated expenditure of 17.74 lakhs for the development of collieries on the Barkakhana loop and the entering into a contract with Messrs. Lindsay Parkinson for the removal of over-burden in Bokharo Railway collieries to enable certain reserves of coal being built up.

The Committee were also informed of the latest position of gross earnings and working expenses. The total approximate gross earnings of all Budget Lines from April 1, 1945 to March 31, 1946 amount to 219.91 crores which is 2.56 crores more than the actuals for the last year and 4.93 crores less than the revised Budget Estimate. The total approximate ordinary working expenses, including suspense but excluding appropriation to and from the depreciation reserve fund, of Budget Lines up to the end of January, 1946, were 97.54 crores, i.e., 15.54 crores more than for the corresponding period of last year and 25.12 crores less than the devised Budget proportion.

POONA TO BE BROUGHT 20 MILES NEAR BOMBAY

Traffic and engineering surveys are shortly to be carried out by the G.I.P. Railway Administration for a new 35 mile broad-gauge line between Kurla and Karjat. The original survey sanctioned was from Kurla to Palasdhari which has now been dropped in favour of the Kurla Karjat project.

Kurla and Karjat are both on the Bombay-Poona main line which takes a 52 mile detour via Kalyan. The new line, which will run through Panvel-Taluk will effect a saving of about 20 miles in distance.

By a notification in the Gazette of India the Government of India have withdrawn the Control of Imported Engineer Stores Order, 1943.

Importers and dealers will henceforward be free to dispose of Engineers Stores covered by the above order, without obtaining a release permit.



All-India Inter Unit Hockey Cup

The final of the All-India Inter Unit Hockey Cup was recently played between I.A.M.C., Rawalpindi, and O.T.S., Bangalore, at Delhi Cantonment. In a hard game, the I.A.M.C., Rawalpindi, beat the O.T.S., Bangalore, by 1-0. Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, A.O.C.-in-C. in India, presented the trophy. These pictures show (above) the two competing teams and (right) Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr presenting the trophy to Maj. G. T. Wallace, Captain of the winning team.



U. S. EXPERTS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD SERVICES

Engineers' Conference in New Delhi

THAT the United States of America have a three-billion dollar programme for building roads during the next four years was revealed by Major-General Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Agency Administrator, U.S.A., addressing the Central India Centre of the Institution of Engineers (India), in New Delhi.

The Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, introduced Maj.-Gen. Fleming, and Mr. Thomas H. MacDonald, Commissioner of Public Roads in the Federal Works Agency. Sir Edward Benthall said that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments had jointly undertaken the largest short-time road development programme ever attempted in India. To put that programme through with efficiency, they wished to obtain the best possible advice available in the world and had, therefore, approached the United States Government for help.

Conditions in India as regards the administrative problems of a federal constitution and the great distances involved were, in many respects, similar to those of the United States. The Government of India were, therefore, extremely grateful to the President of the United States for agreeing to the visit of Gen. Fleming and Mr. MacDonald and to those two gentlemen for coming to India to give the Government the benefit of their advice and experience. The distinguished visitors had only been in India for about three weeks and had been subject to a very strenuous tour and he hoped that they would give some of their impressions on the engineering and other problems involved.

Federal Works Agency

Maj. Gen. Fleming said: "I will confine myself to administrative questions and proceed to describe the Federal Works Agency which was created in 1939. This Agency is responsible for all the activities of the Federal Government in Public Works with the exception of reclamation and irrigation and of ports and harbours, but includes the administration of public buildings, of public roads, of public facilities and community services and also United States Housing Authority.

"The administration of public buildings is responsible not only for the design and con-

struction of buildings but also for their subsequent operation in every respect, and the constant contact with problems of maintenance and cleaning of buildings has a direct effect upon design in the matter of saving of time and labour in cleaning, the proper spacing of windows for lighting, and so forth.

"Work on public buildings was necessarily curtailed during the war owing to shortage of labour and materials, which necessitates a large programme now. As regards public roads, the various units of Government in the United States now obtained more money from road users by taxes on vehicles and fuel than they spent on the construction and maintenance of highways. As an essential feature of Federal aid for road construction, the sharing of expenditure between the Federal and State Governments has been found by experience to be very beneficial in many respects. Close co-operation, understanding and mutual confidence and the pooling of knowledge is essential between the units of the Federation and the Federal Administration, if the best results in road development are to be attained.

Conditions in U.S.A.

"It is important that plans should be ready for all forms of public works well in advance, so that they can be put into operation at any time, thus avoiding the waste which must inevitably follow if at times of unemployment and slump works are hastily improvised with the object, primarily, of providing employment and, secondarily, of doing any permanent good.

"My organisation has been actively pressing forward with the preparation of plans to an advanced stage for some years, so that now we have a reserve of works ready to be put in hand as soon as necessary."

Mr. MacDonald said that he had been particularly struck with the similarity in the matter of roads between the conditions which exist in India to-day and those which existed in the United States at the end of the last war. They were, he explained, a rapid development in the use of motor vehicles, fear of unemployment and slump, willingness of the Federal Government to supply part of the necessary money and other help for road construction and improvement, and an inadequate background for research.

In 1930, he continued, there were 26 million motor vehicles in the United States with an average petrol consumption per vehicle of 450 gallons per year. In the year 1940 the number of vehicles had increased to 32 million and the average petrol consumption had risen to 650 gallons per vehicle per year.

Mr. MacDonald added: "I feel that there will also be in India a very large expansion in the use of motor vehicles, although for passenger transport this will probably be to a far greater extent in public than in private vehicles. The road plan which has been drawn up is generally on the right lines, but the necessity of continuity cannot be overemphasised. For many reasons, it would be better to spread a programme over a longer period than to rush it through in a short period, building up hastily an organisation for which there would be insufficient work at the expiry of the short period."

Motor Vehicles in India

Referring again to the expected growth in the number of motor vehicles in India, he said that, in common with India and other countries, the United States had also a road-rail adjustment problem. As regards goods trucking, he believed that the interest of the community is best served by leaving the long-haul goods business to the railways and the short-haul to the roads. Actually, this was already the case in the United States where statistics showed that 85 per cent of all individual truck trips were within a 20-mile radius.

Replying to a question, Mr. MacDonald said: "Long-distance road trucking is at present regulated to some extent by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, which also regulates long distance railway transport, but, I think, in future the control of long-distance common carrier goods transport by road should be by a system of licensing. As regards competition between passenger buses and railways, co-ordination has largely been brought about by arrangement between the interests themselves and the railways have gone very largely into partial ownership with the bus concerns. Whatever may be the means of effecting adequate co-ordination of road-rail services, it does not lie in the direction of restricting the development of roads but in natural evolution aided by regulation to ensure that both means are used to the benefit of the economy of the country."

"Great importance," emphasised Mr. MacDonald, 'attaches to the research of all descriptions, both as to the engineering problems of road construction and study of traffic trends, in any large plan of road development."

He added: "I have seen some of the research work at present being done in India and have met a number of workers. Good work is being done but it needs, in my opinion, to be expanded in many directions."

Sir Edward Benthall said that it was gratifying to know that in the opinion of these eminent authorities road plans were generally on sound lines. As regards road-rail co-ordination, he had been extremely interested in what Mr. MacDonald had said and in the striking resemblance between what had been happening in the United States and what Government had been endeavouring to initiate in India which had, unfortunately, met with a setback which, he hoped, was only temporary.

OVERSEAS TRAINING FOR INDIAN ROAD ENGINEERS

Arrangements have been completed to send 24 serving Road Engineers for training to the United Kingdom and to the United States of America. These Engineers have been nominated by Provincial Governments for this purpose, and include three officers in the service of local bodies. They are to study modern theory and practice in road construction, research, organisation, machinery and other subjects connected with highways engineering.

This method of increasing technical knowledge and experience of Road Engineers already in service was originally recommended by the Conference of Chief Engineers held at Nagpur in December 1943. A previous attempt to organise a deputation had to be postponed because of the shortage of P.W.D. staff by the employment of a large number of Indian engineers on military works.

The deputation is to sail from India in the middle of April and will spend about two months in the United Kingdom. From there it will proceed to the U.S.A. There it will spend about three months before returning to this country. The authorities in both countries have agreed to receive the Deputation and afford all available facilities. In the light of experience gained on this occasion, Government, it is hoped, will be able to organise similar parties in future years.

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs on April 19 said:

Overseas Radio telephone service from India and Ceylon to Great Britain and Northern Ireland is available daily, including Sundays, from 13.00 hours 1ST to 21.45 1ST (07.30 GMT to 16.15 GMT).

V.C. MEMORIAL SCHOOL. CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

ESTABLISHED in 1945, the Hafiz Memorial School which is run entirely by the Jat Regimental Centre at Bareilly, celebrated its first birthday—and a year of notable achievement, recently. "India needs another hundred places like this," said the C-in-C., in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, when he visited the school last year.

Dedicated to the memory of the late Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, V.C., 3rd Jat Regiment, who died heroically on the Imphal Front in 1944, the school provides a free education to the sons of sepoy and N.C.O.s, either killed in action or missing, orphaned sons of sepoy and N.C.O.s, as well as those of pensioned and serving soldiers. Sons of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers are also accepted.

Instruction is provided up to the middle school standard. Older students with the necessary qualifications receive further education at Rookes High School, Bareilly.

The boys undergo a course of instruction as laid down by the U.P. Education Department. Their general education includes religious instruction, hygiene and physical training. The school boasts a flourishing Boy Scout troop and all pupils take a keen interest in outdoor games.

Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, V. C.



The School children at their lunch.



Miss Pradhan of the Indian Army Medical Corps, bandages a boy's hand while the nursing orderly, Abdullah Khan assists.

GEORGE MEDAL FOR PUNJABI JEMADAR

Jemadar Raghbir Singh, R.I.E., of Naraur village, Jullundur, Punjab, the fifth Indian soldier to win the George Medal, has been granted a monthly allowance of Rs. 55 for life.

Jemadar Raghbir Singh was in command of a cargo lighter at Guide Pier, Colombo, when an explosion occurred in the engine compartment. Flames leapt out, and trapped two of the lighter's crew.

He immediately rushed to their rescue and dragged them out. He then proceeded to fight the fire until help arrived from the shore. In spite of his efforts the two men died of their injuries.

"The Jemadar," says the citation, granting him the George Medal, "with complete disregard for personal danger displayed a devotion to duty of a high order."

C-IN-C. IN N.W.F.P.

The C-in-C. in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck arrived in Peshawar on April 23 by air from Delhi on a tour of the North-West Frontier.

At Landikotal he inspected men of the Khyber Rifles. Gen. Auchinleck showed particular interest in the resettlement training programme and in the unit's recreational facilities, writes an Army Observer.

Before returning to Peshawar, the C-in-C. also visited the 14th Punjab the 6th Baluch and 16/15 Punjab Regiments in the Shagai Hill fortress.

(Above) Young Cubs of the Hafiz Memorial School on parade.
(Below) The boys at their P. T.



CONCESSIONS TO I.M.S. AND I.A.M.C. OFFICERS

THE following concessions have been granted to the Licentiate Officers of the I.M.S. and I.A.M.C. solely on account of their war service by the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England:

For admission to the Diplomas of L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.:

An officer of the I.M.S. or of the I.A.M.C. who produces a personal recommendation from the Director of Medical Services to the effect that he is in every way a suitable candidate will, subject to the production of evidence of his medical qualifications, be admissible without any further certificates to Part I of the First L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. examination (Anatomy and Physiology). When he has passed Part I he will be required to complete 12 months' clinical work in a recognised general hospital either in this country or overseas, and to pass Part II of the First Examination (Pharmacology and Materia Medica) before admission to the Final Examination.

For admission to any of the post-graduate diplomas granted jointly by the two Royal Colleges:

An officer of the I.M.S. or of the I.A.M.C. who produces a personal recommendation from the Director of Medical Services to the effect that he is in every way a suitable candidate will, subject to the production of evidence of his medical qualifications and on complying with the requirements regarding appointments, courses, etc., laid down in the regulations for the several post-graduate diplomas, be admissible to the examinations.

MR. S. LALL ON EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

(Continued from Page 627)

In conclusion Mr. Lall said that Employment Exchanges should work in a uniform and co-ordinated manner and that the managers should show patience and tact in their relations with employers and employees.

The conference also discussed *inter alia* Technical and Vocational Training Schemes, rehabilitation of the disabled, training for W.A.C.(I) personnel, Resettlement Advice Service and overseas training.

TRAVELLING CONCESSIONS FOR SERVICEMEN

SPECIAL travelling concessions for members of India's Fighting Services are announced in instructions issued on April 13 by the Royal Indian Navy, the Army and the Royal Indian Air Force.

Chief Petty Officers of the R.I.N., and N.C.O.'s of the Army and all N.C.O.'s of the R.I.A.F. are now entitled to inter-class accommodation on all occasions when travelling by rail at public expense.

All Naval ratings and corresponding ranks of the Army and the R.I.A.F. as well as non-combatants enrolled, when proceeding on and returning from leave at Government expense will be granted free conveyance by road for the entire journey by Government transport if possible or by hired transport if a Government contract exists. Road warrants will be issued for the journey, otherwise a road allowance of one anna per mile will be admissible.

Journeys in Nepal

With effect from April 1, 1946, all R.I.N. ratings, except "Hostilities Only" ratings, will draw a ration allowance of As. 8 per day during all kinds of leave. During periods of rail or road travel they will draw ration allowance under normal rules.

Road allowance for journeys in Nepal will be calculated at the rate of As. 7½ per day or part of a day. For journeys by river or canal, men will be granted free conveyance on rail and river warrants for the entire journey.

GEN. DEMPSEY PRAISES "TIGER HEAD" DIVISION

On the eve of his departure from South East Asia to become C-in-C., Middle East Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Land Forces, has congratulated the 26th Indian ("Tiger Head") Division on its successful discharge of occupational duties in Sumatra.

The situation, said Gen. Dempsey, often called for firm action, patience, and discretion. The Division has been through a trying and difficult time. But the sense of security now existing in occupied parts and the comparative tranquillity in the country as a whole showed how well the Division has carried out its task.

Gen. Dempsey left Singapore by air on April 17 en route for the United Kingdom.

PROGRESSIVE RELAXATION OF EXPORT CONTROL

More Articles Added to Free List

IN accordance with their post-war policy of progressive relaxation of export control, which aims not only at rebuilding the old export trade but also at capitalising the present opportunities and developing old markets and cultivating new ones, the Government of India in the Commerce Department, by a notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated April 20, 1946, have freed from export control a number of important articles for which there is great demand in foreign markets and in which there is an exportable surplus.

This list includes cutlery of Indian manufacture; earthenware; glass and glassware, other than glass stoppered bottles and glass sheets; Indian liquors other than beer; buttons of all sorts; paints, varnishes, enamels, polishes and compositions not containing lead or zinc and of Indian manufacture; games requisites of Indian manufacture other than playing cards; stationery of Indian manufacture other than fountain pens; lead pencils and pins; surgical dressings and hydraulic brake fluid.

With a view further to stimulate export trade, a more liberal export policy will be followed in regard to asbestos, cement, printers' and lithographers' ink, artificial jewellery, cotton waste blankets and hair cloth. While higher quotas have been fixed for the first three articles mentioned above for 1946, free exports of hair cloth will be allowed. Free exports of cotton waste blankets will also be permitted, for a period of three months commencing from the date of the notification.

Progressive Decontrol

More than 100 commodities were removed from export control on November 3, 1945. They included such important articles in the export trade of India as natural indigo, a number of chemicals and chemical preparations, scientific instruments of indigenous origin, certain classes of containers when used as containers, pyridine, cashew nuts, certain gums and resins, kapok, lac, cigarettes and jewel cases made of wood, articles mainly or wholly made of mica, animal oils, many essential oils, perfumed spirits, soap-nuts and bilawan nuts, talc, cigars, cigarettes of indigenous manufacture and unmanufactured tobacco including flue-cured tobacco, toys and requisites for games and sports if not wholly and mainly of rubber, fibres for brushes and

brooms, hairs of all kinds, animal bladders, guts and casings, furs and skins, a number of metals and ores, raw cotton, Turkey red oil, essential oil-seeds, spices of all sorts excluding pepper and cinnamon and pickles, chutneys, condiments and curry powder.

Exports of grey and black wools were decontrolled from March 29, 1946. The 'established exporters' principle was abolished as regards exports of white and yellow wools. Any one is now allowed to export these wools to any permissible destination provided that for every 3 bales sought to be exported he offers to sell to the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India, 2 bales for use in India. Thus for every 3 bales exported, 2 bales will be available for consumption in India. The purchases by the Industries and Supplies Department are intended to ensure adequate supplies of raw wool to local wollen manufacturers.

Hides and Skins

With effect from April 1, 1946, exports of raw hides and skins are not subject to export control for a period of 2 months. Exports of all leather manufacturers, other than men's and women's footwear, and of all types of leather, vegetable or chrome tanned, have also been placed on the free list from that date for the same period. Exports of men's and women's footwear are being permitted up to the full level of exports during the year 1941-42 to all permissible destinations.

Coir and coir goods were decontrolled from November 17, 1945. As from April 6, 1946, a few more articles were decontrolled, the most important of them being woollen carpets and floor rugs, enamel-ware, indigenous bicycles and parts thereof and indigenous razors and razor blades.

The export policy has been under the constant review of the Commerce Department from the time of the cessation of hostilities in August 1945. As a result of this review, more and more articles are being added to the free list from time to time, the main criterion for inclusion in this list being the availability of export surplus after meeting the essential needs of the country. It is the object of the Department so to regulate exports that India may be enabled, consistent with her own requirements, to take the fullest advantage of the export possibilities now available to her, particularly in respect of manufactured goods and in her natural export markets like the Middle East, East African territories, Ceylon, Burma, South Asiatic countries, etc.

INDIA PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF CONSUMER GOODS TO IRAN

WHILE India occupied the fifth place before the war in the "commercial" imports and exports of Persia, she has emerged during the war as the principal supplier of consumer goods to Iran, states Major Hassan, Government of India Trade Commissioner in Iran, in his report analysing the prospects for developing Indo-Iranian trade.

It will be years before Germany and Japan can stage a come-back in the Persian market. "The need at the moment," the report states, "is to seize the present opportunity and to fill with Indian goods the vacuum caused by the disappearance of the pre-war German dominance of the Persian market. We will be helped in our efforts by those incalculable advantages that have come down to us from the ages. Geographical proximity and cultural affinities are great assets in our possession. Let us use them to the mutual benefit of India and Iran."

Persia offers, according to the report, a good market for large quantities of both consumer and capital goods, especially in the initial transition period. The U.S.A. and the U.K. will supply most of the capital goods needed, but India can supply most of the consumer goods. "It is difficult to imagine a cut throat competition between India and the U. K. or between India and the U.S.A.," says the report, which adds: "Their lines and specialities are so different. India's speciality is the provision of cheap consumer goods for a poor market. Besides tea, sugar, cotton piecegoods, spices, jute and jute manufactures are the commodities which the people of Iran will always import from India in considerable quantities."

Suggestions

With a view to improving Indo-Iranian trade, Major Hassan suggests that India should particularly concentrate on developing the following lines of her export trade:

Cotton piecegoods, furnishing fabrics, cotton hosiery, woollen and silk hosiery, cement, paints and varnishes, jute and jute manufactures, leather manufactures, chemical and pharmaceutical products, toilet requisites, cutlery, brushware, paper and stationery, tea, sugar, aluminiumware, rubber goods, leather goods and shoes, agricultural tools and machinery, surgical instruments and hospital equipment, building material and fittings, hardware, structural timber, fancy articles made of wood, metal and enamel, iron beds, children cots and perambulators, sports goods, combs, umbrellas, hurricane lanterns, etc.

"CEYLON IS OUR NATURAL MARKET"

"CEYLON is our natural market and there are great potentialities for increasing the trade further," observed Mr. R.K. Tandon, India Governments Trade Commissioner-Designate to Ceylon, in his address to the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, on April 17. Mr. Tandon was on a short visit to Bombay for establishing contacts with the business community on Indo-Ceylon trade matters before taking up his post at Colombo.

"There is already considerable trade with Ceylon and our export trade figures have gone up from about Rs. five crores in 1938 to about Rs. 19 crores in 1944-45," he stated. "India is the biggest exporter of goods to Ceylon and in 1944 she met 40 per cent. of the island's requirements."

Mr. Tandon referred to the need of popularising Indian products in Ceylon and suggested that businessmen in India might send specimens of representative commodities for popularising Indian products among potential buyers. He also referred to the idea of industrial exhibition and a periodic bulletin on market trends and requirements in Ceylon.

Earlier, Mr. Mahomed Hussain Hasham Premji, President of the Chamber, said that it was a matter for satisfaction that the Government of India were expanding their Foreign Commercial Intelligence Service and appointing Indian Trade Commissioners in all countries with which India had important trade connections.

MATCH BOX PRICE REDUCED

During the discussions on the Finance Bill in the Central Assembly, the Hon'ble the Finance Member promised to make such a reduction in the match excise as to enable a satisfactory box of matches to be put on the market at the price of half an anna (two pice). The present retail price is three pice.

The Central Board of Revenue has consulted representatives of the match industry as to the means of giving effect to this undertaking and it has been agreed that in order to allow the industry and the trade sufficient time to make the necessary adjustments to meet the change, the reduction in price will take effect from August 1, 1946.

INDIAN INFORMATION MAY 15, 1946



INDIAN TROOPS IN MALAYA

PATROLLING ON THE PERAK.—Owing to the disorder which follows war, smuggling, particularly of arms and opium is still widespread in Malaya. One of the most successful means found to combat this is river patrolling. These patrols work with power launches up and down the River Perak, searching river craft, and riverside villages, and sending men to key cross-roads on shore to search civilian traffic and suspects. These pictures show (above) men of the 7th Indian A Tank Regiment landing up the river (below left) Gunner Mangha Khan on duty at a cross-road and (right) searching a Malayan suspect.



INDIAN HOLIDAY CAMP AT PENANG



The Indian Holiday Camp at Penang was recently visited by General Sir Frank Messervy, G.O.C.-in-C. Malaya Command. This camp which is beautifully situated overlooking the sea, is run by the W.V.S. for I.O.Rs. on leave. There are many amenities at the camp including among other things, assault boats lent by the R.Es for the enjoyment of the troops. The W.V.S. run many parties and competitions and the whole camp provides a perfect place for the relaxation of Indian troops on leave.

(Left) Jem. Lal Khan, a member of the camp staff, talking to troops on leave. (Below) A wheelbarrow race.



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A view of the conference room in the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, where the British Cabinet Ministers and H. E. the Viceroy had talks with the representatives of the Muslim League and the Congress Parties.



Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, addressing Pressmen, who had gathered at the Council House, New Delhi, on May 16, to receive the British Cabinet Mission's statement on India's future Constitution.

BRITISH CABINET MISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR INDIA

HERE is the statement issued by the British Cabinet Delegation and H.E. the Viceroy from New Delhi on May 16:

It will be for us to help to make the transition as smooth and easy as possible."

1. On March 15 last, just before the despatch of the Cabinet Delegation to India Mr. Attlee, the British Prime Minister, used these words:—

"My colleagues are going to India with the intention of using their utmost endeavours to help her to attain her freedom as speedily and fully as possible. What form of Government is to replace the present regime is for India to decide; but our desire is to help her to set up forthwith the machinery for making that decision.

"I hope that India and her people may elect to remain within the British Commonwealth. I am certain that they will find great advantages in doing so.

"But if she does so elect, it must be by her own free will. The British Commonwealth and Empire is not bound together by chains of external compulsion. It is a free association of free peoples. If, on the other hand, she elects for independence, in our view she has a right to do so.

2. Charged in these historic words we—the Cabinet Ministers and the Viceroy—have done our utmost to assist the two main political parties to reach agreement upon the fundamental issue of the unity or division of India. After prolonged discussions in New Delhi we succeeded in bringing the Congress and the Muslim League together in Conference at Simla. There was a full exchange of views and both parties were prepared to make considerable concessions in order to try and reach a settlement but it ultimately proved impossible to close the remainder of the gap between the parties and so no agreement could be concluded. Since no agreement has been reached we feel that it is our duty to put forward what we consider are the best arrangements possible to ensure a speedy setting up of the new constitution. This statement is made with the full approval of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

3. We have accordingly decided that immediate arrangements should be made whereby Indians

Vol. 18, No. 18 . INDIAN INFORMATION June 1, 1946.

MAIN CONTENTS

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

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

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

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

	Page
British Cabinet Delegation's Proposals:	
a. Lord Pethick-Lawrence's Broadcast	654
b. Sir Stafford Cripps' Statement at Press Conference	656
c. H. E. the Viceroy's Radio Talk	659
d. H. E. Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck's Broadcast	661
e. Tripartite Conference Correspondence	663
Mr. Herbert Hoover on World Food Situation	677
Rege Committee Reports:	
a. Paper Mill Industry	683
b. Manganese Mining	686
c. Rice Mills	688

COVER PICTURE: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru photographed with Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Muslim League President, when they met at the latter's residence in Simla on May 11.

may decide the future constitution of India and an Interim Government may be set up at once to carry on the administration of British India until such time as a new Constitution can be brought into being. We have endeavoured to be just to the smaller as well as to the larger section of the people; and to recommend a solution which will lead to a practicable way of governing the India of the future, and will give a sound basis for defence and a good opportunity for progress in the social, political and economic field.

4. It is not intended in this statement to review the voluminous evidence that has been submitted to the Mission; but it is right that we should state that it has shown an almost universal desire outside the supporter of the Muslim League for the unity of India.

The Pakistan Question

5. This consideration did not, however, deter us from examining closely and impartially the possibility of a partition of India; since we were greatly impressed by the very genuine and acute anxiety of the Muslims lest they should find themselves subjected to a perpetual Hindu-majority rule.

This feeling has become so strong and widespread amongst the Muslims that it cannot be allayed by mere paper safeguards. If there is to be internal peace in India it must be secured by measures which will assure to the Muslims a control in all matters vital to their culture, religion, and economic or other interests.

6. We therefore examined in the first instance the question of a separate and fully independent sovereign State of Pakistan as claimed by the Muslim League. Such a Pakistan would comprise two areas; one in the north-west consisting of the Provinces of the Punjab, Sind, North-West Frontier, and British Baluchistan; the other is the north-east consisting of the Provinces of Bengal and Assam. The League were prepared to consider adjustment of boundaries at a later stage, but insisted that the principle of Pakistan should first be acknowledged. The argument for a separate State of Pakistan was based, first, upon the right of the Muslim majority to decide their method of Government according to their wishes, and secondly upon the necessity to include substantial areas in which Muslim are in a minority, in order to make Pakistan administratively and economically workable.

The size of the non-Muslim minorities in a Pakistan comprising the whole of the six Provinces enumerated above would be very considerable as the following figures show*

	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.
<i>North-Western Area—</i>		
Punjab	16,217,242	12,201,577
North-West Frontier Province	2,788,797	249,270
Sind	3,208,325	1,326,683
Br. Baluchistan	438,930	62,701
Total	22,653,294	13,840,231
	62.07%	37.93%
<i>North-Eastern Area—</i>		
Bengal	33,005,434	27,301,091
Assam	3,442,479	6,762,254
Total	36,447,913	34,063,345
	51.69%	48.31%

*All population figures in this statement are from the most recent census taken in 1941.

The Muslim minorities in the remainder of British India number some 20 million dispersed amongst a total population of 188 million.

These figures show that the setting up of a separate sovereign State of Pakistan on the lines claimed by the Muslim League, would not solve the communal minority problem; nor can we see any justification for including within a sovereign Pakistan those districts of the Punjab and of Bengal and Assam in which the population is predominantly non-Muslim. Every argument that can be used in favour of Pakistan, can equally in our view be used in favour of the exclusion of non-Muslim areas from Pakistan. This point would particularly affect the position of the Sikhs.

Weighty Considerations

7. We therefore considered whether a smaller sovereign Pakistan confined to the Muslim majority areas alone might be a possible basis of compromise. Such a Pakistan is regarded by the Muslim League as quite impracticable because it would entail the exclusion from Pakistan of (a) the whole of the Ambala and Jullundur Divisions in the Punjab; (b) the whole of Assam except the district of Sylhet; and (c) a large part of Western Bengal, including Calcutta, in which city the Muslims form 23.6% of the population. We ourselves are also convinced that any solution which involves a radical partition of the Punjab and Bengal, as this would do, would be contrary to the wishes and interests of a very large proportion of the inhabitants of these Provinces. Bengal and the Punjab each has its own common language and a long history and tradition. Moreover, any division of the Punjab would of necessity divide the Sikhs leaving substantial bodies of Sikhs on both sides of the boundary. We have therefore



Mr. Gandhi photographed with the Secretary of State for India whom he met on May 16, a few hours before the release of the Cabinet Mission's statement.

been forced to the conclusion that neither a large nor a smaller sovereign State of Pakistan would provide an acceptable solution for the communal problem.

8. Apart from the great force of the foregoing arguments there are weighty administrative, economic and military considerations. The whole of the transportation and postal and telegraph systems of India have been established on the basis of a united India. To disintegrate them would gravely injure both parts of India. The case for a united defence is even stronger. The Indian armed forces have been built up as a whole for the defence of India as a whole, and to break them in two would inflict a deadly blow on the long traditions and high degree of efficiency of the Indian Army and would entail the gravest dangers. The Indian Navy and Indian Air Force would become much less effective. The two sections of the suggested Pakistan contain the two most vulnerable frontiers in India and for a successful defence in depth the area of Pakistan would be insufficient.

9. A further consideration of importance is the greater difficulty which the Indian States would find in associating themselves with a divided British India.

10. Finally there is the geographical fact that the two halves of the proposed Pakistan State are separated by some seven hundred miles and the communications between them both in war and peace would be dependent on the goodwill of Hindustan.

11. We are therefore unable to advise the British Government that the power which at present resides in British hands should be handed over to two entirely separate sovereign States.

Central Subjects

12. This decision does not however blind us to the very real Muslim apprehensions that their culture and political and social life might become submerged in a purely unitary India, in which the Hindus with their greatly superior members must be a dominating element. To meet this the Congress have put forward a scheme under which Provinces would have full autonomy subject only to a minimum of Central subjects, such as Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communications.

Under this scheme. Provinces, if they wished to take part in economic and administrative planning on a large scale could cede to the Centre optional subjects in addition to the compulsory ones mentioned above.



The British Cabinet Ministers with Mr. M. A. Jinnah (second from left) and his three colleagues (extreme right) who took part in the Simla Conference.

13. Such a scheme would, in our view, present considerable constitutional disadvantages and anomalies. It would be very difficult to work a Central Executive and Legislature in which some Ministers, who dealt with Compulsory subjects, were responsible to the whole of India while other Ministers, who dealt with Optional subjects, would be responsible only to those Provinces which had elected to act together in respect of such subjects. This difficulty would be accentuated in the Central Legislature, where it would be necessary to exclude certain members from speaking and voting when subjects with which their Provinces were not concerned were under discussion.

Indian States and British India

Apart from the difficulty of working such a scheme, we do not consider that it would be fair to deny to other Provinces, which did not desire to take the optional subjects at the Centre, the right to form themselves into a group for a similar purpose. This would indeed be no more

than the exercise of their autonomous powers in a particular way.

14. Before putting forward our recommendation we turn to deal with the relationship of the Indian States to British India. It is quite clear that with the attainment of independence by British India, whether inside or outside the British Commonwealth, the relationship which has hitherto existed between the Rulers of the States and the British Crown will no longer be possible. Paramountcy can neither be retained by the British Crown nor transferred to the new Government. This fact has been fully recognised by those whom we interviewed from the States. They have at the same time assured us that the States are ready and willing to co-operate in the new development of India. The precise form which their co-operation will take must be a matter for negotiation during the building up of the new constitutional structure, and it by no means follows that it will be identical for all the States. We have not therefore dealt with the States in the same

detail as the Provinces of British India in the paragraphs which follow.

15. We now indicate the nature of a solution which in our view would be just to the essential claims of all parties, and would at the same time be most likely to bring about a stable and practicable form of constitution for All-India.

Mission's Recommendation

We recommend that the constitution should take the following basic form:—

- (1) There should be a Union of India, embracing both British India and the States, which should deal with the following subjects: Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Communications; and should have the powers necessary to raise the finance required for the above subjects.
- (2) The Union should have an Executive and a Legislature constituted from British Indian and States representatives. Any question raising a major communal issue in the Legislature should require for its decision a majority of the representatives present and voting of each of the two major communities as well as a majority of all the members present and voting.
- (3) All subjects other than the Union subjects and all residuary powers should vest in the Provinces.
- (4) The States will retain all subjects and powers other than those ceded to the Union.
- (5) Provinces should be free to form Groups with executives and legislatures, and each Group could determine the Provincial subjects to be taken in common.
- (6) The constitutions of the Union and of the Groups, should contain a provision whereby any Province could, by a majority vote of its Legislative Assembly, call for a reconsideration of the terms of the constitution after an initial period of 10 years and at 10 yearly intervals thereafter.

16. It is not our object to lay out the details of a constitution on the above lines, but to set in motion the machinery whereby a constitution can be settled by Indians for Indians.

It has been necessary however for us to make this recommendation as to the broad basis of the future constitution because it became clear to us

in the course of our negotiations that not until that had been done was there any hope of getting the two major communities to join in the setting up of the constitution-making machinery.

17. We now indicate the constitution-making machinery which we propose should be brought into being forthwith in order to enable a new constitution to be worked out.

18. In forming any Assembly to decide a new Constitutional structure, the first problem is to obtain as broad-based and accurate representation of the whole population as is possible. The most satisfactory method obviously would be by election based on adult franchise; but any attempt to introduce such a step now would lead to a wholly unacceptable delay in the formulation of the new Constitution. The only practicable alternative is to utilize the recently elected Provincial Legislative Assemblies as the electing bodies.

Three Main Communities

There are, however, two factors in their composition which makes this difficult. First, the numerical strengths of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies do not bear the same proportion to the total population in each Province. Thus, Assam with a population of 10 millions has a Legislative Assembly of 108 members, while Bengal, with a population six times as large, has an Assembly of only 250. Secondly, owing to the weightage given to minorities by the Communal Award, the strengths of the several communities in each Provincial Legislative Assemblies are not in proportion to their numbers in the Province. Thus the number of seats reserved for Muslims in the Bengal Legislative Assemblies is only 48% of the total, although they form 55% of the Provincial population. After a most careful consideration of the various methods by which these inequalities might be corrected, we have come to the conclusion that the fairest and most practicable plan would be—

(a) to allot to each Province a total number of seats proportional to its population, roughly in the ratio of one to a million, as the nearest substitute for representation by adult suffrage.

(b) to divide this Provincial allocation of seats between the main communities in each Province in proportion to their population.

(c) to provide that the representatives allotted to each community in a Province shall be elected by the members of that community in its Legislative Assembly.

We think that for these purposes it is sufficient to recognise only three main communities

in India: General, Muslim, and Sikh, the "General" community including all persons who are not Muslims or Sikhs. As the smaller minorities would, upon the population basis have little or no representation since they would lose the weightage which assures them seats in the Provincial Legislatures, we have made the arrangements set out in paragraph 20 below to give them a full representation upon all matters of special interest to the minorities.

19. (i) We therefore propose that there shall be elected by each Provincial Legislative Assembly the following numbers of representatives, each part of the Legislature (General, Muslim or Sikh) electing its own representatives by the method of proportional representation with the single transferable vote:—

Table of Representation.

SECTION A.				
Province.	General.	Muslim.		Total.
Madras ..	45	4		49
Bombay ..	19	2		21
United Provinces ..	47	8		55
Bihar ..	31	5		36
Central Provinces ..	16	1		17
Orissa ..	9	0		9
Total	167	20		187

SECTION B.				
Province.	General.	Muslim.	Sikh.	Total.
Punjab ..	8	16	4	28
North-West Frontier Province ..	0	3	0	3
Sind ..	1	3	0	4
Total	9	22	4	35

SECTION C.			
Province.	General.	Muslim.	Total.
Bengal ..	27	33	60
Assam ..	7	3	10
Total	34	36	70

Total for British India	..	292
Maximum for Indian States	..	93
Total	..	385

NOTE—In order to represent the Chief Commissioners' Provinces there will be added to Section A the Member representing Delhi in the Central Legislative Assembly, the Member representing Ajmer-Merwara in the Central Legislative Assembly, and a representative to be elected by the Coorg Legislative Council.

To Section B will be added a representative of British Baluchistan.

(ii) It is the intention that the States should be given in the final Constituent Assembly appropriate representation which would not, on the basis of the calculations adopted for British India, exceed 93, but the method of selection will have to be determined by consultation. The States would in the preliminary stage be represented by a Negotiating Committee.

(iii) The representatives thus chosen shall meet at New Delhi as soon as possible.

(iv) A preliminary meeting will be held at which the general order of business will be decided, a Chairman and other officers elected, and an Advisory Committee (see paragraph 20 below) on the rights of citizens, minorities, and tribal and excluded areas set up. Thereafter the Provincial representatives will divide up into the three sections shown under A, B, and C, in the Table of Representation in sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph.

(v) These sections shall proceed to settle the Provincial Constitutions for the Provinces included in each section, and shall also decide whether any Group Constitution shall be set up for those Provinces and, if so, with what provincial subjects the Group should deal. Provinces shall have the power to opt out of the Groups in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (viii) below.

Protection of Minorities

(vi) The representatives of the Sections and the Indian States shall reassemble for the purpose of settling the Union Constitution.

(vii) In the Union Constituent Assembly resolutions varying the provisions of paragraph 15 above or raising any major communal issue shall require a majority of the representatives present and voting of each of the two major communities.

The Chairman of the Assembly shall decide which (if any) of the resolutions, raise major communal issues and shall, if so requested by a majority of the representatives of either of the major communities, consult the Federal Court before giving his decision.

(viii) As soon as the new constitutional arrangements have come into operation, it shall be open to any Province to elect to come out of any group in which it has been placed. Such a decision shall be taken by the new legislature of the Province after the first general election under the new constitution.

20. The Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorities, and tribal and excluded areas should contain full representation of the interests affected, and their function will be to report to the Union Constituent Assembly upon the list of Fundamental Rights, the clauses for the protection of minorities, and a scheme for the administration



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Congress President (above) with Lord Pethick-Lawrence and (below) with Mr. A. V. Alexander, Sir Stafford Cripps and the Secretary of State for India. These photographs were taken shortly before the Tripartite Conference opened in Simla on May 5.

of the tribal and excluded areas, and to advise whether these rights should be incorporated in the Provincial Group, or Union Constitution.

21. His Excellency the Viceroy will forthwith request the Provincial Legislatures to proceed with the election of their representatives and the States to set up a Negotiating Committee. It is hoped that the process of constitution-making can proceed as rapidly as the complexities of the task permit so that the interim period may be as short as possible.

22. It will be necessary to negotiate a Treaty between the Union Constituent Assembly and the United Kingdom to provide for certain matters arising out of the transfer of power.

23. While the constitution-making proceeds, the administration of India has to be carried on. We attach the greatest importance therefore to



the setting up at once of an Interim Government having the support of the major political parties. It is essential during the interim period that there should be the maximum of co-operation in carrying through the difficult task that face the Government of India. Besides the heavy task of day-to-day administration, there is the grave danger of famine to be countered; there are decisions to be taken in many matters of post-war development which will have a far-reaching effect on India's future; and there are important international conferences in which India has to be represented. For all these purposes a Government having popular support is necessary.

The Viceroy has already started discussions to this end, and hopes soon to form an Interim Government in which all the portfolios, including that of War Member, will be held by Indian leaders having the full confidence of the people. The British Government recognising the significance of the changes in the Government of India, will give the fullest measure of co-operation to the Government so formed in the accomplishment of its tasks of administration and in bringing about as rapid and smooth a transition as possible.

Mutual Accommodation

24. To the leaders and people of India who now have the opportunity of complete independence we would finally say this. We and our Government and countrymen hoped that it would be possible for the Indian people themselves to agree upon the method of framing the new constitution under which they will live. Despite the labours which we have shared with the Indian Parties and the exercise of much patience and goodwill by all, this has not been possible. We therefore now lay before you proposals which, after listening to all sides and after much earnest thought, we trust will enable you to attain your independence in the shortest time and with the least danger of internal disturbance and conflict. These proposals may not, of course, completely satisfy all parties, but you will recognise with us that at this supreme moment in Indian history statesmanship demands mutual accommodation.

(Top) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who took part in the Simla talks as a Congress Delegate, photographed with Mr. A. V. Alexander. (Right) Lord Pethick-Lawrence receives Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan when he arrived at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, to participate in the Conference.



The Members of the Executive Council including His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, have placed their respective portfolios at the disposal of His Majesty the King and of His Excellency the Viceroy in order to facilitate the arrangements which the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy are seeking to make, said a Communique issued from the office of the Principal Information Officer, British Cabinet Delegation, on May 9.

We ask you to consider the alternative to acceptance of these proposals. After all the efforts which we and the Indian Parties have made together for agreement, we must state that in our view there is small hope of peaceful settlement by agreement of the Indian Parties alone. The alternative would therefore be a grave danger of violence, chaos, and even civil war. The result and duration of such a disturbance cannot be foreseen but it is certain that it would be a terrible disaster for many millions of men, women and children. This is a possibility which must be regarded with equal abhorrence by the Indian people, our own countrymen, and the world as a whole.

An Appeal

We therefore lay these proposals before you in the profound hope that they will be accepted and operated by you in the spirit of accommodation and goodwill in which they are offered. We appeal to all who have the future good of India at heart to extend their vision beyond their own community or interest to the interests of the whole 400 millions of the Indian people.

We hope that the new independent India may choose to be a member of the British Commonwealth. We hope in any event that you will remain in close and friendly association with our people. But these are matters for your own free choice. Whatever that choice may be we look forward with you to your ever-increasing prosperity among the great nations of the world, and to a future even more glorious than your past.

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on May 21 stated:

Air mail articles for Australia, Fiji Islands, Friendly or Tonga Islands, and New Hebrides should now be superscribed "India-Australia" and not "India-Ceylon-Australia". Such articles for New Zealand should continue to be superscribed "India-Australia-New Zealand."

NO AGREED PLAN

A statement issued from the office of the Principal Information Officer, British Cabinet Delegation, on May 12 stated:

The British Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy while greatly regretting that the discussions in Simla have not led to any agreed plan between the leaders of the Congress and the Muslim League for proceeding with the working out of the new Indian Constitution, wish to make it clear that this does not in any way bring to an end the mission with which they were charged by His Majesty's Government and the British people. The Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy will be proceeding to Delhi on Tuesday (May 14) and it is their intention to issue a statement in the course of a few days expressing their views as to the next steps to be taken.

"NO BLAME CAN BE PLACED ON EITHER PARTY"

A Communique issued from the office of the Principal Information Officer, British Cabinet Delegation, on May 12 stated:

After considering the views put forward by the two parties, the Conference has come to the conclusion that no use would be served by further discussions and that, therefore, the conference should be brought to a conclusion. The Cabinet Mission desire to emphasise the fact that no blame can be placed on either party for the breakdown of the conference as both sides did their utmost to come to a settlement. It is proposed in the course of a few days to publish the correspondence that has passed between the parties during the conference.

Intimation has been received from His Majesty's Government that the concession of free passages to the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, granted to British civilian evacuees from Burma, the Far Eastern countries and the Balkan States, is available up to September 30, 1946.

Except in very special circumstances, such as illness or non-availability of shipping, the concession will not be extended beyond this date. Each case presenting special circumstances will, however, be considered sympathetically.



Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, broadcasting from A.I.R., Delhi, on May 16, after the British Cabinet Mission's statement was released.

"THE words which I shall speak to you are concerned with the future of a great people—the people of India. There is a passionate desire in the hearts of Indians expressed by the leaders of all their political parties, for independence. His Majesty's Government and the British people as a whole, are fully ready to accord this independence, whether within or without the British Commonwealth, and hope that out of it will spring a lasting and friendly association between our two peoples on a footing of complete equality," said the Secretary of State for India, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, broadcasting from A. I. R. Delhi, on May 16.

Lord Pethick-Lawrence continued:

"Nearly two months ago, I, as Secretary of State for India, and my two Cabinet colleagues, Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. A. V. Alexander, were sent out by His Majesty's Government to India to assist the Viceroy in setting up in India the machinery by which Indians can devise their own constitution.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S BROADCAST

"We were at once confronted with a major obstacle. The two principal parties, the Muslim League, who won the great majority of the Muslim seats in the recent elections, and the Congress, who won the majority of all the others, were opposed to one another as to the kind of machinery to be set up. The Muslim League claimed that British India should be divided into two completely separate sovereign States and refused to take part in constitution-making unless this claim was conceded in advance. The Congress insisted on one single united India.

"During our stay in India we have tried by every means to secure such an accommodation between the parties as would enable constitution-making to proceed. Recently we were able to bring them together at Simla in a conference with ourselves, but though both sides were prepared to make substantial concessions, it was not found possible to reach complete agreement. We have, therefore, been compelled ourselves to seek for a solution which, by securing the main objects of both parties, will enable a

constitution-making machinery to be brought into immediate operation.

"While we recognise the reality of the fear of the Muslim League, that in a purely unitary India their community, with its own culture and way of life, might become submerged in a majority Hindu rule, we do not accept the setting up of a separate Muslim sovereign State as a solution of the communal problem.

'Pakistan,' as the Muslim League would call their State would not consist solely of Muslims. It would contain a substantial minority of other communities, which would average over 40 per cent, and in certain wide areas would even constitute a majority, as, for instance, in the city of Calcutta, where the Muslims form less than one-third of the population.

"Moreover, the complete separation of Pakistan from the rest of India would, in our view, gravely endanger the defence of the whole country by splitting the army into two and by preventing that defence in depth, which is essential in modern war. We, therefore, do not suggest the adoption of this proposal.

Union of India

"Our own recommendations contemplate a constitution of three tiers, at the top of which would be the Union of India with an Executive and a Legislature empowered to deal with these essential subjects of external affairs, defence and communications and the finance necessary for these services. At the bottom would be the provinces, which would have, apart from the subjects I have just named, complete autonomy.

"But we contemplate further that provinces will wish to unite together in groups to carry out, in common, services covering a wider area than that of a single province, and these groups may have if they wish, Legislatures and Executives which in that event will be intermediate between those of the provinces and those of the Union.

"On this basis, which makes it possible for the Muslims to secure the advantages of a Pakistan without incurring the dangers inherent in the division of India, we invite Indians of all parties to take part in framing a constitution. The Viceroy will, accordingly, summon to New Delhi representatives of British India, who will be elected by the members of the Provincial Legislatures in such a way that, as nearly as possible, for each one million of the population there will be one representative and that the proportion between the representatives of the main communities will be on the same basis.

"After a preliminary meeting in common, these representatives of the provinces will divide themselves up into three sections, the composition of which is laid down and which, if the provinces ultimately agree, will become three groups. These sections will decide upon provincial and group matters. Subsequently they will reunite to decide upon the constitution for the Union. After the first elections under the new constitution, provinces will be free to walk out of the group into which they have been provisionally placed.

"We appreciate that this machinery does not of itself give any effective representation to other than the principal minorities, and we are, therefore providing for a special committee to be set up, in which the minorities will play full part. The business of this committee will be to formulate fundamental and minority rights and to recommend their inclusion in the constitution at the appropriate level.

Indian States

"So far I have said nothing about the Indian States, which comprise a third of the area of India and contain about one-quarter of the whole population. These States at present are each separately governed and have individual relationships with the British Crown.

"There is general recognition that when British India attains independence, the position of these States cannot remain unaffected and it is anticipated that they will wish to take part in the constitution-making process and be represented in the All-India Union. It does not, however, lie within our province to decide these matters in advance, as they will have to be the subject of negotiation with the States before action can be taken.

Interim Government

"During the making of the constitution the administration must be carried on and we attach, therefore, the greatest importance to the setting up at once of an interim Government having the support of the major political parties. The Viceroy has already started discussions to this end and he hopes to bring them shortly to a successful issue.

"During the interim period the British Government, recognising the significance of the changes in the Government of India, will give the fullest measure of co-operation to the Government so formed in the accomplishment of its tasks of administration and in bringing about as rapid and smooth a transition as possible.

"The essence of statecraft is to envisage the probable course of future events, but no statesmen can be wise enough to frame a constitution which will adequately meet all the

requirements of an unknown future. We may be confident, therefore, that the Indians on whom falls the responsibility of creating the initial constitution, will give it a reasonable flexibility and will make provision for it to be revised and amended as required from time to time.

"In this short talk you will not expect me to go into further details regarding our proposals, which you can read in the statement which has been released for publication this evening. But in conclusion I will repeat and emphasise what to me is the fundamental issue.

Future of India

"The future of India and how that future is inaugurated are matters of vital importance not only to India herself, but to the whole world. If a great new sovereign State can come into being in a spirit of mutual goodwill, both within and without India, that of itself will be an outstanding contribution to world stability.

"The Government and the people of Britain are not only willing, they are anxious, to play their full part in achieving this result. But the constitution for India has to be framed by Indians and worked by Indians when they have brought it into being.

"We appreciate to the full the difficulties which confront them in embarking on this task. We have done, and we will continue to do, all that lies in our power to help them overcome these difficulties. But the responsibility and the opportunity is theirs and in their fulfilment of it we wish them godspeed."

INDIAN TARIFF BOARD

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on May 3 stated:

In addition to the claims from certain industries already referred to the Tariff Board, the Government of India have decided to forward to the Board applications received from the following industries, namely:

Sodium Sulphide, Chloroform, Ether Sulphuric P.B. and Anaesthetic, Potassium Permanganate, Bicycles, Sewing Machines, Plywood Tea Chests, Sodium Meta Bisulphite and Potassium Meta Bisulphite.

Firms or persons interested in any of these industries or in industries dependent on the use of these articles, who desire that their views should be considered by the Tariff Board, should address their representations to the Secretary to the Board, Caltex House, Ballard Estate, Bombay 1.

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS EXPLAINS PROPOSALS

EXPLAINING the Cabinet Delegation's statement at a Press Conference held in New Delhi on May 16, Sir Stafford Cripps said:

You have heard two broadcasts on the statement and you have the document before you. This evening the members of the Mission wanted an opportunity to meet you to give you a few words of explanation and to-morrow we shall be meeting you again to answer questions which you may have to put.

I will make a few remarks about the Statement while we are waiting for the Secretary of State to come from the Broadcasting Studio.

The first thing I want to point out is what the Statement does not purport to do. Let me remind you that this is not merely the Mission's statement, that is the statement of the four signatories, but is the statement of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. Now the Statement does not purport to set out a new constitution for India. It is of no use asking us "How do you propose to do this or that?" The answer will be we don't propose to do anything as regards decision upon a constitution, that is not for us to decide.

What we have had to do is to lay down one or two broad principles of how the constitution might be constructed and recommend those as foundations to the Indian people. You will notice we use the word "recommend" with regard to the ultimate constitutional forms with which we deal.

Constitution-Making Machinery

You may quite fairly ask, "But why do you recommend anything; why not leave it to the Indians?" The answer is that we are most anxious to get all Indians into some constitution-making machinery as quickly as possible and the block at present is in this matter. We are therefore by this means trying to remove the block so that the constitution-making may start and progress freely and rapidly. We hope very earnestly that that will be the effect.

Now that it has been finally and absolutely decided that India is to have the complete independence she desires, whether within or without the British Commonwealth as she chooses we



Sir Stafford Cripps explaining the Cabinet Mission's proposals to Press Correspondents at a conference held in New Delhi on May 16.

are anxious that she shall have it as soon as possible and the soonest is when there is a new constitutional structure decided upon by the Indian People.

But of course we cannot just stand by and wait till that time comes. It is bound to take some time to reach that point of completion of the new constitutional structure.

So, as you know, the Viceroy, in whose province Government-making primarily lies, has already started his talks with a view to the immediate setting up of a representative Indian Government. We hope that with the other issues out of the way on the basis of our statement he will be able very rapidly to get that new Government representative of the main parties set up and in operation.

Smooth and Efficient Transition

This matter of the Interim Government is of supreme importance because of the enormous tasks facing India at the moment. It is these great tasks, and perhaps the greatest of them is to deal with the food situation, that makes it absolutely essential that we should between us arrange a smooth and efficient transition.

Nothing could be more fatal to the Indian People to-day in the face of dangers of famine than a breakdown of administration and communications anywhere in India, and that is why we stress as we do the vital need for co-operation between all parties and communities including the British in this time of transition.

So much then for the vitally important point of the Interim Government. Some of you may wonder how soon this means that the British will sever their governmental connection with India—I hope that in any event we shall remain the closest friends when Indian freedom comes. Well we certainly can't say that. Who can foretell how quickly constitutions can be hammered out? One thing is however absolutely certain and this is, the quicker you start the quicker you will end and the sooner we shall be able to withdraw, handing over the power to the New Governments of the Union, Provinces and, if it is so decided, of the Groups.

This brings me to what has been decided rather than recommended. It has been decided to make a start with the constitution-making right away. This does not mean a decision as to what the constitution shall finally be, that is for decision by the representatives of the Indian

People. What it does mean is that the deadlock which has prevented a start on the process of constitution-making is to be removed once and for all.

The form in which we propose that the constitution-making bodies should be assembled is important for this reason. It permits of arriving at constitutions in the recommended form. It goes a little further than that in one respect. As we believe and hope that the two parties will come into this constitution-making on the basis of our recommendations it would not be fair to either of them if the fundamental basis which we recommend could be easily departed from. So we stipulate that a departure from that basis which is laid down in paragraph 15 of the Statement should only be made if a majority of both communities agree to it. That I think is eminently fair to both parties. It does not mean that no departure can be made from the recommendations, but it does mean that the special provisions I have mentioned will apply to such resolutions in the Constituent Assembly of the Union. That is one special provision as to particular majorities, the only other is in relation to matters raising any major communal issue when a similar rule will apply. All the rest is left to the free play of discussion and vote.

One question I am sure will occur to all of you and that is why we have named the three sections of Provinces into which the Assembly will break up to formulate the Provincial and Group Constitutions.

Effect of Communal Award

There was a very good reason for this. First of all, of course, somehow or another those groups had to be formed before they could proceed to their business. There were two ways of dealing with that matter. Either let the present provincial Government opt themselves into Groups or—after seeing the constitutions produced—let the new governments after the whole constitution-making is complete opt themselves out if they wish. We have chosen the second alternative for two reasons. First, because it follows the suggestion Congress put forward as regards the provinces and a single federation.

They suggested that all the provinces should come in at the beginning but could opt out if they did not like the constitution when they had seen it. We think that this principle should apply to the groups. Second, the present legislatures are not truly representative of the whole population because of the effect of the communal award with its weightages. We have tried

to get a scheme as near as possible to the full adult suffrage which would be fairest but which would take probably two years to work out—and no one believes that we could wait that length of time before starting on constitution-making. So we discard the present legislatures as decisive for the option and say let it be exercised when the first new elections have taken place when no doubt there will be a much fuller franchise and when, if necessary, the precise issue can be raised at the election. So the three sections will formulate the Provincial and Group Constitutions and when that is done they work together with the States representatives to make the Union Constitution. That is the final phase.

Indian States

Now a word about the States. The Statement in paragraph 14 makes the position quite clear that paramountcy cannot be continued after the new constitution comes into operation, nor can it be handed over to anyone else. It isn't necessary for me to state—I am sure—that a contract or arrangement of this kind cannot be handed over to a third party without the consent of the States. They will therefore become wholly independent, but they have expressed their wish to negotiate their way into the Union and that is a matter we leave to negotiation between the States and the British Indian parties.

There is one other important provision which I would like to stress as it is somewhat novel in constitution-making. We were met by the difficulty of how we could deal fairly with the smaller minorities, the Tribal and the excluded areas. In any constitution-making body it would be quite impossible to give them a weightage which would secure for them any effective influence without gravely upsetting the balance between the major parties. To give them a tiny representation would be useless to them. So we decided that minorities would be dealt with really in a double way.

The major minorities, such as the Hindus in Muslim provinces, and the Muslims in Hindu provinces, the Sikhs in the Punjab and the depressed classes who had considerable representation in a number of Provinces would be dealt with by proportional representation in the main construction of the constitution-making bodies. But in order to give these minorities and particularly the smaller minorities like the Indian Christians and the Anglo-Indians and also the Tribal representatives a better opportunity of influencing minority provisions, we have made

provision for the setting up by the constitution-making body of an influential Advisory Commission which will take the initiative in the preparation of the list of fundamental rights, the minority protection clauses and the proposals for the administration of Tribal and excluded areas. This Commission will make its recommendations to the constitution-making body and will also suggest at which stage or stages in the constitution these provisions should be inserted, that is whether in the Union, Group or Provincial Constitutions or in any two or more of them.

Speedy Conclusion

Now I think that gives you some picture of the main points with which we have dealt with in our statement.

There is only one other point that I want to stress before leaving the matter with you until to-morrow morning.

You will realise, I am sure, how terribly important is this moment of decision for the Indian People.

We are all agreed that we want a speedy conclusion of these matters, so far we have not been able all to agree upon how it should be brought about. We have done in this Statement what we believe to be best after two months of discussion and very hard work and in the light of all we have heard and studied. This is our firm opinion and we do not, of course, intend to start all the negotiations over again. We intend to get on with the job on the lines we have laid down. We ask the Indian People to give this Statement calm and careful consideration. I believe that the happiness of their future depends upon what they now do. If failing their own agreement, they will accept this method that we put forward of getting on with the making of a new constitution for India, we can between us make it a smooth transition and a rapid one but if the plan is not accepted no one can say how great will be the disturbance, or how acute and long the suffering that will be self-inflicted on the Indian People.

We are convinced that this Statement offers an honourable and peaceful method to all parties and if they will accept it we will do all that lies in our power to help forward the constitution-making so as to arrive at the speediest possible settlement.

Let no one doubt for one moment our intentions. We have not come to India and stayed

(Continued on Page 661)



H. E. Lord Wavell

"BLUE-PRINT FOR FREEDOM"

—H. E. the Viceroy

"IT is, my earnest desire that in these critical times ahead, in the Interim period while the new Constitution is being built, the Government of India should be in the hands of the ablest of India's leaders, men recognised as such by the Indian people, whom they will trust to further their interests and bring them to their goal," said H. E. the Viceroy in a broadcast message from Delhi on May 17.

Here is the full text of the message:

I speak to the people of India at the most critical hour of India's history. The statement of the Cabinet Delegation containing their recommendations has now been before you for 24 hours. It is a blue-print for freedom, an outline of which your representatives have to fill in the details and construct the building.

You will have studied the Statement, most of you, and may perhaps already have formed your opinion on it. If you think that it shows a path to reach the summit at which you have been aiming for so long the independence of India, I am sure you will be eager to take it. If you should have formed the view—I hope you have not—that there is no passage that way, I hope that you will

study again the route indicated to you and see whether the difficulties in the path—and we know they are formidable—cannot be surmounted by skill and patience and boldness.

I can assure you of this, that very much hard work, very much earnest study, very much anxious thought, and all the goodwill and sincerity at our command have gone to the making of these recommendations. We would much have preferred that the Indian leaders should have themselves reached agreement on the course to be followed, and we have done our best to persuade them; but it has not been found possible in spite of concessions on both sides which at one time promised results.

Reasonable and Workable Basis

These proposals put before you are obviously not those that any one of the parties would have chosen if left to itself; but I do believe that they offer a reasonable and workable basis on which to found India's future constitution. They preserve the essential unity of India which is threatened by the dispute between the two major communities; and in especial they remove the danger of the disruption of that great fellowship the Indian Army to which India already owes so much and on whose strength, unity and efficiency her future security will depend. They offer to the Muslim community the right to direct their own essential interests, their religion, their education, their culture, their economic and other concerns in their own way and to their own best advantage.

To another great community, the Sikhs, they preserve the unity of their homeland, the Punjab, in which they have played and can still play so important and influential a part. They provide in the Special Committee which forms a feature of the Constitution-making machinery, the best chance for the smaller minorities to make their needs known and to secure protection for their interests. They seek to arrange a means for the Indian States, great and small, to enter by negotiation into the policy of a united India. They offer to India the prospect of peace—a peace from party strife, the peace so needed for all the constructive work there is to do. And they give you the opportunity of complete independence so soon as the Constituent Assembly has completed its labours.

Constructive Work

I would like to emphasise the constructive work to be done. If you can agree to accept the proposals in the Statement as a reasonable basis on which to work out your Constitution, then we are able at once to concentrate all the best efforts and abilities in India on the short-term

problems that are so urgent, you know them well—the immediate danger of famine to be countered, and measures taken to provide more food for everyone in future years; the health of India to be remedied; great schemes of wider education to be initiated; roads to be built and improved; and much else to be done to raise the standard of living of the common man. There are also great schemes in hand to control India's water supplies, to extend irrigation, to provide power, to prevent floods; there are factories to be built and new industries to be started: while in the outside world India has to take her place in international bodies, in which her representatives have already established a considerable reputation.

It is therefore my earnest desire that in these critical times ahead, in the Interim period while the new Constitution is being built, the Government of India should be in the hands of the ablest of India's leaders, men recognised as such by the Indian people, whom they will trust to further their interests and bring them to their goal.

As said in the Statement, I am charged with the responsibility to form such a Government as soon as possible, to direct the affairs of British India in the Interim period. There will be no doubt in the minds of anyone, I hope, how great step forward this will be on India's road to self-Government. It will be a purely Indian Government except for its head, the Governor-General; and will include, if I can get the men I want, recognised leaders of the main Indian Parties, whose influence, ability and desire to serve India are unquestioned.

Such a Government must have a profound influence and power not only in India, but also in the outside world. Some of the best ability in India, which has hitherto been spent in opposition, can be harnessed to constructive work. These men can be the architects of the new India.

Complex Situation

No constitution and no form of Government can work satisfactorily without goodwill; with goodwill and determination to succeed even an apparently illogical arrangement can be made to work. In the complex situation that faces us there are four main parties; the British; the two main parties in British India, Hindus and Muslims; and the Indian States. From all of them very considerable change of their present outlook will be required as a contribution to the general good, if this great experiment is to succeed. To make concession in ideas and principles is a hard thing and not easily palatable. It requires some greatness of mind to recognise the necessity, much greatness of spirit to make the concession.

I am sure that this will not be found wanting in India, as I think you will admit that it has not been found wanting in the British people in this offer.

I wonder whether you realise that this is the greatest and most momentous experiment in Government in the whole history of the world—a new Constitution to control the destiny of 400,000,000 people. A grave responsibility indeed on all of us who are privileged to assist in making it.

Lastly, I must emphasise the seriousness of the choice before you. It is the choice between peaceful construction or the disorder of civil strife, between co-operation or disunity, between ordered progress or confusion. I am sure you will not hesitate in your choice for co-operation.

May I end with some words which were quoted by one great man to another at a crisis of the late war, and may well be applied to India at this crisis:

*"Thou too, sail on, O Ship of State,
Sail on, O Union, strong and great;
Humanity with all its fears
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate."*

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS EXPLAINS PROPOSALS

(Continued from page 659)

here so long and worked so hard except to carry out what has long been the policy of the British Labour Party and that is to transfer power to the Indian People as quickly, as smoothly and as co-operatively as the difficulties of the process permit.

We hope from the bottom of our hearts that the Indian People will accept the Statement in the spirit of co-operation in which it has been drawn up, and that within a week or two the process of constitution-making may begin and the Interim Government may be formed.

His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased to confer upon His Highness Ojaswi Rajanya Projwala Nepal Tara Atul Jotirmaya Trishakti Patta Ati Pravalva Gorkha Dakshina Bahu Prithuladheesha Nepal Pratap Bardhak Sri Sri Maharaja Sir Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, G.C.S.I., G.B.E., K.C.I.E., Prime Minister and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Nepal, the honorary rank of Lieutenant-General in the British Army and of Honorary Colonel of all the Gurkha Rifle Regiments in the Indian Army.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

C.-IN-C. ON DUTY OF INDIA'S ARMED FORCES

HERE is the official English translation of the text of the broadcast to India's Armed Forces, given in Hindustani by the C.-in-C. in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, from A.I.R., Delhi, on May 17:

As you have heard from H. E. the Viceroy the British Government have put forward a scheme to enable Indians to make their own constitution and set up an independent Indian Government. As you all know too, members of the British Government and the Viceroy have for some time past been discussing with the leaders of the Muslim League and of the Congress. They have been trying to decide what kind of Government shall be set up in India. Their object is to make good the promise of the British Government that in future India shall be governed entirely by her own people, free from all control by Britain, and free to remain within the British Commonwealth or to go outside as she likes.

In spite of every attempt to find a form of Government which would be acceptable to the Congress and the Muslim League, no agreement has been reached.

The Muslim League considers that there must be two independent and separate Governments in India. Pakistan for the Muslims and Hindustan for the Hindus. The Congress thinks that India must not be divided and that there should be one Central Government with the Provinces controlling their own affairs to the greatest possible extent.

Parties' Points of View

This very briefly is the position taken up by the two main political parties.

It was hoped that between the two points of view some compromise acceptable to both parties might be found. This has, however, not been found possible, although both parties have, for the sake of goodwill, modified their views to a considerable extent.

The British Government, therefore, having failed to get the two principal political parties to agree, has decided that it is their duty to the people of India to lay down what shall be done in order to give India her independence as soon as possible in an orderly and peaceful manner, so that the mass of the people may be put to the least inconvenience and disturbance.

In making these arrangements, the British Government has tried to ensure justice and freedom for the smaller as well as for the large sections of the people of India.

The British Government realises that the Muslims have a real fear that they may be forced to live for always under a Hindu Government and that any new form of Government must be such as to make this fear groundless for all time.

With this in view, the possibility of setting up a completely separate and independent Muslim State of Pakistan has been most carefully considered from every point of view and without any partiality at all.

As a result of this examination the British Government has been forced to conclude that the setting up of completely independent states not linked together in any way would not result in a settlement of the differences between Hindus and Muslims.

The setting up of two or more independent Governments would also, in their opinion, result in great loss and danger to India in the future.

They, therefore, cannot agree to divide India into separate states, though they do think that some way must be found for the predominantly Muslim areas to govern themselves if they wish to do so and to live their own lives. This is also recognised by the Hindus and the Congress Party.

The British Government, therefore, have approved neither the setting up of completely separate states nor the retention of all power at the centre. They consider that although the different areas should have a large measure of independence if the people desire it, the responsibility for the Army, Navy and Air Force and for the defence of the whole of India in war, must rest with one authority for the whole of India.

Apart from this, they have accepted the principle that each Province or Group of Provinces may have full powers to manage its own affairs as desired by its own people without interference from the centre.

These proposals are meant to ensure that all creeds and classes shall have their say in how they are to be governed and also to prevent any one section of the people being forced to live under the rule of any other section, without being sure that they will have the right to live their lives in their own way without fear or persecution.

The details of this new system of Government for India must be worked out by the people of India themselves. It is not the task of the British Government to do this.

To carry on the administration of the country while a new system of Government is worked

out the Viceroy proposes to form an interim Government composed of himself and of leaders of Indian political opinion who have the confidence of the people.

In this temporary Government the post of War Member which is at present held by the Commander-in-Chief (that is myself) will be held by a civilian who will be an Indian. I shall continue to be responsible for the command and welfare of the Army, Navy and Air Force but all political matters will be in the hands of the new War Member under whom I shall serve, just as the commanders in Britain serve under civilian ministers.

Three Assemblies

While this temporary Government carries on the daily business of governing the country, it is proposed that there should be set up three assemblies composed of representatives of all parties and creeds and classes, and elected by the Provincial Legislatures.

It will be the task of these three assemblies together with representatives from the Indian States to decide how India will be governed in the future.

The British Government hopes that in this way peace and security will come to India under the rule of her own leaders and that she will become great and prosperous as she deserves.

While these discussions and meetings are going on it is the duty of the Navy, Army and Air Force to continue to serve the Government and to carry out its orders.

As I have said, this temporary Government will be an Indian Government composed of members chosen from the leaders of the main political parties in the country who have the full confidence of the people.

There is no doubt that to-day there is danger of strike and disorder in the country. Whether you are in the Army, the Navy or the Air Force, you all know the good that comes from discipline and toleration. You have also learned to live together, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian, in the service of your country without quarrelling or jealousy.

You have learned each to respect the other and to work side by side for one object—the good of your country.

In this you have set an example to all India.

I trust you as I have always trusted you to go on setting this example and to do your duty, as you have always done it in war and peace.

I for my part shall do the same. So long as I am here you may rely on me to safeguard your interest in the future as in the past.

TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE CORRESPONDENCE

HERE is the full text of correspondence and documents connected with the conference between the Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy, and representatives of the Congress and the Muslim League, May 1946.

Letter from Lord Pethick-Lawrence to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Mr. Jinnah, dated 27th April 1946.

The Cabinet Mission and His Excellency the Viceroy have carefully reviewed the opinions expressed to them by the various representatives they have interviewed and have come to the conclusion that they should make one further attempt to obtain agreement between the Muslim League and the Congress.

They realise that it would be useless to ask the two parties to meet unless they were able to place before them a basis of negotiation which could lead to such an agreement.

I am therefore asked to invite the Muslim League to send four negotiators to meet the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy together with a similar number from the Congress Working Committee with a view to discussing the possibility of agreement upon a scheme based upon the following fundamental principles:—

Future Constitutional Structure

The future constitutional structure of British India to be as follows:—

A Union Government dealing with the following subjects:—

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communications. There will be two groups of Provinces, the one of the predominantly Hindu Provinces and the other of the predominantly Muslim Provinces, dealing with all other subjects which the provinces in the respective groups desire to be dealt with in common. The Provincial Governments will deal with all other subjects and will have all the residuary Sovereign rights.

It is contemplated that the Indian States will take their appropriate place in this structure on terms to be negotiated with them.

I would point out that we do not think it either necessary or desirable further to elaborate these principles as all other matters could be dealt with in the course of the negotiations.

If the Muslim League and Congress are prepared to enter into negotiations on this basis, you will perhaps be so good as to let me know the names of the four people appointed to

negotiate on their behalf. As soon as I receive these I will let you know the locus of the negotiations which will in all probability be in Simla, where the climate will be more temperate.

Letter from the President of the Congress to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, dated 28th April 1946.

I thank you for your letter of April 27th. I have consulted my colleagues of the Congress Working Committee in regard to the suggestion made by you, and they desire me to inform you that they have always been willing to discuss fully any matters concerning the future of India with representatives of the Muslim League or any other organisation. I must point out, however, that the "fundamental principles" which you mention require amplification and elucidation in order to avoid any misunderstanding.

Federal Union

As you are aware, we have envisaged a Federal Union of autonomous units. Such a Federal Union must of necessity deal with certain essential subjects of which defence and its allied subjects are the most important. It must be organic and must have both an executive and legislative machinery as well as the finance relating to these subjects and the power to raise revenues for these purposes in its own right. Without these functions and powers it would be weak and disjointed and defence and progress in general would suffer. Thus among the common subjects in addition to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communications, there should be Currency, Customs, Tariffs and such other subjects as may be found on closer scrutiny to be intimately allied to them.

Your reference to two groups of Provinces, the one of the predominantly Hindu Provinces and the other of the predominantly Muslim Provinces, is not clear. The only predominantly Muslim Provinces are the North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan. Bengal and Punjab have a bare Muslim majority. We consider it wrong to form groups of Provinces under the Federal Union and more so on religious or communal basis. It also appears that you leave no choice to a Province in the matter of joining or not joining a group. It is by no means certain that a Province as constituted would like to join any particular group. In any event it would be wholly wrong to compel a Province to function against its own wish. While we agree to the Provinces having full powers in

Mr. M. A. Jinnah being greeted by Lord Wavell when the Muslim League President arrived at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, for his second interview with the Cabinet Mission.



regard to all remaining subjects as well as the residuary powers, we have also stated that it should be open to any Province to exercise its option to have more common subjects with the Federal Union. Any sub-federation within the Federal Union would weaken the Federal Centre and would be otherwise wrong. We do not therefore, favour any such development.

Indian States

Regarding the Indian States we should like to make it clear that we consider it essential that they should be parts of the Federal Union in regard to the common subjects mentioned above. The manner of their coming into the Union can be considered fully later.

You have referred to certain "fundamental principles" but there is no mention of the basic issue before us, that is Indian independence and the consequent withdrawal of the British army from India. It is only on this basis that we can discuss the future of India, or any interim arrangement.

While we are ready to carry on negotiations with any party as to the future of India, we must state our convictions that reality will be absent from any negotiations whilst an outside ruling power still exists in India.

I have asked three of my colleagues of the Congress Working Committee, namely, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan to accompany me in any negotiations that may take place as a result of your suggestion.

Letter from the President of the Muslim League to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, dated 29th April 1943.

I thank you for your letter of the 27th April, which I placed before my Working Committee yesterday morning.

My colleagues and I fully appreciate the further attempt that the Cabinet Mission and His Excellency the Viceroy are making to bring about an agreement between the Muslim League and the Congress by proposing a meeting of the representatives of the two organisations for the purpose of negotiating an agreement. They, however, desire me to invite your attention to the position taken up by the Muslim League since the passing of the Lahore Resolution in 1940 and thereafter, successively endorsed by the All-India Muslim League Sessions and again by the Convention of the Muslim League Legislators, as recently as the 9th of April, 1946, as per copy enclosed.

The Working Committee desire to point out that many important matters; both of principle and detail, in your brief letter, require elucidation and clarification, which, in their opinion, can be achieved at the meeting proposed by you.

Therefore, without prejudice or commitment, the Working Committee, in their anxiety to assist in finding an agreed solution of the Indian constitutional problem have authorised me to nominate three representatives on behalf of the Muslim League to participate in the negotiations.

The following are the four names:—

1. Mr. M. A. Jinnah,
2. Nawab Mohammad Ismail Khan,
3. Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, and
4. Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar.

Enclosure to Mr. Jinnah's letter to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, dated 29th April 1946.

Resolution, passed by the subjects Committee, to be placed before the All-India Muslim League Legislators' Convention on April 9th, 1946.

Whereas in this vast sub-continent of India a hundred million Muslims are the adherents of a Faith which regulates every department of their life (educational, social, economic and political), whose code is not confined merely to spiritual doctrines and tenets or rituals and ceremonies and which stands in sharp contrast to the exclusive nature of Hindu Dharma and Philosophy which has fostered and maintained for thousands of years a rigid Caste System resulting in the degradation of 60 million human beings to the position of untouchables, creation of unnatural barriers between man and man and superimposition of social and economic inequalities on a large body of the people of this country, and which threatens to reduce Muslims, Christians and other minorities to the status of irredeemable helots, socially and economically;

whereas, the Hindu Caste System is a direct negation of nationalism, equality, democracy and all the noble ideals that Islam stands for;

Different Historical Backgrounds

whereas, different historical backgrounds, traditions, culture and social and economic orders of the Hindus and Muslims have made impossible the evolution of a single Indian nation inspired by common aspirations and ideals and whereas after centuries they still remain two distinct major nations;

whereas, soon after the introduction by the British of the policy of setting up political institutions in India on the lines of Western democracies based on majority rule which meant that the majority of one nation or society could impose its will on the majority of the other nation or society in spite of their opposition as was amply demonstrated during the two and a half years regime of Congress Government in the Hindu majority Provinces under the Government of India Act, 1935, when

the Muslims were subjected to untold harassment and oppression as a result of which they were convinced of the futility and ineffectiveness of the so-called safeguards provided in the Constitution and in the Instrument of Instructions to the Governors and were driven to the irresistible conclusion that in a United Indian Federation, if established, the Muslims even in majority Provinces would meet with no better fate and their rights and interests could never be adequately protected against the perpetual Hindu majority at the Centre;

whereas, the Muslims are convinced that with a view to save Muslim India from the domination of the Hindus and in order to afford them full scope to develop themselves according to their genius, it is necessary to constitute a sovereign independent State comprising Bengal and Assam in the North-East zone and the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan in the North-West zone.

Pakistan Zones

This Convention of the Muslim League Legislators of India, Central and Provincial, after careful consideration hereby declares that the Muslim Nation will never submit to any constitution for a United India and will never participate in any single constitution-making machinery set up for the purpose, and that any formula devised by the British Government for transferring power from the British to the peoples of India, which does not conform to the following just and equitable principles calculated to maintain internal peace and tranquillity in the country, will not contribute to the solution of the Indian problem:—

1. That the zones comprising Bengal and Assam in the North-East and the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan in the North-West of India, namely Pakistan zones, where the Muslims are in a dominant majority, be constituted into a sovereign independent State and that an unequivocal undertaking be given to implement the establishment of Pakistan without delay;

2. that two separate constitution-making bodies be set up by peoples of Pakistan and Hindustan for the purpose of framing their respective constitutions;

3. that the minorities in Pakistan and Hindustan be provided with safeguards on the lines of the All-India Muslim League Resolution passed on the 23rd March, 1940, at Lahore;

4. that the acceptance of the Muslim League demand of Pakistan and its implementation without delay are the *sine qua non* for



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Congress President, accompanied by Mr. Asaf Ali met the Cabinet Mission on April 16. Here Lord Wavell is discussing a point with Mr. Asaf Ali.

the Muslim League co-operation and participation in the formation of an interim Government at the Centre.

This Convention further emphatically declares that any attempt to impose a constitution on a United India basis or to force any interim arrangement at the Centre contrary to the Muslim League demand will leave the Muslims no alternative but to resist such imposition by all possible means for their survival and national existence.

Simla Conference Proposed

Letter from Lord Pethick-Lawrence to the President of the Congress, dated 29th April, 1946.

Thank you for your letter of 28th April. The Cabinet Delegation are very glad to know that the Congress agree to enter the joint discussion with representatives of the Muslim League and ourselves.

We have taken note of the views you have expressed on behalf of the Working Committee of Congress. These appear to deal with matters which can be discussed at the Conference, for we have never contemplated that acceptance by Congress and the Muslim League of our invitation would imply as a preliminary condition full approval by them of the terms set

out in my letter. These terms are our proposed basis for a settlement, and what we have asked the Congress Working Committee to do is to agree to send its representatives to meet ourselves and representatives of the Muslim League in order to discuss it.

Assuming that the Muslim League, whose reply we expect to receive in the course of the afternoon, also accept our invitation, we propose that these discussions should be held at Simla, and intend to move there ourselves on Wednesday next. We hope that you will be able to arrange for the Congress representatives to be in Simla in time to open the discussions on the morning of Thursday, May 2nd.

Letter from Lord Pethick-Lawrence to the President of the Muslim League, dated 29th April 1946.

Thank you for your letter of the 29th April. The Cabinet Delegation are very glad to know that the Muslim League agree to enter the joint discussion with the representatives of the Congress and ourselves. I am glad to say I have received a letter from the President of the Congress to say that they are also willing to participate in the proposed discussions and

have nominated Maulana Azad, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan as their representatives.

We have taken note of the resolution of the Muslim League to which you draw our attention. We have never contemplated that acceptance by the Muslim League and the Congress of our invitation would imply as a preliminary condition full approval by them of the terms set out in my letter. These terms are our proposed basis for a settlement and what we have asked the Muslim League Working Committee to do is to agree to send its representatives to meet ourselves and representatives of the Congress in order to discuss it.

We propose that these discussions should be held at Simla and intend to move there ourselves on Wednesday next. We hope that you will be able to arrange for the Muslim League representatives to be in Simla in time to open the discussions on the morning of Thursday, May 2nd.

AGENDA

1. Groups of Provinces—
 - (a) Composition.
 - (b) Method of deciding Group subjects.
 - (c) Character of Group organisation.
2. Union—
 - (a) Union subjects.
 - (b) Character of Union Constitution.
 - (c) Finance.
3. Constitution-making Machinery—
 - (a) Composition.
 - (b) Functions.
 - (i) in respect of Union;
 - (ii) in respect of Groups;
 - (iii) in respect of Provinces.

Letter from the President of Congress to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, dated 6th May 1946.

My colleagues and I followed with care the proceedings of the conference yesterday and tried to understand what our conversations were leading up to. I confess to feeling somewhat mystified and disturbed at the vagueness of our talks and some of the assumptions underlying them. While we would like to associate ourselves with every effort to explore ways and means of finding a basis for agree-

ment, we must not deceive ourselves, the Cabinet Mission or the representatives of the Muslim League into the belief that the way the conference has so far proceeded furnishes hope of success. Our general approach to the questions before us was stated briefly in my letter to you of April 28th. We find that this approach has been largely ignored and a contrary method has been followed. We realise that some assumptions have to be made in the early stages as otherwise there can be no progress. But assumptions which ignore or run contrary to fundamental issues are likely to lead to misunderstanding during the later stages.

The Basic Issue

In my letter of April 28th, I stated that the basic issue before us was that of Indian independence and the consequent withdrawal of the British army from India, for there can be no independence so long as there is a foreign army on Indian soil. We stand for the independence of the whole of India now and not in the distant or near future. Other matters are subsidiary to this and can be fitly discussed and decided by the Constituent Assembly.

At the conference yesterday I referred to this again and we were glad to find that you and your colleagues, as well as the other members of the conference, accepted Indian independence as the basis of our talks. It was stated by you that the Constituent Assembly would finally decide about the nexus or other relationship that might be established between a free India and England. While this is perfectly true, it does not affect the position now, and that is the acceptance of Indian independence now.

"Groups" of Provinces

If that is so then certain consequences inevitably follow. We felt yesterday that there was no appreciation of these consequences. A Constituent Assembly is not going to decide the question of independence; that question must be and, we take it, has been decided now. That Assembly will represent the will of the free Indian nation and give effect to it. It is not going to be bound by any previous arrangements. It has to be preceded by a Provisional Government which must function, as far as possible, as a government of free India, and which should undertake to make all arrangements for the transitional period.

In our discussions yesterday repeated references were made to "groups" of Provinces functioning together, and it was even suggested that such a group would have an executive and

legislative machinery. This method of grouping has not so far been discussed by us but still our talks seemed to presume all this. I should like to make it very clear that we are entirely opposed to any executive or legislative machinery for a group of Provinces or units of the Federation. That will mean a sub-federation, if not something more, and we have already told you that we do not accept this. It would result in creating three layers of executive and legislative bodies, an arrangement which will be cumbrous, static and disjointed, leading to continuous friction. We are not aware of any such arrangement in any country.

Basic Principles

We are emphatically of opinion that it is not open to the conference to entertain any suggestions for a division of India. If this is to come, it should come through the Constituent Assembly free from any influence of the present governing power.

Another point we wish to make clear is that we do not accept the proposal for parity as between groups in regard to the executive or legislature. We realise that everything possible should be done to remove fears and suspicions from the mind of every group and community. But the way to do this is not by unreal methods which go against the basic principles of democracy on which we hope to build up our constitution.

Letter to League and Congress Presidents

Letter from Lord Pethick-Lawrence to the Presidents of the Muslim League and the Congress, dated 8th May 1946.

My colleagues and I have been thinking over the best method of laying before the Conference what in our judgment seems the most likely basis of agreement as shown by the deliberations so far.

We have come to the conclusion that it will be for the convenience of the parties if we commit this to writing and send them confidential copies before the Conference meets again.

We hope to be in a position to let you have this in the course of the morning. But as this will give you too short a time to study it adequately before the proposed resumption of the Conference at 3 o'clock this afternoon, I feel sure that you will agree that the meeting be postponed until the same hour (3 o'clock) tomorrow afternoon, Thursday, 9th May, and I



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru coming out of the Viceroy's House after his talk with the Cabinet Ministers on April 25.

hope that you will concur in this change of time which we are convinced is in the interests of all parties.

Letter from the Private Secretary to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, to the President of the Congress and the Muslim League, dated 8th May 1946.

With reference to the Secretary of State's letter to you this morning the Cabinet Delegation wish me to send to you the enclosed document which is the paper to which the Secretary of State referred. The Delegation propose that this paper should be discussed at the next meeting to be held on Thursday afternoon at 3 p.m. if that is agreeable to the Congress-Muslim League delegates.

(Enclosure with letter of 8th May)

Suggested points for agreement between the Representatives of Congress and the Muslim League.

1. There shall be an All-India Union Government and Legislature dealing with Foreign Affairs, Defence, Communications, Fundamental Rights and having the necessary powers to obtain for itself the finances it requires for these subjects.

2. All the remaining powers shall vest in the Provinces.

3. Groups of Provinces may be formed and such groups may determine the Provincial subjects which they desire to take in common.

4. The groups may set up their own Executives and Legislatures.

5. The Legislature of the Union shall be composed of equal proportions; from the Muslim majority Provinces and from the Hindu majority Provinces whether or not these or any of them have formed themselves into groups; together with representatives of the States.

6. The Government of the Union shall be constituted in the same proportion as the Legislature.

7. The constitutions of the Union and the groups (if any) shall contain a provision whereby any Province can by a majority vote of its legislative assembly call for a reconsideration of the terms of the constitution after an initial period of 10 years and at 10-yearly intervals thereafter.

For the purpose of such reconsideration a body shall be constituted on the same basis as the original Constituent Assembly and with the same provisions as to voting and shall have power to amend the constitution in any way decided upon.

Constitution-Making Machinery

8. The constitution-making machinery to arrive at a constitution on the above basis shall be as follows:—

A. Representatives shall be elected from each Provincial Assembly in proportion to the strength of the various parties in that assembly on the basis of 110th of their members.

B. Representatives shall be invited from the States on the basis of their population in proportion to the representation from British India.

C. The Constituent Assembly so formed shall meet at the earliest date possible in New Delhi.

D. After its preliminary meeting at which the general order of business will be settled it will divide into three sections, one section representing the Hindu-majority Provinces, one section representing the Muslim-majority Provinces and one representing the States.

E. The first two sections will then meet separately to decide the Provincial constitutions for their group and, if they wish, a group constitution.

F. When these have been settled it will be open to any Province to decide to opt out of its original group and into the other group or to remain outside any group.

G. Thereafter the three bodies will meet together to settle the constitution for the Union on the lines agreed in paragraphs 1—7 above.

H. No major point in the Union constitution which affects the communal issue shall be deemed to be passed by the Assembly unless a majority of both the two major communities vote in its favour.

9. The Viceroy shall forthwith call together the above constitution-making machinery which shall be governed by the provisions stated in paragraph 8 above.

Union Government's Powers

Letter from the President of the Muslim League to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, dated 8th May 1946.

I have now received the letter of your Private Secretary, dated 8th May, 1946, and the enclosed document to which you had referred in your earlier letter of 8th May, 1946. It is proposed by you that this "paper" be discussed at the next meeting of the conference to be held on Thursday afternoon at 3 p.m. if this is agreeable to the Muslim League Delegation.

Your proposal embodied in your letter of 27th April, 1946, runs as follows:

"A Union Government dealing with the following subjects:—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communications. There will be two groups of Provinces, the one of the predominantly Hindu Provinces and the other of the predominantly Muslim Provinces, dealing with all other subjects which the Provinces in the respective groups desire to be dealt with in common. The Provincial Governments will deal with all other subjects and will have all residuary sovereign rights."

This matter was to be discussed at Simla and we agreed to attend the Conference on Sunday, 5th May, 1946, on the terms of my letter, dated 28th April, 1946.

You were good enough to explain your formula and then after hours of discussion on the 5th and 6th of May, the Congress finally and definitely turned down the proposed Union confined only to three subjects even with power to levy contribution for financing the Union.

Next, your formula clearly envisaged an agreement precedent between the Congress and the Muslim League with regard to the grouping of Muslim and Hindu Provinces and the formation of two Federations of the grouped Provinces and it followed that there must be two constitution-making machineries. It was on that basis that some kind of Union was suggested in your formula confined only to three subjects and our approval was sought in order to put into this skeleton blood and flesh. This proposal was also categorically turned down by the Congress and the meeting had to be adjourned for the Mission to consider the matter further as to what steps they may take in the matter.

Important Points

And now the new enclosed document has been sent to us with a view that "this paper should be discussed at the next meeting to be held on Thursday afternoon at 3 p.m." The heading of the paper is "Suggested Points for Agreement Between the Representatives of Congress and the Muslim League." By whom are they suggested, it is not made clear.

We are of the opinion that the new suggested points for agreement are a fundamental departure from the original formula embodied in your letter of 27th April, which was rejected by the Congress.

To mention some of the important points we are now asked to agree that there should be one All-India Union Government in terms of paragraphs 1-7 of this paper, which adds one more subject to be vested in the Union Government, i.e., "Fundamental Rights" and it is not made clear whether the Union Government and Legislature will have power or not to obtain for itself the finances by means of taxation.

In the new "suggestions" the question of grouping of Provinces is left exactly as the Congress spokesmen desired in the course of discussions that have taken place hitherto, and is totally different from your original formula.

Original Formula

That there should be a single constitution-making body, we can never agree to; nor can we agree to the method of formation of constitution-making machineries suggested in the paper.

There are many other objectionable features contained in the suggestions which we have not dealt with as we are only dealing with the main points arising out of this paper. In these circumstances, we think, no useful purpose will be served to discuss this paper, as it is a complete

departure from your original formula, unless after what we have said above you still desire us to discuss it in the Conference itself to-morrow.

Letter from Lord Pethick-Lawrence to the President of the Muslim League, dated 9th May 1946.

I have to acknowledge your letter of yesterday which I have shown to my colleagues. In it you raise a number of issues to which I propose to reply in order.

1. You claim that Congress "finally and definitely turned down the proposed Union confined only to three subjects even with power to levy contribution for financing the Union." This statement is not in accord with my recollection of what took place in the Conference room. It is true that the Congress representatives expressed their view that the limitation was too narrow and argued further that even so limited it necessarily included certain ancillary matters. Up to a point you recognised that there was some force in the argument because you agreed, as I understood, that some power to obtain the necessary finance must be given. There was no final decision on this matter (or of course on any other).

2. Next you claim, if I understand you aright, that our reference to the formation of groups is at variance with the formula in our invitation. I am afraid I cannot accept this view. It is of course a slightly amplified form because it specifies the manner in which the Provinces can decide as to joining any particular group. This amplified form is put forward by us as a reasonable compromise between the views of the Muslim League and those originally expressed by Congress against grouping at all.

Constitution-Making Bodies

3. You further take exception to the machinery that we suggest should be set up for making the constitution. I would point out to you however that you yourself in explaining how your two constitution-making bodies would work agreed on Tuesday last in the Conference that they would have to join together in the end to decide the constitution of the Union and you took no exception to their having a preliminary session in common to decide procedure. What we are proposing is in fact precisely the same thing expressed in different words. I am therefore quite at a loss to understand what you have in mind when you use the words "this proposal was also categorically turned down by the Congress."

4. In your next succeeding paragraph you ask who it is that makes the suggestions that are contained in the document I sent you. The answer is the Cabinet Mission and His Excellency the Viceroy who make them in our endeavour to bridge the gap between the viewpoints of the Congress and the Muslim League.

5. You next take exception to our departing from the original formula in my invitation. I would remind you that in accepting my original invitation neither the Muslim League nor the Congress bound itself to accept in full the original formula, and in my reply of April 29th I wrote these words:—

"We have never contemplated that acceptance by the Muslim League and the Congress of our invitation would imply as a preliminary condition full approval by them of the terms set out in my letter. These terms are our proposed basis for a settlement and what we have asked the Muslim League Working Committee to do is to agree to send its representatives to meet ourselves and representatives of the Congress in order to discuss it."

Indeed this is the only sensible attitude because the object of all our discussions is to explore every conceivable possibility of reaching agreement.

"Fundamental Rights"

6. "Fundamental Rights" were included by us in our suggestions for addition to the list of Union subjects because it seemed to us that it would be of benefit both to the large communities and to the small minorities for them to be put in and accordingly to be worthy of consideration in our conference. As to finance it will of course be quite open to discuss in the Conference the precise significance of the inclusion of this word in its context.

7. Your two following paragraphs are mainly a recapitulation of your previous arguments and have been already dealt with above.

From your last paragraph I understand that though you do not consider in the circumstances that any good purpose would be served by the attendance of the Muslim League delegation at the conference fixed for this afternoon, you are willing to come if we express a desire that you should do so. My colleagues and I wish to obtain the views of both parties on the document submitted and therefore would be glad to see you at the Conference.



The rulers of Dungarpur and Bilaspur were among the Indian Princes who met the Cabinet Mission.

Letter from the President of the Congress to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, dated 9th May 1946.

My colleagues and I have given the most careful consideration to the memorandum sent by you yesterday suggesting various points of agreement. On the 28th April I sent you a letter in which I explained briefly the Congress viewpoint in regard to certain "fundamental principles" mentioned in your letter of 27th April. After the first day of the conference, on May 6th, I wrote to you again to avoid any possible misunderstanding regarding the issues being discussed in the conference.

I now find from your memorandum that some of your suggestions are entirely opposed to our views and to the views repeatedly declared by the Congress. We are thus placed in a difficult position. It has been and is our desire to explore every avenue for a settlement and a change-over in India by consent, and for this purpose we are prepared to go far. But there are obvious limits beyond which we cannot go if we are convinced that this would be injurious to the people of India and to India's progress as a free nation.

In my previous letters I have laid stress on the necessity of having a strong and organic Federal Union. I have also stated that we do not approve of sub-federations or grouping of Provinces in the manner suggested, and are wholly opposed to parity in executives or legislatures as between wholly unequal groups. We do not wish to come

in the way of Provinces or other units co-operating together, if they so choose, but this must be entirely optional.

The proposals you have put forward are meant, we presume, to limit the free discretion of the Constituent Assembly. We do not see how this can be done. We are at present concerned with one important aspect of a larger problem. Any decision on this aspect taken now might well conflict with the decisions we, or the Constituent Assembly, might want to take on other aspects. The only reasonable course appears to us is to have a Constituent Assembly with perfect freedom to draw up its constitution, with certain reservations to protect the rights of minorities. Thus we may agree that any major communal issue must be settled by consent of the parties concerned or, where such consent is not obtained by arbitration.

From the proposals you have sent us (8 D.E.F.G.) it would appear that two or three separate constitutions might emerge for separate groups, joined together by a flimsy common super-structure left to the mercy of the three disjointed groups.

There is also compulsion in the early stages for a Province to join a particular group whether it wants to or not. Thus why should the Frontier Province, which is clearly a Congress Province, be compelled to join any group hostile to the Congress?

We realise that in dealing with human beings, as individuals or groups, many considerations have to be borne in mind besides logic and reason. But logic and reason cannot be ignored altogether, and unreason and injustice are dangerous companions at any time and more especially, when we are building for the future of hundreds of millions of human beings.

Suggestions

I shall now deal with some of the points in your memorandum and make some suggestions in regard to them.

No. 1.--We note that you have provided for the Union to have necessary powers to obtain for itself the finance it requires for the subjects it deals with. We think it should be clearly stated that the Federal Union must have power to raise revenues in its own right. Further that currency and customs must in any event be included in the Union subjects, as well as such other subjects as on closer scrutiny may be found to be intimately allied to them. One other subject is an essential and inevitable Union subject and that is Planning. Planning can only be done effectively at the

Centre, though the Provinces or units will give effect to it in their respective areas.

The Union must also have power to take remedial action in cases of breakdown of the constitution and in grave public emergencies.

Nos. 5 and 6. We are entirely opposed to the proposed parity, both in the Executive and Legislature, as between wholly unequal groups. This is unfair and will lead to trouble. Such a provision contains in itself the seed of conflict and the destruction of free growth. If there is no agreement on this or any similar matter we are prepared to leave it to arbitration.

No. 7. We are prepared to accept the suggestion that provision be made for a reconsideration of the constitution after ten years. Indeed the constitution will necessarily provide the machinery for its revision at any time.

Proportional Representation

The second clause lays down that reconsideration should be done by a body constituted on the same basis as the Constituent Assembly. This present provision is intended to meet an emergency. We expect that the constitution for India will be based on adult suffrage. Ten years hence India is not likely to be satisfied with anything less than adult suffrage to express its mind on all grave issues.

No. 8-A. We would suggest that the just and proper method of elections, fair to all parties, is the method of proportional representation by single transferable vote. It might be remembered that the present basis of election for the Provincial Assemblies is strongly weighted in favour of the minorities.

The proportion of 110th appears to be too small and will limit the numbers of the Constituent Assembly too much. Probably the number would not exceed 200. In the vitally important tasks the Assembly will have to face, it should have larger numbers. We suggest that at least one-fifth of the total membership of the Provincial Assemblies should be elected for the Constituent Assembly.

No. 8-B. This clause is vague and requires elucidation. But for the present we are not going into further details.

No. 8-D.E.F.G. I have already referred to these clauses. We think that both the formation of these groups and the procedure suggested are wrong and undesirable. We do not wish to rule out the formation of the groups if the Provinces so desire. But this subject must be left open for decision by the Constituent Assembly.

The drafting and settling of the constitution should begin with the Federal Union. This should contain common and uniform provisions for the Provinces and other units. The Provinces may then add to these.

No. 8-H. In the circumstances existing today we are prepared to accept some such clause. In case of disagreement the matter should be referred to arbitration.

Interim Provisional Government

I have pointed out above some of the obvious defects, as we see them, in the proposals contained in your memorandum. If these are remedied, as suggested by us, we might be in a position to recommend their acceptance by the Congress. But as drafted in the memorandum sent to us, I regret that we are unable to accept them.

On the whole, therefore, if the suggestions are intended to have a binding effect, with all the will in the world to have an agreement with the League, we must repudiate most of them. Let us not run into any evil greater than the one all of us three parties should seek to avoid.

If an agreement honourable to both the parties and favourable to the growth of free and united India cannot be achieved, we would suggest that an interim Provisional Government responsible to the elected members of the Central Assembly be formed at once and the matters in dispute concerning the Constituent Assembly between the Congress and the League be referred to an independent tribunal.

After a proposal by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that an Umpire should be appointed to settle matters of difference between the parties the Conference, understanding that there was a likelihood of agreement on an Umpire between the parties, was adjourned and the following correspondence passed between the parties.

Letter from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the President of the Muslim League, dated 10th May 1946.

In accordance with our decision yesterday at the Conference, my colleagues have given a good deal of thought to the choice of a suitable umpire. We have felt that it would probably be desirable to exclude Englishmen, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. The field is thus limited. Nevertheless we have drawn up a considerable list from which a choice can be made. I presume that you have also, in consultation with your executive, prepared a list of possible umpires. Would you like these two lists to be considered by us, that is, by you and me? If so, we can fix up a meeting for the purpose. After we

have met, our recommendation can be considered by the eight of us, that is, the four representatives of the Congress and the four representatives of the Muslim League, and a final choice can be made, which we can place before the Conference when it meets tomorrow.

Letter from the President of the Muslim League to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, dated 10th May 1946.

I received your letter of 10th May at 6 p.m.

At yesterday's meeting between you and me at the Viceregal Lodge, we discussed several points besides the fixing of an umpire. After a short discussion, we came to the conclusion that we will further examine your proposal made by you at the Conference yesterday, with all its implications after your and my consulting our respective colleagues.

I shall be glad to meet you to consider the various aspects of your proposal any time that may suit you tomorrow morning after 10 o'clock.

Pandit Nehru's Letter to Mr. Jinnah

Letter from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the President of Muslim League, dated 11th May 1946.

Your letter of May 10th reached me at ten last night.

During the talk we had at Viceregal Lodge, you referred to various matters besides the choice of an umpire and I gave you my reactions in regard to them. But I was under the impression that the proposal to have an umpire had been agreed to and our next business was to suggest names. Indeed it was when some such agreement was reached in the Conference that we had our talk. My colleagues have proceeded on this basis and prepared a list of suitable names. The Conference will expect us to tell them this afternoon the name of the umpire we fix upon, or at any rate to place before them suggestions in this behalf.

The chief implication in having an umpire is to agree to accept his final decision. We agree to this. We suggest that we might start with this and report accordingly to the Conference.

As suggested by you, I shall come over to your place of residence at about 10-30 this morning.

Letter from the President of the Muslim League to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, dated 11th May 1946.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th May.

During the talk we had at the Viceregal Lodge, which lasted for about fifteen or twenty minutes, I pointed out various aspects and implications of your proposal and we had a discussion

for a little while, but no agreement was arrived at between you and me on any point except that at your suggestion that you consult your colleagues and I should do likewise we adjourned to meet again the next day to further discuss the matter.

I shall be glad to meet you at 10-30 this morning for a further talk.

Memorandum by the President of the Muslim League embodying minimum demands by way of an offer, in accordance with the Conference decision, dated 12th May 1946. (Copies sent to the Cabinet Delegation and the Congress).

PRINCIPLES TO BE AGREED TO AS OUR OFFER

1. The six Muslim Provinces (Punjab, N.-W.F.P., Baluchistan, Sind, Bengal and Assam) shall be grouped together as one group and will deal with all other subjects and matters except Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communications necessary for Defence, which may be dealt with by the Constitution-making bodies of the two groups of Provinces—Muslim Provinces (hereinafter named Pakistan Group) and Hindu Provinces—sitting together.

2. There shall be a separate Constitution-making body for the six Muslim Provinces named above, which will frame Constitutions for the Group and the Provinces in the Group and will determine the list of subjects that shall be Provincial and Central (of the Pakistan Federation) with residuary sovereign powers vesting in the Provinces.

3. The method of election of the representatives to the Constitution-making body will be such as would secure proper representation to the various communities in proportion to their population in each Province of the Pakistan Group.

4. After the Constitutions of the Pakistan Federal Government and the Provinces are finally framed by the Constitution-making body, it will be open to any Province of the Group to decide to opt out of its Group, provided the wishes of the people of that Province are ascertained by a referendum to opt out or not.

5. It must be open to discussion in the joint Constitution-making body as to whether the Union will have a Legislature or not. The method of providing the Union with finance should also be left for decision of the joint

meeting of the two Constitution-making bodies, but in no event shall it be by means of taxation.

6. There should be parity of representation between the two Groups of Provinces in the Union Executive and the Legislature, if any.

7. No major point in the Union Constitution which affects the communal issue shall be deemed to be passed in the joint Constitution-making body, unless the majority of the members of the Constitution-making body, of the Hindu Provinces and the majority of the members of the Constitution-making body of the Pakistan Group, present and voting, are separately in its favour.

8. No decision, legislative, executive or administrative, shall be taken by the Union in regard to any matter of controversial nature, except by a majority of three-fourths.

9. In Group and Provincial Constitutions fundamental rights and safeguards concerning religion, culture and other matters affecting the different communities will be provided for.

Liberty to secede from Union

10. The Constitution of the Union shall contain a provision whereby any Province can, by a majority vote of its Legislative Assembly, call for reconsideration of the terms of the Constitution, and will have the liberty to secede from the Union at any time after an initial period of ten years.

These are the principles of our offer for a peaceful and amicable settlement and this offer stands in its entirety and all matters mentioned herein are interdependent.

Points Suggested on behalf of the Congress as a Basis for Agreement, 12th May 1946.

1. The Constituent Assembly to be formed as follows:—

(i) Representatives shall be elected by each Provincial Assembly by proportional representation (single transferable vote). The number so elected should be one-fifth of the number of members of the Assembly and they may be members of the Assembly or others.

(ii) Representatives from the States on the basis of their population in proportion to the representation from British India. How these representatives are to be chosen is to be considered later.

2. The Constituent Assembly shall draw up a constitution for the Federal Union. This shall consist of an All-India Federal Government and Legislature dealing with Foreign Affairs, Defence, Communications, Fundamental Rights, Currency, Customs and Planning, as well as such other subjects, as, on closer scrutiny, may be found to be intimately allied to them. The Federal Union will have necessary powers to obtain for itself the finances it requires for these subjects and the power to raise revenues in its own right. The Union must also have power to take remedial action in cases of breakdown of the constitution and in grave public emergencies.

3. All the remaining powers shall vest in the Provinces or Units.

4. Groups of Provinces may be formed and such groups may determine the Provincial subjects which they desire to take in common.

Provincial Constitutions

5. After the Constituent Assembly has decided the constitution for the All-India Federal Union as laid down in paragraph 2 above, the representatives of the Provinces may form groups to decide the Provincial constitutions for their group and, if they wish, a group constitution.

6. No major point in the All-India Federal Constitution which affects the communal issue shall be deemed to be passed by the Constituent Assembly unless a majority of the members of the community or communities concerned present in Assembly and voting are separately in its favour. Provided that in case there is no agreement on any such issue, it will be referred to arbitration. In case of doubt as to whether any point is a major communal issue, the Speaker will decide, or, if so desired, it may be referred to the Federal Court.

7. In the event of a dispute arising in the process of constitution-making, the specific issue shall be referred to arbitration.

8. The constitution should provide machinery for its revision at any time subject to such checks as may be devised. If so desired, it may be specifically staged that this whole constitution may be reconsidered after ten years.

Note by the Congress on the principles to be agreed upon as suggested on behalf of the Muslim League, dated 12th May 1946.

The approach of the Muslim League is so different from that of the Congress in regard to

these matters that it is a little difficult to deal with each point separately without reference to the rest. The picture as envisaged by the Congress is briefly given in a separate note. From consideration of this note and the Muslim League's proposals the difficulties and the possible agreement will become obvious.

The Muslim League's proposal are dealt with below briefly:

(1) We suggest that the proper procedure is for one Constitution-making body or Constituent Assembly to meet for the whole of India and later for groups to be formed if so desired by the Provinces concerned. The matter should be left to the Provinces and if they wish to function as a group they are at liberty to do so and to frame their own constitution for the purpose.

In any event Assam has obviously no place in the group mentioned, and the North-West Frontier Province, as the elections show, is not in favour of this proposal.

(2) We have agreed to residuary powers, apart from the central subjects, vesting in the Provinces. They can make such use of them as they like and, as has been stated above, function as a group. What the ultimate nature of such a group may be cannot be determined at this stage and should be left to the representatives of the Provinces concerned.

Method of Election

(3) We have suggested that the most suitable method of election would be by single transferable vote. This would give proper representation to the various communities in proportion to their present representation in the legislatures. If the population proportion is taken, we have no particular objection, but this would lead to difficulties in all the Provinces where there is weightage in favour of certain communities. The principle approved of would necessarily apply to all the Provinces.

(4) There is no necessity for opting out of a Province from its group as the previous consent of the Provinces is necessary for joining the group.

(5) We consider it essential that the Federal Union should have a Legislature. We also consider it essential that the Union should have power to raise its own revenue.

(6 and 7). We are entirely opposed to parity of representation as between groups of Provinces in the Union executive or legislature.

We think that the provision to the effect that no major communal issue in the Union constitution shall be deemed to be passed by the Constituent Assembly unless a majority of the members of the community or communities concerned present and voting in the Constituent Assembly are separately in its favour, is a sufficient and ample safeguard of all minorities. We have suggested something wider and including all communities than has been proposed elsewhere. This may give rise to some difficulties in regard to small communities, but all such difficulties can be got over by reference to arbitration. We are prepared to consider the method of giving effect to this principle so as to make it more feasible.

Provision for Revision

(8) This proposal is so sweeping in its nature that no Government or Legislature can function at all. Once we have safeguarded major communal issues other matters, whether controversial or not, require no safeguard. This will simply mean safeguarding vested interests of all kinds and preventing progress, or indeed any movement in any direction. We, therefore, entirely disapprove of it.

(9) We are entirely agreeable to the inclusion of Fundamental Rights and safeguards concerning religion, culture and like matters in the constitution. We suggest that the proper place for this is the All-India Federal Union constitution. There should be uniformity in regard to these Fundamental Rights all over India.

(10) The constitution of the Union will inevitably contain provisions for its revision. It may also contain a provision for its full reconsideration at the end of ten years. The matter will be open then for a complete reconsideration. Though it is implied, we would avoid reference to secession as we do not wish to encourage this idea.

CENTRAL STATE SCHOLARSHIPS RENEWED

A Press Note issued by the Education Department on May 30 stated:

The practice of the Government of India of awarding one Central State Scholarship annually for study in Great Britain had to be discontinued during the period of the War. Thus no such award was made for the last four years. Now for the year 1946-47 three scholarships have been awarded to the following candidates.

Miss Musarrat Jahan Begum Temuri of Delhi, Mr. Raghu Raj Bahadur of Delhi and Mr. Girdhari Lal Gupta of Ajmer-Merwara.

WATER TO FIGHT FAMINE

Interviewed on the possibility of sinking a large number of wells to fight the famine in the threatened areas of the South, an official of the Agriculture Department of the Central Government stated that the Government of Madras had a programme of sinking 36,000 wells during the current hot weather. In addition existing wells were to be renovated and improved.

The cost of sinking a new well averaged Rs. 720 of which the cultivator was to be subsidised at the rate of Rs. 360 per well half of the cost being met from the Central revenues. The Central Government would also bear half the subsidy of Rs. 160 per well in the case of renovation.

The official admitted that the response by the Governments of Delhi, the Punjab and U. P. was unsatisfactory to their offer to bear 50 per cent of the cost of sinking new wells; the only stipulation made was that food and foodgrains crops were to be grown on two-thirds of the area commanded by the wells.

RATIONING OF FOOD AND CLOTH

Rationing of food and clothing is likely to continue in the U.K. for some time. The food ration is adequate and a student will not experience any serious difficulty if he can adapt himself quickly to the new conditions and accept ordinary English food.

With regard to the clothing ration, students will on arrival receive sufficient supplementary coupons to enable them to equip themselves for the winter. They will, however, be well advised to carry with them from here a sufficient supply of clothes and shoes, specially shirts, handkerchiefs, socks, towels and bedsheets.

To select workers' delegates from the most representative organisation for the International Labour Conference to be held in September, 1946, at Montreal the Government of India have directed Mr. S.C. Joshi, Chief Labour Commissioner, to enquire into the representative character of the All India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour.

As the two organisations have not been able to send agreed names, the Government have now to make the selection themselves. The enquiry will be completed early if the two organisations and their affiliated unions furnish the material and assistance required by the Chief Commissioner of Labour or any other officer authorised by him.

MR. HOOVER'S APPEAL FOR FOOD SUPPLIES TO INDIA

World Shortage of Five Million Tons of Cereals

"If every supplying country will do its utmost, and if we can have full co-operation everywhere, we can pull the world through these most dangerous months. The saving of these human lives is far more than an economic necessity to the recovery of the world. It is more than the only path to order to stability and to peace. Such action marks the relighting of the lamp of compassion on earth. And that is a part of the normal and spiritual reconstruction of the world," said Mr. Herbert Hoover, President Truman's world food investigator, who visited India recently, in a recorded broadcast to India and Australia from All India Radio, Delhi, on April 29.

Here is the full text of Mr. Hoover's broadcast:

I am glad to have the opportunity of broadcasting to India and particularly to Australia. I shall give some summary of the world food situation, with emphasis upon the problems of India. And in so doing, I recall many happy years spent in Australia and an abiding admiration for her people and her institutions which I received from those happy times.

World Crisis

This acute phase of the world crisis in food will continue until the August-September harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. There are nations of about 500,000,000 people without enough food to manage until these harvest come in. Under instructions from President Truman, I and my colleagues have now covered over 20 countries in this survey. Subject to some possible revision on completion of our work, we now estimate that about 11,000,000 tons of cereals for human consumption are needed to barely maintain life over these four months. The apparent available commercial supplies within this period are only 6,000,000 tons. There will be an immense loss of life if this gap 5,000,000 tons cannot be bridged. And the problem is not only to cover this cereal gap but also to provide fats and special food needed for subnormal children. Of these alone, there are probably 40,000,000 in Europe at this moment, to say nothing of Asia.

I have made some suggestions whereby with the co-operation of the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Siam and Russia, this gap of 5,000,000 tons of cereals can be mostly closed.

The enormity of the Indian problems can be shortly expressed. The total population of the

provinces of India and Ceylon normally dependent upon imports, plus those provinces affected by the great drought is about 240,000,000. Even after deducting certain localities which are self-supporting, other localities less affected, and the farmers who supply themselves, the number in jeopardy of life runs into tens of millions. Unless there can be a large and constant flow of overseas food, the loss of life will mount to numbers too horrible to contemplate. Due to able, careful administration, and drastic rationing, there is no stark starvation of the famine type in India yet. This is a job of prevention. Every ton of food received will lessen the loss of life from the gigantic danger which impends. It is a striking fact that whatever other differences there may be in India, there is complete unity in an endeavour to solve the famine problem.

India's Needs

The Indian Government officials estimate that they must have arrivals from overseas of wheat, rice or millet amounting to 346,000 tons in May, 315,000 tons in June and 441,000 tons in July of which only about 300,000 tons are now en route. They estimate a minimum need of 522,000 tons in each of August and September. And there must, in addition, be supplies to Ceylon, Malaya and some other deficient Indian ocean areas.

It is difficult indeed to define the stages of mere food shortage, of insufficient supplies to maintain health, of famine or starvation. Hunger has forced three words into every language every hour of the day. The first is "bread". Bread has a reality as the symbol of life as never before in history. The ration is now the symbol of order and hope of peace. To reduce the bread ration is a symbol of calamity. The second word is "fats," for which there is an insatiable craving and physical need. The third word is "calories". That is the common denominator. Calories are only a partial yardstick of food, but that word has become everywhere the grim measure of the steps along the road from plenty to hunger and to starvation. The world has become a vast involuntary experimental laboratory as to different levels of calories which the population are to have in their rations.

Australia has over 3,000 calories per person per day. Experts say an average level of 2,200 calories is the minimum at which public health and progress can be maintained in a nation. With the meagre supplies asked for by India, it is estimated that the stricken people will be receiving less than 1,400 calories daily per person, and that includes the ration of about 12 ounces of

cereals per day per person. No one can say it is too much. Under such a regime, the adults can pull through a period of four months, but many of the children and the aged will drop by the wayside through increased disease which is always the result of lowered vitality. However, the overseas supply necessary to maintain even this level of food is not yet in sight.

I have no right to address the Australian people on what further measures they could take to aid in this situation. But the critical jeopardy of millions of lives should be my justification.

Appeal for Australian Help

I may recount that in the United States we have, by direct appeal and by Governmental action, undertaken to reduce our own wheat products consumption below five ounces per day per person. Our people, like Australians, eat a much smaller proportion of bread and have more substitute foods than most nations. In the famine areas of India the cereals ration of 12 ounces per day will constitute at least 80 per cent. of their whole food intake. Most of the people in the southern famine areas of India live on rice. There is not a sufficient supply of rice. Wheat must be substituted. They eat it by boiling it, just as they do rice. Most of them cannot prepare wheat-flour products; they do not know how, and they have no equipment to bake bread. They must have wheat grain; and the flour millers of the world should stand aside temporarily and allow shipment of the wheat grain itself.

There is another urgent help needed, from Australia. Supplies for the June and July requirements of India from North America are too far away to arrive in these months. It would be an immense help if delivery of Australian supplies could be advanced to cover these critical months.

There is one meagre consolation in this tragic situation. The current world food crisis differs from political and military crises. This food crisis has a definite terminal date. That date is the arrival of the next harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. It is, therefore, a short, hard pull.

If every supplying country will do its utmost, and if we can have full co-operation everywhere, we can pull the world through these most dangerous months. The saving of these human lives is far more than an economic necessity to the recovery of the world. It is more than the only path to order, to stability, and to peace. Such action marks the relighting of the lamp of compassion on the earth. And that is a part of the normal and spiritual reconstruction of the world.

ALLOCATIONS TO INDIA BY COMBINED FOOD BOARD

Sir J. P. Srivastava's Statement

EXPLAINING the different statements that have appeared in the Press regarding the Combined Food Board's allocations to India, Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India stated at a Press Conference in New Delhi on May 3. "The Indian Food Delegation was informed on two separate occasions of the import programme of 1.4 million tons of wheat and wheat substitutes and 145,000 tons of rice proposed for India for the first half of the year as a result of the negotiations among His Majesty's Government, the Government of U.S.A. and the Combined Food Board. The first occasion was on March 16 in Washington and the second was at the meeting of the London Food Council held on March 26 in London.

"At the meeting of the London Food Council the Delegation specifically enquired whether they could publish these figures on their return to India and were told that they could do so. The figures were subsequently confirmed by Sir Ben Smith, the British Minister of Food, who speaking in the House of Commons on April 4 stated that the need for his second visit to Washington was best expressed by the fact that while on his first visit there was a known deficit of 5,500,000 tons of wheat in the world, it had increased between the two visits to 8,000,000 tons. On his second visit the claims of India for rice had risen to 4,000,000 tons for the rest of the years.

He had been successful in getting an allocation of 1,550,000 tons for India.

Present Position

"Speaking on the same subject Mr. Attlee, Prime Minister of U. K., confirmed Sir Ben Smith's statement when he said that the amount required for India was tremendous and although they got less than they sought for, they were given an allocation three times greater than that which had been made in January.

"The present position appears to be that at subsequent meetings of exporting countries and of the Combined Food Board and its Sub-Committees availabilities have fallen short of the figures assumed in March in Washington and that as the exporting countries are uncertain of their performance, programmes are now being made month by month. The figures of loadings

for April so far communicated to the Government of India, are 138,000 tons of wheat and 17,000 tons of flour. Firm figures for subsequent months have not yet been communicated."

The latest assessment of the food situation in India after the conference on April 17 with representatives of Provinces and States, the stocks that were held in different parts of the country, the local procurement during the next few months the imports which were on the way and the net deficit which each deficit area had to face during the next four critical months were communicated to Mr. Hoover when he arrived in India. Mr. Hoover adopted the figures given by the Food Department in his Press statement at the conference in Bangalore as well as in his subsequent broadcast.

Mr. Hoover's Visit

India's requirements from abroad for the next four months are 346,000 tons in May, 315,000 tons in June, 441,000 tons in July and 522,000 tons in June, 441,000 tons in July and 522,000 Hoover's suggestion was that in view of these requirements and in view of the fact that it took two months to move supplies from North America urgent steps should be taken to secure imports from Indian Ocean areas, if not by outright purchase at least by loan to be replaced later when the world situation will make it easier to ship larger quantities to India. The sources indicated were Australia, Egypt, Iraq and Siam. As regards stocks in Siam the whole position was discussed at the Singapore Food Conferences held last month. All possible steps have been taken to place procurement on a satisfactory basis but the results so far are not very satisfactory, and the quantities available for export are small. As to the other sources the question of sending special missions to these countries to discuss and arrive at quick decisions is under examination by the Government of India.

Rice from Indonesia

It is hoped that Mr. Hoover's visit will dispel whatever doubts there might still be in America about the gravity of the food situation in India and stress the need for a large and constant flow of imports from overseas.

Explaining the position regarding rice from Indonesia the Food Member stated that enquiries were made of the correspondent on whose report the offer of 500,000 tons from Dr. Shariar was first published in the Press. He stated that he had been authorised by Dr. Shariar to make public the fact that Dr. Shariar had made an offer of 500,000 tons of rice to Pandit Jawaharlal

(Continued on page 703)

FOOD SITUATION IN COCHIN AND TRAVANCORE

Reports have appeared in the newspapers of varying pronouncements by administrators and public men regarding the actual food situation in Europe, America and India and with reference to the surpluses available to our sorely tried country from Siam, U.S.A., Canada, Australia or Russia. Hopes have been now and again raised by statements as to good harvests in certain places and the willingness of some countries to export the surplus without utilising grains to feed cattle or to burn as fuel. These have been followed by pessimistic utterances. Publicity is an essential part of the Government machinery to-day but over-publicising of famine conditions may easily lead to supplies going underground and may thus defeat its purpose. On the other hand, there seems to be little realisation of the facts that we in India are getting smaller

By Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar,
Dewan of Travancore

A Broadcast from A.I.E., Delhi.

rations than Axis countries like Japan and that India has suffered from starvation and malnutrition more continuously and intensely than other countries which have been well-fed until quite recently.

It may be useful at this juncture to furnish an account of how the food problem specially affects certain localities. This account, with small local variations, will be generally applicable to India.

In no part of India, has the food situation been so acute since the loss of Burma and Siam as in Travancore and Cochin and naturally these two States, which have all along acted as one unit in meeting the food crisis were the earliest to devise measures not only for controlling prices but also for procurement and regulation of movement of foodgrains grown within the State and for State-wide rationing. Travancore grows rice only to the extent of nearly 40 per cent of its requirements, the deficit being imported from Burma and Siam. Although in recent years an intensive drive for cultivating areas which were formerly allowed to lie fallow has slightly enhanced production, it must also be borne in mind, that except the area covered by an irrigation project in the South, the bulk of the cultivation depends on the monsoon.



A paddy field at Malabar coast.

Production can be substantially improved only by the use of artificial fertilisers like ammonium sulphate and by introducing improved methods of cultivations. Active steps have been taken in both these directions. The cultivable area being itself limited by geographical features of the country, great stress is laid on increased production on scientific methods. The Travancore Government is sponsoring the production of artificial fertilisers which will be available in August, 1946.

Rice Scarcity

The year 1942 and 1943 witnessed terrible scarcity of rice in the two Southern States with the result that they had to make repeated appeals to the Government of India for substantial help. Although in the earlier stage, the Central Government did not fully realise the gravity of the situation and had not taken powers to co-ordinate and exercise authority at the Centre, circumstances soon compelled the Government of India to assume central control and this had its beneficial effect on the general food situation in the country.

Help could however be given by the Centre in the form of substitute foodgrains such as wheat and millet, instead of rice. In fact, at one time, it became obligatory to issue a ration of less than 4 ounces of rice per head of population out of a total of 8 ounces, the balance being in wheat and millet. The people were not used either to millets or to wheat and although there was no truth whatsoever in the statements published by one or two propagandists that there was death by starvation in Travancore, there was real malnutrition in the case of a large percentage of population who had to supplement their ration with comparatively innutritious products like tapioca. Complete starvation there was none in Travancore and in all probability there will never be, for the people can resort to tapioca, fish and such seasonal fruits as mangoes and jack fruits, along with such scanty rice ration as they can get.

Attempts on the part of the State to make the people either wheat-minded or millet-minded have not met with conspicuous success. But no State can view with equanimity a long succession of years of malnutrition. From the middle of 1944 till about the end

of 1945, there was considerable improvement in the position, due to the recognition by the Central Government of the general situation and the generous assistance extended to the State by allotment of rice from surplus areas.

The visit of H.E. the Viceroy to Travancore gave him a real insight into the peculiar conditions that affected Travancore in the supply and distribution of foodgrains in the State, and the necessary steps were taken to enable the State to enhance the ration gradually to 14 ounces of rice per head. But towards the close of 1945, it was discovered that Travancore could not long continue such a programme. The State tried hard to build up a fairly substantial reserve to meet future emergencies and this policy justified itself. For instance, at the request of the Central Government, when Madras, owing to the result of a calamitous cyclone stood in urgent need of rice, Travancore rendered immediate assistance out of its reserve. Similar assistance was extended to Cochin and Ceylon at the instance of the Central Government on a replacement basis.

Towards the close of 1945, however, it was discovered that in respect of rice there was acute world shortage and Travancore has had again to reduce its rations from 14 to 12 ounces per head. It is now apprehended that unless a substantial additional allotment of rice is immediately given and its movement ensured, Travancore will have to go back to the conditions that prevailed in 1942-43. Taking into account the normal local production and enforcement of the provisions of procurement of all available surplus, Travancore now requires at least 41,000 tons of additional allotment of rice in order to carry on until the next allotment is made in November, 1946.

Monopoly Procurement

According to the procurement plan in Travancore every landholder and cultivator has to place at the disposal of Government the entire yield. Government then give back to him sufficient quantities for domestic consumption on the basis of double the scale of rations allowed to others and also allow him to retain enough paddy for purposes of seed and the payment to labourers in kind. The balance is purchased by Government and is pooled with the imported stock.

It may be noted that there is acute world shortage of wheat as well as of rice and it should be the endeavour of the Central Government to distribute the wheat and rice that are produced so as to cause the least amount of wastage of either. To exemplify, the population in Travancore, Cochin and Malabar and



Transplantation of paddy.

generally also in Madras, is accustomed to only rice and does not readily take to wheat, while in the Northern and Central India and even in Bombay, most persons take larger quantities of wheat than rice and at any rate are not averse to consuming wheat. In other words, while in the south, the people are ready to surrender wheat if they can get rice, the people elsewhere will either prefer wheat to rice or can get along with wheat. Therefore, the people of the south should not be compelled to take too large a proportion of wheat. It may be useful to give all the available wheat to the wheat-eating population and all rice to the rice-eating population.

Similarly, in making allotments to the southern area, transport facilities should be taken into consideration. For instance, it would be uneconomical and even wasteful if Travancore is asked to take the bulk of its rice from the far north. The south of the country can be supplied from adjoining surplus areas. While the north can supply to the nearer deficit areas.

Wherever wholesale rationing has not been introduced, the scheme has to be immediately put into force and all measures for procurement should be rigorously enforced. In Travancore the Government have not found any difficulty in working their procurement and rationing scheme which is State-wide in character.

THE DAMODAR PROJECT

QUICK investigation of the possibility of starting immediately the construction of the first dam (at Tilaiya) in the Rs. 55 crores Damodar River Project was recommended at a conference of the representatives of the Central Government and the Governments of Bengal and Bihar held in New Delhi, on April 23 and 24 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India.

This multi-purpose scheme is intended to control the floods of the Damodar and its tributaries, provide perennial irrigation and power for the benefit of nearly 4,000,000 people living in the valley and also provide navigation facilities. The whole scheme comprises a series of eight dams and reservoirs which when constructed will impound about 4,700,000 acre-feet of water for irrigating some 800,000 acres of land and produce nearly 350,000 Kws. of electricity.

Maithon Dam

After considering the reports of the Central Technical Power Board and the advice of the Tennessee Valley Authority engineers, Messrs. Ross Reigel and Fred C. Schlemmer, and their associates, Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla and Mr. M. Narasimhaiya, Chief Engineer, Mysore State, the conference was convinced of the advisability of pushing forward as rapidly as possible the scheme as a whole. It has accepted the proposals that the dams across the Barakar, tributary of the Damodar, should be at Tilaiya (near Kodarma) and at Maithon, just above its confluence with the main river.

The conference felt, however, that the start of construction of the larger Maithon dam must be postponed to October 1947, as it was not possible for both the Bihar and Bengal Governments to enter into definite commitments in sufficient time to enable contracts to be entered into with engineers and contractors, which must necessarily be done almost at once if a start were to be made by October 1946—the only other alternative. This postponement would, however, give time to consider in detail a proposal to raise the height of the dam at Maithon rather than construct a second reservoir in the mid-Barakar area.

In respect of the Tilaiya dam, it was felt that there were fewer difficulties in making a start. Its early construction would not only provide water for irrigation and facilitate resettlement problems, but also power which would be useful in the construction of the Maithon dam. The

conference, therefore, advised quick investigation of the possibility of starting work on the Tilaiya dam in advance of other projects.

The representatives of the Bengal and Bihar Governments stated that their Governments would not be able to carry out the scheme themselves and suggested the appointment of an Authority for administering the scheme. The Government of India said, they proposed to appoint Mr. B. K. Gokhale, formerly Adviser to the Governor of Orissa, to look into administrative aspects and prepare within six months a scheme for the Damodar Valley Authority.

Compensation for Land Acquired

It was decided that full and fair compensation should be paid for the land acquired for the purpose of constructing reservoirs and that payment should, as far as possible, be in kind, by giving land for land. The officer-in-charge of administration will prepare a detailed scheme for the settlement of dispossessed persons on new land so as to ensure to them a source of livelihood at least as good as they enjoyed on their original lands.

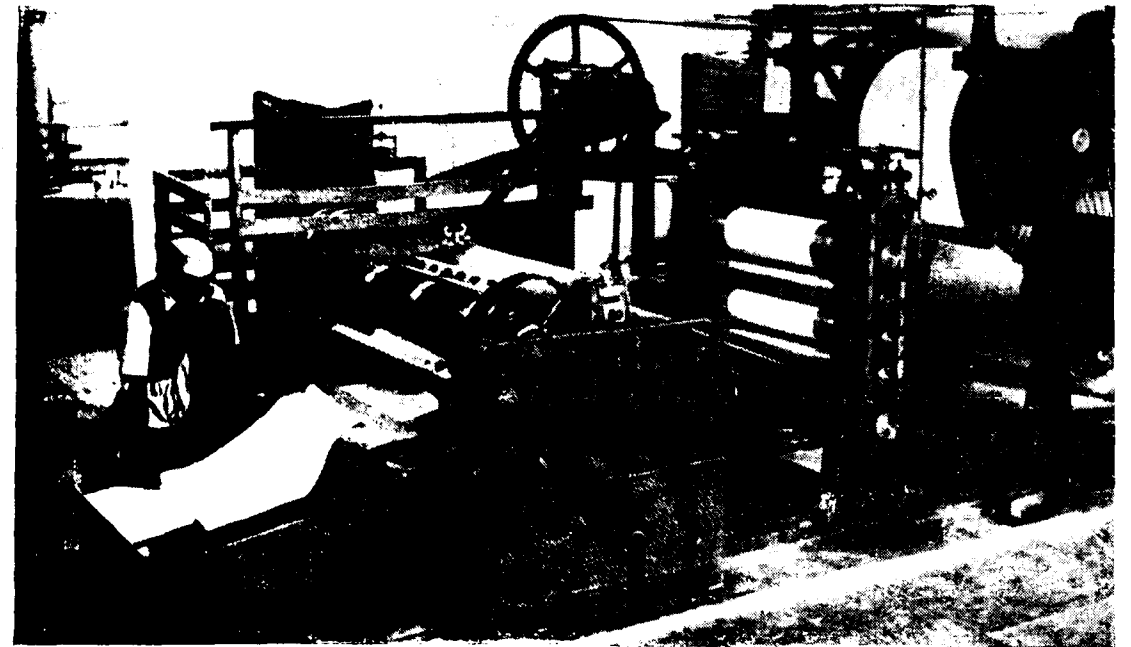
The conference agreed that the cost of investigations and surveys should be shared between the Central and the Provincial Governments concerned and that the general supervision should be under the Central Technical Power Board, and in irrigation and navigation matters the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

SHORT TERM CROPS IN FAMINE AREAS

Bombay and Madras are mobilising all internal resources to the maximum in their endeavour to ward off the disaster of famine. Cultivators have been subsidised to grow short-term crops such as maize, jowar, bajra, ragi, etc., during the current hot weather.

In Madras under its subsidy scheme of Rs. 15 per acre, half of which is met by the Central Government, 650,000 acres have been freshly brought under the plough at a cost of Rs. 97,00,000. The total estimated yield is about 100,000 tons, a major portion of which will come into the hands of the Provincial Government.

Cultivators in the Bombay Presidency are offered a subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre for hot wheather crops, but the extent of the area thus sown is not known and no financial assistance has been asked so far from the Central Government.



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

'EXCELLENT' CONDITIONS IN PAPER MILL INDUSTRY

'EXCELLENT working conditions and satisfactory welfare arrangements in the paper industry as a whole are described in the Report of the Rege Committee on conditions of Labour in the Paper Mill Industry.

[The Labour Investigation Committee consisting of Mr. D. V. Rege, Chairman, and Mr. S. R. Deshpande, Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar and Prof. B. P. Adarkar, members, was appointed by the Government of India in February 1944, to collect factual data on labour conditions in various Indian industries. The Committee has prepared 35 reports on working conditions in 38 industries.]

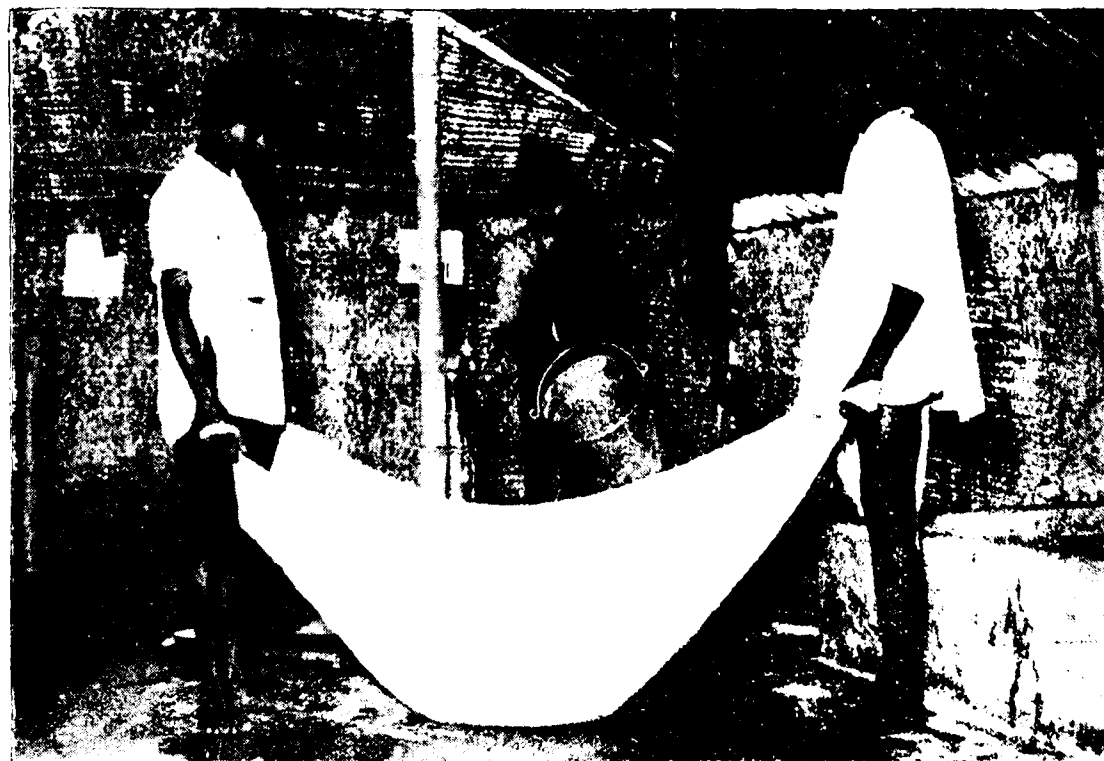
The manufacture of paper by hand has existed in India for centuries and was at one time well established. During the latter half of the 18th century whole villages in Bengal were employed in this cottage industry and the trade was in the hands of *Kagajis* (people making paper). The first paper mill was established in Bengal in 1870 and within two decades seven more mills were started all over India. Between 1918 and 1939 eight more mills were started and now there are 22 establishments employing about 19,000 workers and producing over 100,000 tons per year. Paper has been one of the protected industries since 1925. Owing to cessation of

imports during the war the industry expanded considerably and wartime regulations and controls have not affected its profits. In 1942, the profits of the industry amounted to about a crore of rupees, some eight companies earning nearly thrice the profits they made in 1940.

The largest production comes from Bengal which has four units employing 8,176 persons. In the U.P., there are four factories employing nearly 2,500 workers. Bombay has eight factories and Bihar, Orissa, the Punjab and Madras one each. Two of the factories are in Mysore and Travancore.

Not more than eight per cent of the total labour consists of women and practically no children are employed. Most of the labour is recruited directly. Except in Bengal where labour required for loading and unloading are recruited through contractors, no contract labour is in evidence. In the factory at Poona, there are nearly 200 workers from criminal tribes recruited from the industrial settlement.

The factories are all well-ventilated and lighted, and some are even fitted with exhaust fans. Rest shelters are found in many. Some of the units provide ice-water to their workers during summer months. Sanitation is adequate. The



Making paper by hand—the pulp made from bamboo chips or grass is put on a sheet of cloth and washed of its impurities by rolling it on the floor. Here, the woman is pouring water on the pulp. (Below) The pulp is then dumped into a vat containing a dilute solution of copper sulphate. A mat held high in a frame is used to take out wet sheets of paper from the solution.



appearance of some of the factories which use Sabai or cotton rags for making paper is not quite clean.

All the units work three continuous shifts and in addition on or two general shifts. The hours of work vary from 7½ to 8 in continuous shifts and from 9 to 10 in the general shifts. Sunday is generally a closed day for workers in the general shifts while workers in the continuous shifts get 32 hours rest after 8 to 12 days' work.

Three units have Standing Orders for regulating the relations between employers and workers. Six factories have labour officers to look into the grievances of the workers.

In spite of the improved position of the industry during the war, the workers have not benefited materially. The wage level is slightly lower than in other organised industries. About 29 per cent of the workers get a basic wage of less than 8 as. per day. About 15 per cent receive a daily basic wage of 8 as. to 10 as., 23 per cent 10 as. to 12 as., and 124 per cent between 12 as. and 14 as. The net earnings of 16 per cent of the workers are below 12 as. and nearly 38 per cent of the workers earn between 12 as. to Re. 1. Women get 4 as. per day in some units. Dearness allowance varies from unit to unit but is generally lower than that prevailing in other industries. Only two units have linked up the rate of dearness allowance to the cost of living. The highest rate of dearness allowance is paid at Saharanpur where a cooly on



8 as. per day earns as much as Rs. 1-4 per day. A profit bonus equivalent to one or two months' wages is being paid in all factories except in Bengal and Madras.

Many factories have provided housing to their workers and 38.2 per cent of the workers live in tenements given by the employers. The type of housing is varied. Some are well-ventilated and electrically lighted two-roomed quarters, with good water supply and sanitation. Some others are barrack-type single-roomed tenements. In some places the houses are given free, in some others the rent is as low as 4 as. and in a few the rent is as high as Rs. 4 per month. The housing provided in Bengal compares favourably with that provided in other industries like jute. Except in Madras, where no housing is provided the houses supplied by the employers are generally satisfactory.

Welfare work has not been neglected in this industry. All the factories have established dispensaries with qualified doctors, while two have hospitals with separate beds for males and females and with surgical equipment. One concern has Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic sections and a maternity ward. Two units in Bengal have canteens where cooked food is supplied at

The sheets are then sized by smearing them with glue made of rice powder. (Below) The wet sheets are placed on one another and water is squeezed out.





The sheets are glazed with a smooth stone.

a cost of 3½ as. per meal and tea at half anna per cup. Many others also run canteens where light refreshments are served. Recreational facilities are arranged in many centres. Most of the factories have provided free education for the workers' children. Adult literacy classes are also conducted in some centres. Free books and uniforms are supplied to the children of the poorer sections. Grain shops and stores for selling food-stuffs, fuel, clothing, etc., have been set up in almost every factory. They are sold at concession rates in some places. In Bengal there are co-operative banks from which workers can borrow money at a nominal rate of interest.

Pension and provident fund schemes exist in all the factories except in Bombay, Madras and Orissa. In the Punjab the mill is building up a Welfare Trust Fund for starting welfare schemes for the workers.

Welfare Activities

Trade unionism in the industry is extremely weak. The Labour Association at Bhadravati, in Mysore, is conducting some welfare activities such as a canteen and literary classes.

The Report concludes with the hope that with continued prosperity there would be an organised effort on the part of the manufacturers to bring about an all-round improvement in the conditions of work and wages of those that depend on this industry for their livelihood.

REGE COMMITTEE REPORT ON MANGANESE MINING

INDIA is world's principal source of hard, high grade manganese ore and in output is second only to the U.S.S.R. Nearly 800,000 tons of first grade ore valued at Rs. 10,00,000 were produced on an average between the years 1939-1943 and almost all of it was exported. Owing to scarcity of labour and shipping difficulties, production and employment in the industry are at present going down. Wages in the industry are low though profits are high. Abolition of the contract system would lead to a better deal for labour. Workers in this industry are not at all organised and it will take a long time for them to be able to stand on their own. These are the conclusions of the Report of the Labour Investigation Committee on Manganese Mining, one of the major mineral industries of India.

The Report quotes Dr. J. A. Dunn, the former Director of the Geological Survey of India: "Perhaps the greatest possibilities lie in a large increase in production of ferro-manganese, which India should strive as much as possible to export in lieu of ore," and says, "In view of the high grade iron and manganese ores available and the possibility of cheap electric power from the Tungabhadra Project well within a score of miles, conditions, in the State of Sandur in Bellary district, Madras, are the most favourable for the development of steel or ferro-manganese industry especially as the ore has a low phosphorous content."

Uses of Manganese

Manganese is one of the key metals, its chief use being in the manufacture of steel. It is also extensively used in the chemical industry and in the making of dry cell batteries. Mining of the ore was first started in 1892 in the Vizagapatam district of the Madras presidency and in the Nagpore district in 1899. The main regions in which the mineral is now mined are the Central Provinces, Bombay, Bihar, Orissa and Madras in British India and Sandur, Keonjhar, Bonai and Mysore States. Of these the C.P. alone has been responsible for 76 per cent of the total production in the last five years, and has a virtual monopoly of the fine grade ore in India.

The industry employs about 25,000 persons, nearly half of which are women. No

children are employed. Most of the mines are merely open quarries and even the underground mines are at the most 350 feet deep. Surface mines work on a single shift of 10 hours a day and underground mine on a double shift of 8 hours' duration. Lighting and ventilation are poor in the three mines in C.P. but are better in the one in Bombay. "Working conditions leave much to be desired. Housing and sanitary arrangements are not satisfactory."

Labour Recruitment

There is no settled labour force. Recruiting in C. P. and Sandur is done through contractors. In Shivrajpur, Bombay, recruiting is done by salaried *tyndels*, who also get a commission on the wages of the workers. Labour being primarily agricultural and local, turn-over and absenteeism are high. Fifty per cent of the workers in C.P. are from the aboriginals.

Most of the workers are piece-rated and the rates vary from mine to mine and even in the same mine. Members of the same family work in gangs and wages are paid to the

head of the gang according to the number of tubs raised. The basic wage rates range from 7 As. to 11 As. for men and are about 5 As. for women. According to the Report, there is considerable scope for increasing these rates. Dearness allowance is paid in Bombay and Sandur and cloth and grain are sold at cost prices or concession rates in some mines. But these concessions and allowances are not commensurate with the increase in the cost of living.

A few mines maintain dispensaries and maternity wards and even give a sickness allowance of 3 to 4 annas a day. But in spite of the fact that nearly 50 per cent of the workers are women no creches are provided, rest shelters being used for this purpose.

It is announced that Khan Bahadur G. Faruque, C.I.E., O.B.E., Chief Operating Superintendent, E.I. Railway, will succeed Rai Bahadur N. C. Ghosh, O.B.E., when the latter officer proceeds on leave preparatory to retirement towards the end of the year.



Manganese being loaded into lighters at an Indian port for export.

'APPALLING' CONDITIONS IN RICE MILLS

Rege Committee's Report

MASS production to feed urban population and consumers preference for milled rice over hand-pounded rice have resulted in a phenomenal growth of the rice milling industry in India. There were 1,634 rice mills in 1943 employing 51,385 persons in British India. Owing to rationing and control of movement of foodgrains and because of shortage of coal, gunny bags and parts of machinery, most of the rice mills have not been able to work throughout the year. This has caused a large measure of unemployment and 'appalling' conditions of labour. These facts are brought out in the Rege Committee's "Report on Labour Conditions in the Rice Mills of India".

Rice mills form the largest group among industrial establishments in India and are the most diffused. They are practically in every nook and corner of the country. Nearly 50 per cent. of them are in Madras, providing work to about half the workers engaged in this industry. There are about 832 concerns employing an average daily number of 23,690 workers. Bengal ranks as the next in importance and the Central Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and Bombay follow. The number of mills and workers is small in the United Provinces, Punjab and Sind.

Rice mills not merely convert paddy into rice but act as a storehouse for wholesale conservation and distribution of rice and its various by-products, such as paddy-husk, broken rice and bran. Parboiling of rice is also one of their functions and side operations such as extraction of oil and groundnut decortication are undertaken during the slack season. The work in the rice mills thus depends upon the seasonal character of the harvests. In Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, where parboiled rice is preferred, no work is possible during the rainy season, as no steam-drying plant is in use in India and paddy has to be dried in the sun.

Leasing and Hiring of Mills

A peculiar feature of the industry is that most of the mills are let out for lease from year to year. Often there is a time-lag between one lease and another and the semi-permanent workers are not paid during the interval either by the outgoing contractor or by the incoming one. The frequent changes in management arising out of this system are mainly responsible for the unsatisfactory position of labour in this industry. The mills are also let out on hire to merchants who husk their own paddy. In such



Kashmir village girls pounding rice.

cases, the proprietor and the hiring merchant jointly pay the wages to the casual workers who have to serve two masters and depend on different persons for their earnings from day to day. In general, these practices have resulted in the workers having neither stability of income nor of employment and no protection as to their rights and privileges.

There are two classes of workers, skilled workers who operate the oil engine and attend to the hulling machines, and coolies who do a miscellaneous kind of work such as loading, unloading, weighing, carrying paddy and rice, holling and drying paddy and transport. In Madras 64.5 per cent. of the workers employed are men and 33.7 per cent. are women. The proportion of women has increased in Bengal owing to the demand for male labour in military constructions. The number of women workers in other provinces is not so great. Illegal employment of children is prevalent in Bihar and Bengal.

The wage-rate in the industry has no relation to the price level. It is enhanced from time to time as a result of interference by either the local authorities or the trade unions. In Madras there has been an increase of 30 per cent. in the wages of the monthly-paid staff and 17.8 per cent. and 36.3 per cent. in the case of male and

female coolies respectively. In Bengal the increase in the wage-rates of monthly-paid workers has been less than in those of coolies. In Bihar engine staff gained a 50 per cent increase, piece-rated workers 200 per cent. and casual labour 300 per cent over their pre-war wages. The earnings of piece-rated workers have been enhanced in general by about 100 per cent since the beginning of the war. In some districts of Madras there is a practice of paying a minimum wage to piece-rated workers. The monthly paid workers sometime get bonuses. Dearness allowance is paid in a few centres. Gratuity in cash or kind is occasionally given to the casual workers.

Seasonal migration and temporary unemployment are the main reasons for labour turnover in this industry which was estimated at 27.9 per cent in Madras for a period of nine months and 37.89 per cent in Bengal for a period of one year.

Working of Labour Laws

On account of their small size and their scattered nature and intermittent operations, rice mills are a special problem in factory inspection. Broadly speaking, labour laws are treated with scant respect in this industry. Sanitation and ventilation in the mills are not satisfactory. The chief defects are dust and bad smell from the stagnant pools of water in and around the parboiling plant. Fencing of machinery, lime-washing of premises and display of factory notices are an exception rather than the rule. The limit on working hours is not observed. Weekly holidays are not granted and overtime is not paid for. The Payment of Wages Act is largely evaded.

The Maternity Benefit Act has been a dead letter and the Workmen's Compensation Act has suffered the same fate. Workers frequently suffer from occupational diseases such as cough, vomiting of blood and eye and knee troubles. There is a great need for both enlargement of inspectorates and decentralisation of their powers.

The workers are not organised except in Madras and welfare conditions leave a large room for improvement. Most of the mills have put rent-free dwellings for the workers, but supply of water is satisfactory only in Bengal. There are no canteens or grain shops attached anywhere. Owing to the absence of rest shelters and creches, workers have to spend their interval in the mill premises or in the godowns and women workers have to leave their children unattended. Medical aid is not provided when they fall sick or have an accident. Malaria has been a chronic source of ill-health, particularly in Bengal and Bihar. Owing to seasonal and involuntary unemployment, bad habits and illness, the workers often run into debts.

NEW RUBBER CONTROL ORDER

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India, on May 2 stated:

The Rubber Control and Production Order, 1946, which repeals the Rubber Control and Production Order, 1942, has been published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary. Under the new Order, the Indian Rubber Production Board, as previously constituted, is to continue to perform such functions as were entrusted to it under the provisions of the old order.

The new Order, like the one now repealed, provides for the control of planting and replanting acquisition, sale, transit and distribution of raw rubber and fixes the prices for its various grades. The Government purchase scheme having terminated, however, the Controller of Rubber is no longer required to purchase rubber on their behalf, but provision has been made in the new Order for the sale of rubber by the Approved Estates and Dealers direct to the manufacturers under permits issued by the Controller of Rubber.

Ceiling Price

The new Order, like its predecessor, also provides for the collection of a cess of 4 annas for every 100 lbs. (or part thereof) of rubber sold to help defray the administration expenses of the Indian Rubber Production Board, but while the cess was previously collected from the producer, the new procedure requires the manufacturer applying to the Controller for a release permit to deposit the necessary fee in a Government treasury for credit to the account of the Board.

The ceiling price has been fixed, with effect from May 1, 1946, at Rs. 87-1-0 per 100 lbs. of Group I raw rubber.

REDUCTION IN CEMENT PRICE

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Supplies have, with effect from May 1, 1946, reduced the price of all Portland Cement from Rs. 63-12-0 to Rs. 60 per ton in full wagon loads f.o.r. destinations, except

- stations situated on the Bengal and Assam Railway, supplies to which are on an f.o.r. Calcutta basis; and
- river stations in Bengal and Assam, supplies to which are on an f.o.b. Calcutta basis.

TRAINING OF CRAFTSMEN FOR INDUSTRIES

Four Technical Institutions to be Set Up

“WHAT India needs is technicians who can make the machinery required for industrial development,” said the Hon’ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Government of India addressing the first meeting of the All-India Council for Technical Education held in New Delhi on April 30. The meeting lasted three days. Sir Jogendra Singh asked the Council not only to survey the needs for technical institutions but also to suggest ways and means of implementing its recommendations.

Mr. N. R. Sarkar, Chairman of the Council who presided said that higher technical education had assumed great importance even in advanced countries. In a backward country like India the need for it was all the greater, because dearth of trained technical personnel was retarding the growth of industries. He was thankful to the Government of India for having taken up the question of technical education in right earnest and hoped that Government would provide all the necessary facilities.

It was decided that the National Planning Committee be invited to nominate two of its representatives to serve on the Council.

Higher Technical Education

Four technical institutions for imparting higher technical education are likely to be established in the near future in different parts of India to serve different areas.

On May 1 the Council passed a resolution endorsing this proposal of the Sarkar Committee which was set up to consider the establishment of higher Technical Institutions in India on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The interim report of the Committee was before the Council.

As it may not be possible to establish all the four Institutions simultaneously, the Institutions which are established first will cater to the needs of the whole country paying special attention to areas backward in facilities for technical education, such as the Central Provinces, Orissa, Assam and N.-W.F.P.

The Council also recommended the urgent need to upgrade the existing Engineering and Technological Institutions by generous grants from the Centre as well as the Provinces. A committee is to be appointed to make specific recommendations in this connection.

The Council on May 2 approved a scheme for training and apprenticeship of craftsmen for industries prepared by a Committee appointed by the Government of India.

The Committee has suggested the need to impart systematic training to Indian boys to remove the deficiency of skilled craftsmen in the country. In drawing up the scheme Government consulted a large number of industrial establishments and was assured that the trainees would be absorbed in the various industries and there was no fear of their remaining unemployed.

Council's Decision

The Council decided that six All-India Boards of Technical Studies be constituted for the different subjects of engineering and technology. The Boards will frame regulations for grants of All-India Certificates and Diplomas and prescribe the conditions of recognition of the different types of technical institutions. It was also decided to constitute Regional Committees to survey the facilities for technical education and to supervise the work of Technical Institutions in the various parts of the country.

A Co-ordination Committee will consider the recommendations of the various Boards of Studies and place them before the Council. It will also co-ordinate the work of the Regional Committees and take such other measures as may be necessary for the proper fulfilment of the duties of the Council.

The Council endorsed the proposal of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the early establishment of a Post-Graduate Power Engineering Department at the Institute.

The Council includes representatives of the Central Legislature, Chambers of Commerce Engineering and Technical Institutions, Labour Federations, besides representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments. It was constituted following a recommendation of the central Advisory Board of Education that under modern conditions technical education at the higher stages cannot be organized on a provincial basis.

VICEROY'S DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

The students and staff of Government High School for Indian Girls, Nairobi, have contributed Rs. 2,000 to the Viceroy's Distress Relief Fund. His Excellency has gratefully accepted this generous gift.

EXPANSION OF INDIAN COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Government's Resolution on Planning Committee's Report

THE expansion of India's present productive capacity of mill-made cloth from 4,800 million yards to 7,200 million yards per annum is desirable but impracticable at present because of difficulty in securing the necessary machinery said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India on May 3.

It added: An expansion of about 2.75 million spindles proposed as the immediate target will produce an additional 1,700 million yards a year, consisting of 510 million yards of fine, and 1,190 million yards of coarse cloth.

This production, together with handloom cloth, will help to provide approximately 18 yards per head per annum after allowance for exports of 10 per cent of the total Indian production.

Planning must be on an all-India basis.

In order to raise the general standard of living it is necessary for industrial enterprise to be sited not in one or two selected areas but on a country-wide basis.

Distribution of New Plants

The distribution of new plants and extensions of the existing plants should follow territorial divisions of India as defined in the Cotton Cloth (Movement) Control Order.

These points are made in the Report of the Committee appointed by the Government of India in February, 1945, to advise them on post-war planning of the Cotton Textile Industry.

“The Government of India are in substantial agreement with the Committee,” says a Government Resolution published on May 3.

The Committee consisted of the following: Messrs. D. M. Khatau (Chairman), T. V. Baddeley, B. M. Bagri, Sakarlal Balabhai, B. W. Batchelor, Chaturbhujdas Chimanlal, R. C. Jall, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Dewan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, Sir Shri Ram and Messrs. Krishnaraj M. D. Thackersey, J. Tinker and Neville Wadia.

Examining the Committee's main recommendation, the Government Resolution says:

The Government of India agree with the Committee that for the next few years it will not be possible to procure enough machin-



A village girl with a load of newly-harvested cotton.

ery to support an expansion of more than 1,700 million yards per annum of cloth. Like the Committee the Government of India would have preferred a greater expansion, but on a consideration of the probable availability of textile machinery in the near future there is no alternative but to plan for the present on the basis of the target recommended by the Committee. The plan will in the present circumstances be an interim plan and it is the intention of the Government of India to review it when world economic conditions or other circumstances make a review desirable.

The Committee recommend in essence that expansion should be distributed all over India. With this recommendation the Government of India are in entire agreement, and they have accepted, with some minor modifications, the detailed suggestions of the Committee for the allocation of new spindlage in the various zones. The annexure (see Page 693) to this Resolution shows the final detailed allocation decided upon. In addition to the allocation shown in

this annexure, it is proposed to allot some 130,000 spindles for the purpose of expansion of small mills in various States in the South Deficit Zone and in the Rajputana Deficit Zone.

The Committee have taken the view that the amount of "free" yarn at present available from India's mill production is adequate for the needs of handloom weavers and other consumers of yarn. The Government of India, however, think it necessary to ensure increased supplies of yarn for handloom weavers and other consumers, and have to this end directed that at least 25 per cent of the new spindles installed shall be left uncovered by looms. Each British Indian Province and Indian State would of course be the best assessor of its own exact needs, and the Government of India propose therefore that the Provinces and States may, if so advised, reserve a larger spindlage for such purposes.

Import Licences

The Committee have recommended a reduction in the duty of foreign cotton, and a full rebate of import duty paid on cotton for the benefit of India's export trade. The Government of India do not consider that these measures are justified in the present non-competitive conditions of world trade, but they will review the matter on the lines recommended by the Committee when competitive conditions return, in order that the Indian export trade may be able to compete in world markets on equal terms with other countries.

The Committee recommend in paragraph 9 of their Report that the import of second-hand productive machinery should be prohibited. Since it will be some years before India can produce enough cloth for her own requirements, the Government of India have not been able to accept this recommendation; they will allow import licences for second-hand productive machinery for the present if they are fully satisfied that the machinery in question will be serviceable for a reasonable period and suitable for economic production.

The Committee have recommended that import of certain machinery should be permitted freely from any country in the world. Having regard to existing currency difficulties, the Government of India consider that import of plant from countries in respect of which they exist should be permitted only when there is reason to believe that the plant will be delivered appreciably earlier or will be considerably cheaper or better than if obtained from the sterling area.

The Committee have recommended that where the replacement of existing by new plant is allowed, the replaced plant should be scrapped. While the Government of India appreciate the force of the Committee's recommendation on this point, they cannot see their way, in the present conditions of cloth shortage, to accepting it in toto. But they will urge on Provincial and State Governments the desirability of preventing the use by mills of inefficient and uneconomic plants.

In paragraph 23 (c) of their Report the Committee recommend that applications for import licences received after September 30, 1945, should be excluded. The Government of India have not accepted this recommendation because they feel the relevant press advertisements did not come in good time to the attention of all industrialists concerned.

The Committee have modified the recommendation made in paragraph 24 of their Report, and now recommend that the Government of India should indicate to manufacturers that priority should be given to orders for expansion and new mills over orders for replacement of existing machinery. The Government of India accept this recommendation.

The Committee have pointed out in their Report that the present prices of textile machinery manufactured by firms in the United Kingdom are high. The Government of India agree that this is so, and will endeavour to obtain a reduction in those prices.

Subject to what is contained in this Resolution, the Government of India accept the recommendations made in the Committee's Report.

COTTON EXPORT QUOTA

In a Press Note issued by the Textile Commissioner on April 12, 1946, the Government of India announced their decision to prohibit the export of Indian cotton stapling 13/16" and longer unless it had been sold prior to April 12, 1946.

It was also notified that export of Indian cotton (including lower stapling) was subject to licensing. The quota fixed for the export of Indian cotton on a consideration of India's requirements has become exhausted. It has, therefore, been decided that no further applications for export of cotton (whether entered into before or after April 12) should be entertained during the cotton year ending with August 31, 1946.

Export Trade Controllers will, however, decide whether applications pending on May 11, should be allowed or not on their merits.

How the Expansion will be Distributed

Zone	Provinces and States.	Fine Spindles.	Coarse Spindles.
Bombay surplus area	Bombay Presidency.	114,000	..
	Baroda.	38,000	..
	Nawanagar.	..	25,000
	Junagadh.	..	25,000
	Bhavnagar.	..	25,000
	Cambay.	19,000	..
Sind Zone	Sind Province.	..	75,000
	Khairpur.	..	25,000
Punjab Zone	Punjab Province.	114,000	323,000
	Delhi Province.	..	..
	N. W. F. P.	..	..
	Bahawalpur.	..	50,000
	Nabha.	..	25,000
	Kapurthala.	..	25,000
	United Provinces.	114,000	150,000
United Provinces Zone	Benares State.	..	25,000
Bihar Zone	Bihar Province.	38,000	175,000
Bengal Zone	Bengal Presidency.	125,000	200,000
	Assam Province.	100,000 (coarse & fine mixed)	..
	Seraikala.	..	25,000
Orissa Zone	Orissa Province.	19,000	100,000
	Mayurbhunj.	..	25,000
Central Provinces Zone	Central Provinces.	76,000	75,000
	Rewa.	..	25,000
South Zone	Madras Presidency.	152,000	200,000
	Hyderabad.	19,000	50,000
	Mysore.	19,000	25,000
	Travancore.	..	50,000
	Cochin.	..	25,000
	Pudukottah.	..	25,000
	Gwalior.	19,000	..
Rajputana Zone	Bharatpur.	..	25,000
	Bikaner.	..	25,000
	Dholpur.	..	25,000
	Alwar.	..	25,000
	Palanpur.	19,000	..
Total :— ..		{ 885,000 fine spindles. { 1,873,000 coarse spindles. { 100,000 for Assam, coarse and fine together.	
		2,858,000	



Labour welfare centres in Bombay have nursery schools run on Montessori lines for the benefit of workers' children. Picture shows children singing a song, accompanied by rhythmic movements, on the terrace of a welfare centre.



The children are given milk after their one-hour siesta in the afternoon.

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR COLLIERY WORKERS

FOLLOWING the amendment of the Indian Mines Act during the recent session of the central Legislature, the Government of India have framed Rules requiring mine-owners to maintain shower baths and locker rooms for clothes at pit-heads for the benefit of colliery workers.

These rules were considered on April 26 at the meeting of the Mines Welfare Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Lall, Secretary Labour Department, Government of India. Employees will be required to construct pit-head baths according to plans approved by the Coal-Mines Welfare Commissioner. It is proposed that at each pit-head bath, facilities will be provided for the sale of soap and mustard oil at cost price. Standards laid down in the Rules ensure that water will be provided at sufficient pressure to enable the miner to get clean.

Collieries will be classified into four categories according to their output and the number of shower baths to be provided at the pit-head will vary with the category of the colliery.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

The Committee also reviewed the progress made in respect of a scheme recommended at an earlier meeting, to start vegetable farms in mining areas to improve the workers' diet.

Figures placed before the Committee by the authorities in charge of anti-malaria operations in coal-fields, showed considerable reduction in the incidence of malaria among the mining population. In the Jharia fields the rate per thousand in March, 1946, stood at 19.9 as compared with 43.23 in November, 1943. Corresponding figures for the Raniganj coal-fields were 34.24 and 81.23.

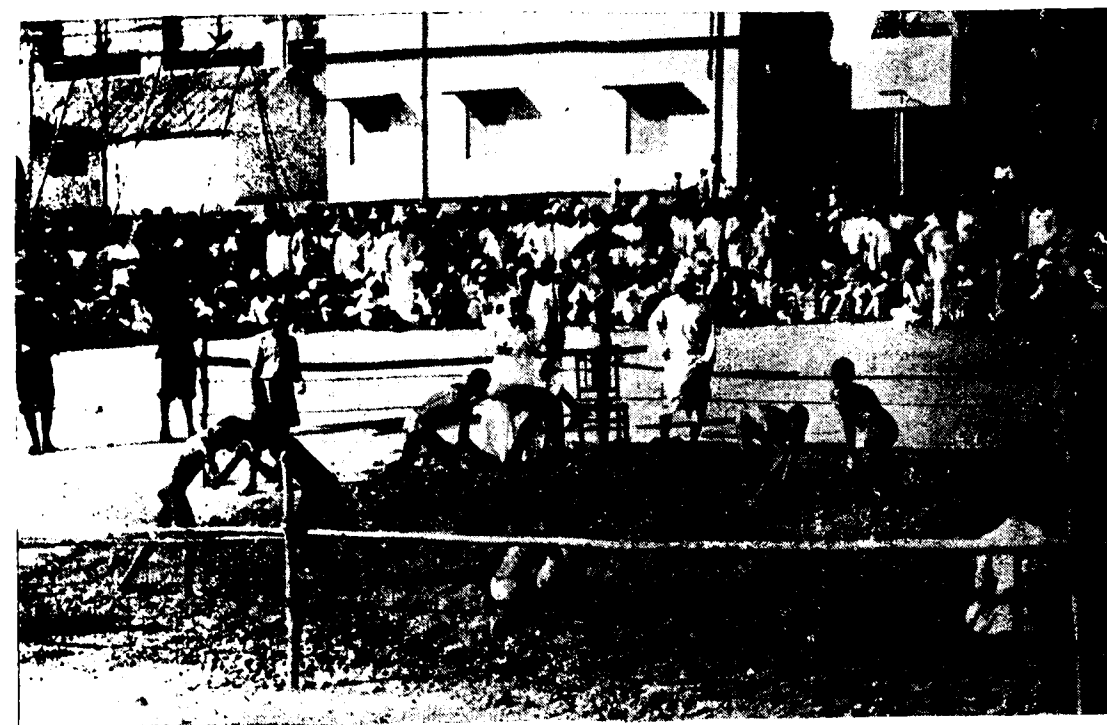
Child Welfare Centres

The Mines Welfare Committee was constituted in 1944 under an ordinance levying a cess on all coal and coke despatched from British Indian collieries to create a fund for promoting welfare schemes. The schemes approved at earlier sessions of the Committee provide for medical and child welfare centres, a central and two regional hospitals in Jharia and Raniganj improvement of water supply and well-designed townships for miners.

In the budget for the current year a sum of Rs. three lakhs has been recommended to meet expenditure on adult education. There are also schemes for the operation of a mobile shop for selling consumer goods, a mobile cinema and a mobile canteen.



Playgrounds, equipped with swings, merry-go-rounds and slides are also provided for children.



Welfare centres also have gymnasia with wrestling pits and shower baths. Picture shows wrestling bouts in progress.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Dr. B. C. Roy's Radio Talk

"It may take 40 years or more to implement fully the long-term programme, but once given effort to, it will secure for the people a reasonably well developed service based on newer and extended conception of modern health requirements," said Dr. B. C. Roy, member of the Bhole Health Committee, in a broadcast from A.I.R., Calcutta, on April 15.

Dr. Roy added that such a long term of years would be necessary to give full effect to the scheme because: (1) The total number of personnel required for implementing the scheme for the whole of British India was not now available. It may take 30 years and more to do so. (2) The money necessary for giving effect to this scheme, both recurring and non-recurring, may be difficult for the country to afford



A doctor of the Tata Memorial Cancer Research Hospital, Bombay, centres the X-Ray beam on to a patient.



Iron-lung treatment: a patient in a Bombay Hospital is breathing with the help of the Iron Lung.

immediately. (3) The technique for providing health services should be developed with reference to the existing social and economic conditions of the people. Emphasising the third reason, Dr. Roy pointed out that it would be a tragedy if the techniques developed in other countries were to be applied to India.

He also mentioned the short-term scheme covering two periods of five years each which the Committee had considered along with the blueprint of long-term programme.

Health Consciousness

According to Dr. Roy, absence of planning apathy of the Government and want of health consciousness among the people were the three reasons for the present state of affairs in India.

The combined expenditure on medical relief and public health activities in India in 1944-45, Dr. Roy went on to say, amounted to five annas and nine pies per capita per year, whereas the corresponding figure for the United Kingdom was Rs. 44/8 in 1935-36 and in the United States of America Rs. 41/6 in 1938. A moderate calculation showed that not more than five to six



The doctor of a rural health unit examines a villager in Moradabad District.

per cent. of the total provincial revenue was meant for health services.

Dr. Roy observed: "For the first time the Bhole Committee has made a serious attempt to draw up such a comprehensive plan for every type of health service in order to secure positive health for people of the country."

Health Development

Earlier, Dr. Roy observed that he had raised two fundamental issues at the time of the Bhole Committee's appointment and that these principles were accepted by the authorities—"first, that we should be free to overhaul, if need be, the whole of the existing machinery for administration of health services in India, as also the policy guiding it, and not be weighed down by any consideration of sectional, communal or racial interests; and, secondly, that in planning for the future we should proceed on the basis that the problems belong to an independent India, an India which would be free to formulate its own scheme of health development and be responsible to carry it into effect, an India where people will give to the plan their free and willing co-operation without which success cannot be ensured."

COUNTRYWIDE HEALTH ORGANISATION

The Bhole Committee's short-term programme, divided into three five-year periods and providing for a countrywide health organisation, was reviewed by Dr. B. C. Roy in his second broadcast on April 17.

Pointing out that in this programme emphasis was laid on preventive work in preference to curative, Dr. Roy said that even if all the money and the staff at present available were employed for curative purposes only a small section of the population would be relieved. On the other hand every health programme should be developed on the foundation of preventive service.

Maternity and Child Welfare

In the short-term programme such measures would be adopted as would produce demonstrable results. Maternity and child welfare work was placed on the forefront of the programme because 50 per cent. of the total deaths in a year occurred below the age of ten and 200,000 mothers died of child-birth every year. If mortality could be reduced by intensive educative propaganda, particularly among women and children, and by improving environmental condition, water supply etc.



A ward in a maternity hospital in Bombay.

the value of the programme would be demonstrated both to the public and the authorities.

Due to insufficiency of organisation it was provided in the short-term programme that one secondary centre and five primary centres be started in a district with a smaller hospital and staff than that under the long-term programme. The staff in the primary centre would attend to preventive work like sterilisation of water supply, vaccination, checking of vital statistics, anti-malaria field operation etc. As experience grew, the number of primary and secondary units would increase in a district and eventually, as more money and trained personnel became available, the district health centre and hospital would be established and the three-million plan completed.

Ministry of Health

Dr. Roy emphasised that a widely distributed machinery of this type could work satisfactorily only if there was some authority to guide, supervise and co-ordinate the activities of the constituent units. The Committee had visualised that there would be a Ministry of Health at the Centre with Ministries of Health in the Provinces. There would also be local area health administrations. While a central authority was necessary to control inter-provincial spread of

communicable diseases, sanitary control of inter-provincial traffic, enforcement of standards regarding food and drugs, it would at the same time recognise autonomy of the provincial health authorities.

Dr. Roy further pointed out that all the personnel employed for various health services during long and short-term periods would be whole-time officers. Part-time workers or honorary workers may have some place in the district and secondary health centres. In creating this combined health service, a complete overhauling of the present system of having imperial, provincial or subordinate services was suggested and procedure was laid down for making these appointments.

Earlier, Dr. Roy gave an outline of the long-term programme which would take years to mature and would require 233,000 doctors, 670,000 nurses including health workers, 115,000 midwives and 77,000 pharmacists. The countryside was the focal point of this planning. The aim was to place health services as near to the people of villages as possible and make the ultimate unit of health administration as small as practicable.

Concluding Dr. Roy said, "The task is stupendous. We need money, we need men, we need the development of technique. The Bhore Committee has given a blue-print for future workers to fill in the details, give it shape and make it a growing, living programme for generations yet unborn."

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

WORK OF INDIAN MEDICAL MISSION IN MALAYA

Despatch of Old Clothes to Malaya

14,000 Indian Labourers Examined

IN just over a month since setting up its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, the Government of India Medical Mission headed by Lt.-Col. I.S. Sastri has established six centres in different parts of Selangor State, Malay Peninsula.

The six centres are staffed by seven doctors apart from numerous assistants.

A recent inspection report shows that some of the doctors have already covered nearly the whole area assigned to them. The Mission has thoroughly examined over 14,000 Indian labourers working on plantations.

Health Survey

A complete survey of their state of health was also taken; those deserving attention were treated thoroughly and a satisfactory result is already noticeable.

The Mission observed that the state of malnutrition among labourers was not as bad as rumoured.

The Mission is preparing to open new centres in Negri Sembilan State as soon as the work in Selangor State is completed.

The first centre was opened on March 22 at Puchong with two doctors and one compounder, and a week later three more centres were got going—at Kapar, Bukit Rotan and Petaling. Other centres were opened at Betang Berjuntai, Raja Musa and in Kuala Lungat group hospital near Banting.

The Government of India Mission arrived in Singapore on March 11, with a compliment of eight doctors, five male dressers and three compounders. The Mission brought medical stores and equipment.

Soon sharing the responsibilities of this Mission will be the newly-arrived Congress Medical Mission, led by Dr. Cholkar, which has also established its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

RAI BAHADUR SURAJ BHAN JHALANI

On page 494 (col. 2, line 3 from top) of *Indian Information* dated April 15, 1946, the name of the buyer of Hariana heifer which fetched Rs. 900 should have read, "Rai Bahadur Suraj Bhan Jhalani" and not "Rai Bahadur Suraj Khan Jhalani." The error is regretted.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on April 28 stated:

The Government of India have been receiving a large number of requests from individuals for permission to send parcels of old clothes by post to their relatives and friends in Malaya with a view to providing some immediate relief to them in their present distressful conditions. Notwithstanding cloth shortage in India, Government do not wish to stand in the way of this export, so long as it is genuinely going to relieve the distress of Indians in Malaya and the permission is not abused either by the senders of the parcels or by the recipients.

Parcels of old clothes weighing not more than 10 lbs. in each case will be accepted for despatch to Singapore and other destinations in Malaya provided they are covered by export permits issued by the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi, who has been authorised in this behalf and to whom applications for this purpose should be made.

SIND AND N.-W.F.P. TO ENFORCE DRUGS RULES

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

The Government of N.-W.F.P. and Sind have also decided to enforce the Rules, framed by them and published on January 21, 1946, and December 22, 1945, respectively, with effect from February 1, 1947.

The date for enforcement of the Rules in the remaining province of Orissa will be announced later.

It is notified for the information of fuel oil consumers in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay areas that their applications for fuel oil permits should, in future, be addressed respectively to the Fuel Oil Controller, Post Box No. 2,222, Calcutta; the Fuel Oil Controller, Post Box 1,268, Madras; and the Director of Supplies, Department of Industries and Supplies, Bombay, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, Government of India, on May 3.

INDO-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE AGES

Mr. K. P. S. Menon's Convocation Address

CHINA and India were friends in more than negative sense. They had actively collaborated involving the art and the philosophy of life, said Mr. K. P. S. Menon, India's Agent General in China, addressing the convocation of the Nanking University and the Ginling College for Women on April 15.

After referring to the "grievous hardships China had undergone during the war", Mr. Menon paid a tribute to the fortitude of China's students and other sections of the community which "had resulted in China emerging out of the war not only victorious but internationally recognised as a great power."

At San Francisco, Mr. Menon said, he rejoiced as an Asiatic to see China take her rightful place as one of the Big Five.

Ancient Friendship

He went on; "In the international world neighbours were not always friends—rather the reverse. China and India, however, had been neighbours for generations and yet they had not had a single war. They have not even had a frontier incident. They had actively collaborated in evolving the art and the philosophy of life. Sinkiang in particular was a great meeting place of Chinese and Indian civilizations in the first thousand years of the Christian era. I was fortunate to see the relics of that combined culture during my overland journey from India to China. This ancient friendship between the two countries is now beginning to flower again."

Mr. Menon added that with the abrogation of unequal treaties and the relinquishment of extraterritorial rights, China had achieved nationalism. India too was on the point of achieving it. But nationalism in the sense of freedom from foreign control was not enough. It must lead to the second stage of evolution, namely, the establishment of true democracy.

In China important steps had recently been taken to pave the way for a constitutional Government. In India too, as a result of the recent elections, governments representative of and responsible to the people were functioning in all the provinces; and it was hoped that the formation of a truly national government at the Centre would not be long delayed.

More important than nationalism and democracy was the principal of livelihood. In this

respect China and India lagged behind the other civilized countries in the world. He hoped that wherever the graduates might be they would devote their energies to raise the standard of living of the common man. This could not be done by any mechanical means. It could only be done by the cultivation of the four cardinal virtues of the Chinese classics and their rigorous application to public life.

State and Individual

Every now and then in human history the evil theory had appeared that the individual existed for the State. This theory lay at the root of Fascism and Nazism. China and India had helped to overthrow them. It was now their duty to build up a State, of which the goal would be the well-being of the individual and the basis, respect for human personality.

Mr. Menon hoped that China would continue to be a Middle State middle not merely geographically, but politically and spiritually; middle in the sense that China would continue to hold a sane balance between temporal and spiritual matters; middle in the sense that China would once more be a centre of illumination not merely for Asia but for the whole world.

INDIAN AGENCY-GENERAL IN CHINA

Following the change in China's capital, the Indian Agency-General has shifted its headquarters from Chungking to Nanking where a part of its office has already begun to function. The Attache to the Agent-General will be stationed at Shanghai, but will be in frequent touch with the latter.

AIR SERVICES RESUMED

All the normal scheduled air services operating to and from Delhi were resumed on May 6. Some of these services had been temporarily interrupted during the last week.

Enquiries made at the Civil Aviation Directorate in New Delhi show that owing to the supply of spare engines and parts taking longer than anticipated there is a shortage of serviceable aircraft affecting all civil airlines in India. Special measures have been taken by the Directorate to meet these temporary interruptions and to restore the services to normal at an early date.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

ADMISSION TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

2,083 CIVILIANS SAILED FOR U. K. IN APRIL

Limited Seats Available

THE Government of India have received information from their representatives and other authorities in the U. K. and U.S.A. that educational institutions in those countries are unable to offer any considerable number of places to Indian students for the 1946-47 session, said a Press Note issued by the Education Department, Government of India, on April 30.

It added: The institutions concerned are faced with a very large demand for places by British and American students respectively whose studies were interrupted by the war and who are now being released from the Armed Forces.

In view of this and also the fact that an increasing number of foreign students are seeking admission to British and American Universities, it is extremely unlikely that any large number of Indian students will be able to secure admission to British or American institutions during the coming year.

Lack of Residential Accommodation

Another fact which restricts admission to British and American Universities is the lack of residential accommodation in the towns concerned. This problem is particularly acute in the U. K. and students who go there should be prepared not only to pay heavily for lodging but also to put up with considerable inconvenience. It is not an uncommon experience for Indian students who go there unprepared to have to live in an expensive hotel and then to spend several weeks sometimes looking round for lodgings.

The Education Department of the High Commissioner's Office in London and the Educational Liaison Officer in the Indian Agency-General in Washington will be glad to give every possible assistance to Indian students in regard to their lodging arrangements. Students should, therefore, inform them of their expected date and port of arrival in those countries as early as possible, and they are further advised to proceed abroad unless arrangements for their accommodation have already been made.

Lt.-Col. R.B. Emerson, C.I.E., O.B.E., R.E., assumed charge as Chief Commissioner of Railways with effect from May 20, 1946.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

A total of 2,083 civilians sailed for the United Kingdom in April, of whom 1,163 were women and children. Passages were provided for the first five priorities and for a few persons in priority VI, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on May 9.

It added: The Government of India have been informed that certain vessels due to sail in May will not arrive in India until the end of the month. Unfortunately, therefore, some passengers who should sail against the May allotment, which has already been published, will not secure passages until early June.

The Government recently announced that, in order to check refusals of passages on transports, the names of ships would no longer be mentioned when offering accommodation. Representations have been made against this decision, and the Government have decided to cancel it. The practice of giving the names of ships will be resumed. But the Government would once again point out the grave inconvenience that results if accommodation is refused.

Of the 2,083 passages secured in April, only 290 were in commercial vessels. The proportion is likely to be lower in the future. These facts speak for themselves. Refusal of a passage means that it must be offered to someone else at shorter notice. As already announced, the general rule in future will be that any person who refuses a passage in a transport will not subsequently be offered one in a commercial ship. Government have no doubt that this rule will command general support.

The Government are glad to announce that they hope to secure another substantial allotment of civilian passages for June. Details will be published shortly.

GIFT OF WHEAT FROM AFGHANISTAN

The Government of Afghanistan have made a free gift of 1,000 kharwars (about 550 tons) of wheat to India as a token of sympathy with her present food difficulties and of gratitude for Indian help in past years. This generous and friendly offer of the Afghan Government has been deeply appreciated and gratefully accepted by the Government of India, said a Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on April 27.

CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

A meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways was held on April 13 and 18. After the election of members for serving on the Local Advisory Committees, the Council considered the question of Subordinate Service Commissions. The principle of setting up such Commissions on Railways, similar to that on the North Western Railway, was accepted. Some members of the Council recommended to Government that non-officials should be included in the composition of the Commissions and Sir Mohd. Yamin Khan asked that the Chairman and 50 per cent. of the members of the Commissions should be non-officials. Government undertook to give consideration to this suggestion.

The Council expressed preliminary general approval of the proposed design of the future III class carriage, a model of which was exhibited. They, however, had a number of suggestions to make on matters of detail. The Railway Board promised to give very careful consideration to these suggestions, as also those which the members might make after actually inspecting at New Delhi station a coach built to the new design. (Three non-official members of the Committee subsequently visited the coach at New Delhi station and made a few suggestions).

The next item to be discussed was the question of accelerating the Grand Trunk Express. The train was admittedly slow as it had to serve many intermediate stations and the only means of providing a more satisfactory service was to introduce another train with fewer stops. Such a service could, however, not be inaugurated until a stock in good condition was available. It was hoped to introduce such a bi-weekly service by about October, 1946.

Railway Collieries

In regard to the policy to be pursued in respect of railway collieries, the Council noted that the Standing Finance Committee for Railways had expressed the view that Railways should be self-sufficient in the matter of railway coal supplies, with which view the Council was in sympathy. It was decided, however, that in view of the investigations which were being undertaken by the Coal Committee further discussion on the subject should be postponed.

The Council wished to express their sympathy to those who were injured in the accident that occurred at Itwari station.

The question of catering contracts on railways was discussed. By a small majority, the Council was in favour of the principle of departmental working of all forms of catering, excluding vendors, but recognised that under present circumstances the change-over could not be effected immediately. It was suggested by some members of the Council that the change might be made with effect from April 1, 1947. It was agreed that pending decision the present contracts should ordinarily continue where their service was satisfactory.

The Council elected a sub-committee of nine members to consider and report within three months on the following subjects: the classification of refreshment rooms i.e., European and Indian or vegetarian and non-vegetarian, continuance or otherwise of dining cars, the policy to be followed in respect of giving permission for the sale of miscellaneous articles on stations, and the conditions to be attached thereto. With regard to the last, Government made it quite clear that they would not agree to the cancellation of any contracts which had already been entered into, nor would Government agree to any right of appeal from the decisions of General Managers to the Railway Board on the part of contractors.

RESETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

Nearly 20,000 ex-servicemen and over 1,500 civilians have registered themselves with the Employment Exchanges in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province for securing employment. Twelve Employment Exchanges working in this area have already placed 4,000 men in service.

Arrangements have been made for the training of 9,333 ex-servicemen in 48 different trades. During the period of training, trainees are given stipend, free board, lodging and medical treatment. The course is generally of twelve months' duration and the trade selected for each trainee corresponds to his educational qualifications. Arrangements are also being made to give training in non-engineering trades like gur-making, niwar-making and soap-making. The training of ex-servicemen in domestic and health services, nursing etc., to fit them for civil employment is being arranged.

Lyallpur and Hissar are proposed to be the Rehabilitation centres in this area for the disabled.

The Directorate of Resettlement and Employment will endeavour to maintain liaison with the Labour welfare organisations of the Central and Provincial Governments, in order to safeguard the interests of demobilised workers in civil employments.

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF INCOME-TAX ADMINISTRATION

A Press Note issued by the Central Board of Revenue on April 29 stated:

With a view to improving the efficiency of the Income-tax administration, the Government of India have decided to reconstitute the charges of the Commissioners of Income-tax with effect from May 1, 1946. As reconstituted, there will be 11 Commissioners' areas in British India (in place of the existing seven) in addition to the existing two "Central" Charges at Bombay and Calcutta, and the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, and Coorg.

The jurisdictions of these 11 charges and the names of the officers appointed to hold them are, as follows according to a Government of India notification dated April 30, 1946:

1. Dewan Bahadur R. Varadachari, Bombay: Bombay City and Bombay Suburban District;
2. Rao Bahadur V. D. Muzumdar, Calcutta: Calcutta City and the 24 Parganas and Howrah Districts;
3. Mr. Abdul Qadir, Lahore: Punjab, North-West Frontier Provinces and Delhi;
4. Mr. P. C. Padhi, Madras: Province of Madras;
5. Mr. A. K. Roy, Lucknow: United Provinces and Ajmer-Merwara;
6. Mr. Sardar Bahadur, Bombay: Province of Bombay (excluding Bombay City and Bombay Suburban Districts);
7. Rai Sahib B. K. Mukerji, Calcutta: Bengal (excluding Calcutta City and the 24 Parganas and Howrah Districts);
8. Rai Sahib P. D. Swaminadha Mudaliar, Nagpur: Central Provinces and Berar;
9. Khan Bahadur Nazar Mohammad Khan, Patna: Bihar and Orissa;
10. Mr. L. W. Thompson, Karachi: Sind and Baluchistan; and
11. Mr. G. D. Bagri, Shillong: Assam.

BAN ON EXPORT OF GROUNDNUTS

In view of the food situation in the country and the need to conserve for use in India of all available foodstuffs, the Government of India had suspended the exports of groundnuts as from February 27, 1946, pending a review of the supply position of this commodity. A review has since been made and as a result, it has been decided to ban altogether the exports of groundnuts outside India.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH AUSTRIA

A Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on May 3, stated:

The Government of India have authorised persons and concerns in British India to have correspondence with persons and concerns in Austria, subject to the conditions that business and financial correspondence is confined to ascertaining facts and exchanging information only, and that such correspondence from British India is conducted through letters or non-illustrated postcards in accordance with the postal notices issued on the subject from time to time by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

Banks and other financial institutions may now reply to requests for information from their depositors in Austria but remittances from British India to Austria, unless specifically authorised are not permissible. Documents such as births, deaths, marriage certificates and wills may be transmitted, Indian and Austrian firms may exchange business information with a view to the future resumption of business relationship, but the resumption of private trade is not yet allowed. The despatch of powers of attorney and proxies will be permissible, but prior approval of the Government of India should be obtained in each case.

Austrian owned property in India will continue to be governed by the Defence of India Rules and will remain under the general control of the Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay.

Applications and enquiries regarding British owned property in Austria should be addressed by persons in India to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, Simla.

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA'S STATEMENT

(Continued from page 679)

Nehru from the Republic controlled areas in exchange for textiles from India. Enquiries from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru revealed that he had received no direct communication from Dr. Shariar and at Pandit Nehru's request the Government of India have asked the South East Asia authorities to communicate a personal enquiry from Pandit Nehru to Dr. Shariar on the subject. The reply to that enquiry is now awaited. The Government of India have no precise information as to whether the quantity mentioned is in fact available for export, nor have they themselves received any direct communication from Dr. Shariar.



C.-IN-C. INSPECTS VICTORY PARADE CONTINGENT

The C.-in-C. in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, visited Bareilly recently to inspect men of the Indian Contingent on their way to England in order to take part in London's Victory Celebrations in June.

At an impressive parade held in Chetwood Lines, the C.-in-C. urged members of the Contingent to acquit themselves abroad as the best possible representatives of the Indian Army. "Remember that everyone will be watching you; for the people of Britain are looking forward to see you," he told them.

One of the outstanding features of the entire Contingent is the number of individual decorations won by its members. Selected to secure the broadest representation of all classes, they have been mainly drawn from units which have distinguished themselves in Africa, Italy and Burma.

H. E. the Viceroy in his capacity as President of the Indian Red Cross Society has nominated Sir Joseph Bhore, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., as Chairman of the Managing Body of the Society.

H. E. Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C. in India, recently visited the contingent of the Indian Army which is to take part in the Victory Parade in London. (Above) The C.-in-C. salutes the King's Colours of the 1st Punjab. (Below) Gen. Auchinleck talking to Capt. Gobinder Singh.



INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

"THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK"



Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park.

S.E.A.C. Air Chief's Farewell Message

AIR Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park, K.C.B., K.B.E., M.C. and bar, D.F.C., relinquished his command of Air Forces in South East Asia on May 1.

In his farewell message Sir Keith Park stated: "Having completed 4½ years in the Middle East and the Far East, I am leaving Air Command, South East Asia, to-day. I am glad of this opportunity to thank all ranks of the R. A. F. and Allied Air Forces for their great contribution to the defeat of the Japanese.

"I am proud of our air crews for their bravery in action, and of our ground crews for their loyal work during the fighting in Burma and the Netherlands East Indies. I am also proud of the grand work and loyalty of the vast majority of the ground staff in Transport Command and units and in our Maintenance units in Air Command, South East Asia, and in India both before and after V.-J. Day. To all those I say again: thank you and good luck."

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1946.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park is a New Zealander. On the outbreak of war in 1914, he enlisted in the ranks of the New Zealand Field Artillery and served in Egypt and Gallipoli where he took part in the original A.N.Z.A.C. landings. He was twice wounded in France and was later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He served in France with Number 1 Fighter Squadron throughout 1917-18, ending as a Squadron Commander and winning the M. C. and bar, D.F.C. and *Croix de Guerre*. From 1934 to 1936, he was Air Attache in South America.

In 1940 he took command of Number 11 Fighter Group whose 26 squadrons bore the brunt of the Battle of Britain and covered the Dunkirk evacuation. In 1941, he was transferred to command Allied Air Forces in Malta which smashed the German daylight blitzes against the Island. In January 1945, he assumed command of Allied Air Forces in South East Asia.

I.N.A. PERSONNEL RELEASED

A Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q., on May 2 stated:

Practically all remaining officers and men of the Indian Army who, while prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese, joined the so-called Indian National Army, have now been released from detention.

The charges against Captain Hassan and Naik Rasool Bakhsh whose trials were to have begun shortly, have been withdrawn.

Captain Hassan, who is rapidly going blind, has been judged unfit to stand trial. It would be unfair, therefore, to try Naik Rasool Bakhsh who, as a subordinate, merely seems to have carried out the orders of his superior officer.

In the case of Major Kasliwal also, further facts have come to light which have led to a decision to drop the charges against him. The trial of Signaller Sher Bahadur, now in progress, is therefore, the last trial to take place.

Bahadurgarh Camp Closed

Three officers, 13 V.C.Os. and 140 other ranks who are not yet medically fit to be released, are still in hospital.

The camps at Bahadurgarh, and at Baraset, near Calcutta, have been closed.

There are still about 300 men, the majority of them are recent arrivals from overseas, at the Holding and Inquiry Centre at Multan. These will be released as soon as their accounts can be settled, and the Centre should be clear by the middle of May.



Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles decorating Signal Boatswain Suleman Faquir Saheh with the O.B.I.

INDIA'S NAVY CHIEF VISITS R.I.N. SHIPS

VICE-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, K. C. B., Flag Officer Commanding Royal Indian Navy, recently paid a four-day visit to Bombay in order to see for himself the R.I.N. ships and establishments in the area.

His first inspection was of H. M. I. S. *Narbada* where his flag was flying for the duration of his stay in Bombay. He then visited representative ships of all classes at anchor in the harbour.

The rest of his stay was taken up with visits to the Dockyard, and to all personnel establishments including H.M.I.S. *Shivaji* at Lonavla.

In H.M.I.S. *Tahuar* he presented the O.B.I. to Signal Boatswain Suleman Faquir, who has had 32 years' service with the Royal Indian Marine and Royal Indian Navy.

In H.M.I.S. *Hamla* Vice-Admiral Miles congratulated ratings who distinguished themselves by gallantry in the Arakan operations of 1945.

At the end of his four-day tour, the Admiral met pressmen at an informal party. He told them that his visit to Bombay had confirmed his

confidence that the R. I. N. had before it a great future.

Later the Admiral proceeded on a quick tour of the ports of Cochin, Madras and Vizagapatam where he saw for himself naval bases changing over from a wartime to a peacetime setting.

In H.M.I.S. *Vendruthy* the base at Cochin, he inspected the ship's company at divisions and afterwards walked round their accommodation and saw the base offices and installations.

At Vizagapatam, Vice-Admiral Miles visited H.M.I.S. *Kistna*, recently returned from the Andaman Islands and H.M.I.S. *Rohilkhand* the senior ship of the 37th Minesweeping Flotilla which served with distinction in South East Asia. He also inspected the ships' companies of H. M. I. S. *Circars* of the remaining vessels of the 37th Minesweeping Flotilla, and of the Motor Launches, based in Vizagapatam.

The visit was rounded off with a detailed inspection of stores and base facilities at Vizagapatam. Vice-Admiral Miles returned to Delhi by air.

"FLOATING AIRSTRIP"



Invented by Sapper Officer

A wartime discovery of great potential value to peacetime aviation, the "floating airstrip" is the direct development of an experiment carried out 25 years ago by a young sapper officer in India.

The experiment began at the headquarters of King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners when Captain D. W. R. Walker, R.E., designed a bridge of floating planks. Laid across a deep, swiftly-flowing canal, it was able to take the weight of a moving vehicle.

The "floating mat" principle was advanced a stage further in 1939 with the incorporation of canvas in its design. The improved structure was as safe as a boat under load, and vehicles could now stop in mid-stream. By 1941 it had been adopted for use by the Indian Army, writes an Army Observer.

It was not until 1945 that the principle was successfully applied to aircraft. The young sapper was now Col. Walker, R.E., and his plans were rigorously tested by the Royal Engineers and the Royal Navy at Lamlash on the River Clyde, Scotland. Not only did "Clover", as the "floating airstrip" was called, enable aircraft to take off and land on water, but its sturdy design enabled it to withstand the roughest conditions.

TRIBUTE TO CANTEEN SERVICES (INDIA)

FOR the past four years wherever India's fighting forces were to be found in Burma, whether in the forward areas or at bases, the Canteen Services (India) were always close behind supplying the needs of the troops. Canteen Services (India) both in A.L.F.S.E.A. and Burma Command have now been closed.

They have handed over 56 units and more than 1,200 officers and men to the Navy, Army and Air Force institutes and Expeditionary Force institutes who have taken over in these areas.

Lt.-Gen. H. R. Briggs, G. O. C.-in-C., Burma Command, in a message to Canteen Services (India), has expressed his deepest thanks for the valuable services rendered by them in Burma. "Canteen Services (India) have served the troops in Burma," he said, "with unfailing regularity during the campaigns of 1944-45."

Energy, Foresight, Initiative

"This striking record of service has been achieved as the result of continuous devotion to duty on the part of all ranks of the C. S. (I) and their consistent determination to overcome the many obstacles in their path."

Maj.-Gen. R. A. Riddell, Deputy Quartermaster General, A.L.F.S.E.A., has also expressed his appreciation in the following words: "The task of supplying canteen stores to the 14th and 12th Armies was a job which required an immense amount of energy, foresight and initiative, and the successful manner in which this was carried out is a great tribute to all members of the Canteen Services (I) within S.E.A.C."

"The success of the Canteen Service could not have been possible without the great assistance of the rear links in Delhi, Madras and Calcutta."

MILITARY PERMITS NOW UNNECESSARY IN S.E.A.C. AREA

Military permits are no longer necessary for entry into territories controlled by South East Asia Command, according to an official announcement from the War Department.

These territories comprise Malaya, British Borneo, including Sarawak, and the Netherlands East Indies. All future applications for entry into these areas should be made to the Governments concerned through normal departmental, consular or diplomatic channels.

"WAVELL" AND "AUCHINLECK" CLUBS IN JAPAN

THREE clubs have been opened for the British-Indian troops now serving in Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. Two of these clubs have been named after Lord Wavell and General Auchinleck. This is part of an intense welfare drive started by Maj.-Gen. D. T. Cowan, Commanding "Brindiv".

Only five days after a fire had gutted the original building, Indian troops were entertained in their own club.

Situated in Hiro, the new "Auchinleck Club" was reconstituted by men of the Madras Sappers and Miners, working night and day, writes an Army Observer.

More Amenities

At a formal opening ceremony, Maj.-Gen. Cowan, speaking in Hindustani told the *Jawans*: "I name this Club after the Commander-in-Chief in India, who is always thinking of his troops."

With its own canteen serving Indian food and refreshments, the club is large and well furnished. Members of N.A.A.F.I. and the W.V.S. responsible for running the "Auchinleck" propose to set up new clubs wherever Indian soldiers are stationed in Japan.

There is no lack of amenities for the troops of "Brindiv". There are 50 well-stocked amenity stores, nine mobile cinema sections with a large number of English, Urdu and Tamil films and rediffusion vans with a good collection of records in various languages.

Sporting Activities

Fifty unit institutes for British troops and 100 for Indian soldiers have been established and are being run by members of the various women's welfare services. The Y.M.C.A. are forging ahead with plans to start more combined clubs for British and Indian troops.

Sporting activities of all descriptions are in full swing and the rivalry between units at the moment, will reach a climax in July when it is hoped to play the first rounds of the Force Championships in various sports.

With the glorious weather conditions prevailing, boating and yachting are proving a popular pastime for the men of the Force.

INDIAN BOOKS FOR NEW "BRINDIV" LIBRARY

A large consignment of Indian books is on the way to Japan to help fill the shelves of "Brindiv's" Central Library, recently opened by Maj.-Gen. D.T. Cowan, "Brindiv" Commander.

Organised and run by members of "Brindiv's" educational department, the Central Library has at present 25,000 English books of various types from fiction to technical subjects and 10,000 more are expected shortly. Already 4 books have been made available to every man. The venture is intended to cater as far as possible for every taste and mind, writes an Army Observer.

Small circulating libraries attached to units and mobile canteens are planned to ensure the widest distribution of books.

Another feature of the new "Brindiv's" Central Library is the collection of gramophone records. More than 300 Indian recordings are now stocked, and 1,000 more in various languages will shortly be added.

82,830 SERVICE PERSONNEL DEMobilISED IN MARCH

A total of 82,830 men and women were released from the Indian Armed Services during March, 1946, says an official announcement from General Headquarters.

Of the figures for March releases 3,276 were accounted for by the Royal Indian Navy, 78,944 by the Indian Army and 590 by the Royal Indian Air Force. The Army figures include 66,667 released through demobilisation centres and a reduction in strength of 12,083 from other causes.

The total decrease in the strength of the Royal Indian Navy up to the end of March amounts to 13,943 including 360 W.R.I.N.S. The former figure also includes those in course of release and 151 civilians who were employed in lieu of ratings.

Since V.-J. Day up to the end of March 451,847 men and women have been released from the Indian Army. This includes 344 W.A.C.(I) Officers and 792 Auxiliaries. During March 184 members of the W.A.C.(I) returned to civil life. Total release figures for Indian Army officers and men are now 7,096 and 443,615 respectively.

In March 681 Indian Army units were disbanded and 11 Indian States Forces units were returned to their States, thus making a total of 2,003 units disbanded up to the end of March.

"PERSPECTIVE"

A JOURNAL OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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It will be invaluable to all serious students of India affairs for it contains articles on modern Indian problems by experts in their own subjects, as well as bibliographies, reviews of recent books on India and a review of the current press.

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SELECTION FROM APRIL ISSUE

The Cultural Patrimony of India By Dr. Jacques Marquette	Religious Expression in Some Indian Folk-Songs By Dr. A. A. Baker
An Indian Officer Looks to the Future By "Anand"	The Theosophical Society and Education By Dr. C. Kunhan Raja
Some Aspects of Post-War Indian Currency By N. V. Sovani	Some Punjab Villages and the War By R. S. Nakra
Zemi Naga Wedding Customs By U. V. Graham Bower	Indo-Iranian Cultural Links By S. M. Razavi
A Crocodile Hunt (short story) By Humayun Kabir	



PLENARY SESSION OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

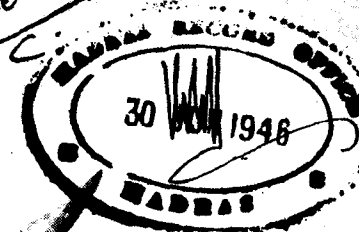


The Plenary Session of the League of Nations Assembly was held recently in Geneva. These pictures show (above) Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, Indian delegate, addressing the plenary session. (Left) Sir Atul Chatterjee (standing fourth from left at the top of the picture) leader of the Indian delegation, and Chairman of the Financial Committee, opening the proceedings of the Committee.

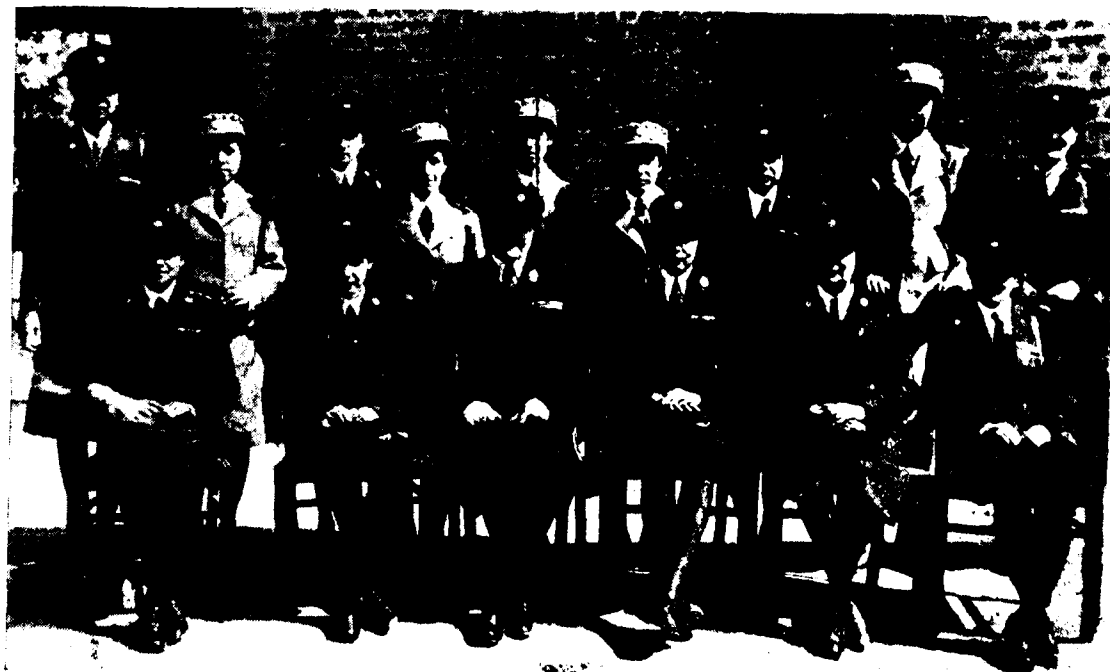
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INDIAN INFORMATION

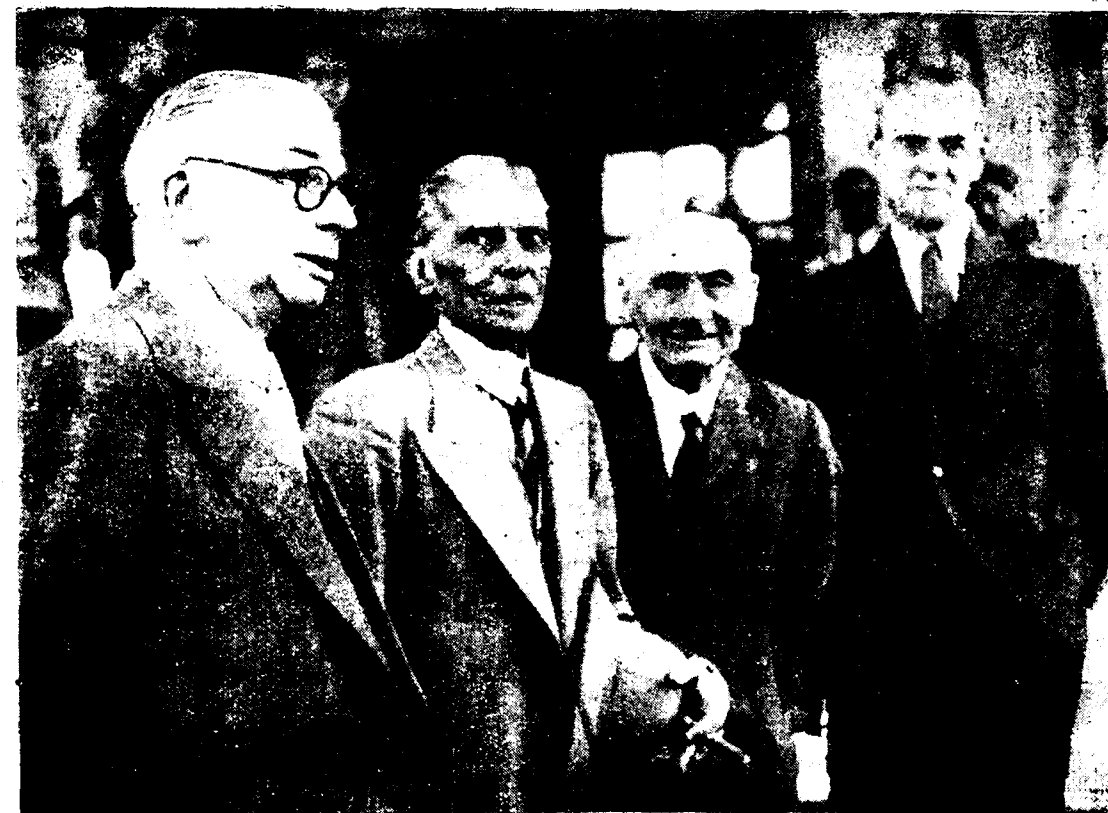
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COMPLEMENTARY



NURSING SERVICES' VICTORY CONTINGENT: Members of the I.M.N.S. and A.N.S. who took part in the Victory Parade in London



Mr. M. A. Jinnah (second from left) Muslim League President, with Mr. A. V. Alexander (left) Lord Pethick-Lawrence (second from right) and Sir Stafford Cripps, Members of the Cabinet Mission.

Vol. 18, No. 186. INDIAN INFORMATION June 15, 1946.

MAIN CONTENTS

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

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

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

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

	Page
Memorandum on States' Treaties and Paramountcy	713
Railway Situation: Lt.-Col. Ralph B. Emerson's Radio Talk	714
Provincial Development Ministers' Conference	720
Food Member Explains Position About Siamese Rice	721
Rege Committee Reports:	
a. Coir Industry	725
b. Gold Mines	727
c. Cement Industry	729
Indo-U.S. Agreement on Lend-Lease	737
Gen. Auchinleck Promoted Field Marshal	741

COVER PICTURE: South Indian farmers returning from work.

"THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A NEW BASIS"

THE Cabinet Delegation and H. E. the Viceroy issued the following

Cabinet Mission's Statement

statement on May 25: The Delegation have considered the statement of the President of the Muslim League dated May 22 and the Resolution dated May 24 of the Working Committee of the Congress.

2. The position is that since the Indian leaders, after prolonged discussion, failed to arrive at an agreement, the Delegation put forward their recommendations as the nearest approach to reconciling the views of the two main parties. The scheme stands as a whole and can only succeed if it is accepted and worked in a spirit of co-operation.

3. The Delegation wish also to refer briefly to a few points that have been raised in the statement and resolution.

4. The authority and the functions of the Constituent Assembly, and the procedure which

it is intended to follow are clear from the Cabinet Delegation's statement. Once the

Constituent Assembly is formed and working on this basis, there is no intention of interfering with its discretion or questioning its decisions.

When the Constituent Assembly has completed its labours, His Majesty's Government will recommend to Parliament such action as may be necessary for the cession of sovereignty to the Indian people, subject only to two matters which are mentioned in the statement and which we believe are not controversial, namely, adequate provision for the protection of the minorities (paragraph 20 of the Statement) and willingness to conclude a treaty with His Majesty's Government to cover matters arising out of the transfer of power (paragraph 22 of the Statement).

5. It is a consequence of the system of election that a few Europeans can be elected to

the Constituent Assembly. Whether the right so given will be exercised is a matter for them to decide.

6. The representative of Baluchistan will be elected in a joint meeting of the Shahi Jirga and the non-official members of the Quetta Municipality.

7. In Coorg, the whole Legislative Council will have the right to vote, but the official members will receive instructions not to take part in the election.

Grouping of Provinces

8. The interpretation put by the Congress resolution on paragraph 15 of the Statement to the effect that the Provinces can in the first instance make the choice whether or not to belong to the section in which they are placed does not accord with the Delegation's intentions. The reasons for the grouping of the Provinces are well known and this is an essential feature of the scheme and can only be modified by agreement between the parties.

The right to opt out of the Groups after the constitution-making has been completed will be exercised by the people themselves, since at the first election under the new provincial constitution this question of opting out will obviously be a major issue and all those entitled to vote under the new franchise will be able to take their share in a truly democratic decision.

9. The question of how the States representatives should be appointed to the Constituent Assembly is clearly one which must be discussed with the States. It is not a matter for decision by the Delegation.

Interim Government

10. It is agreed that the interim Government will have a new basis. That basis is that all portfolios, including that of the War Member, will be held by Indians; and that the Members will be selected in consultation with the Indian political parties. These are very significant changes in the Government of India, and a long step towards independence. H.M.G. will recognise the effect of these changes, will attach the fullest weight to them, and will give to the Indian Government the greatest possible freedom in the exercise of the day-to-day administration of India.

11. As the Congress statement recognises, the present Constitution must continue during the interim period; and the interim Government cannot therefore be made legally responsible to

the Central Legislature. There is, however, nothing to prevent the Members of the Government, individually or by common consent, from resigning, if they fail to pass an important measure through the Legislature, or if a vote of non-confidence is passed against them.

12. There is of course no intention of retaining British troops in India against the wish of an independent India under the new Constitution; but during the interim period, which it is hoped will be short, the British Parliament has, under the present constitution, the ultimate responsibility for the security of India and it is necessary therefore that British troops should remain.

TEHRI GARHWAL RULER ABDICATES IN FAVOUR OF SON

A Communique issued by the political Department, Government of India, on May 26, stated:

His Excellency the Crown Representative has been pleased to consent to the abdication of Lt.-Col. His Highness Maharaja Sir Narendra Shah, K.C.S.I., LL.D., Maharaja of Tehri Garhwal, with effect from May 27, 1946, in favour of his son and heir Tika Manabendra Shah. The Tika Sahib is 25 years of age and has received full training and considerable practice in administration.

It is only with great reluctance and at the earnest request of His Highness that the Crown Representative has acceded to the Maharaja's wish to abdicate. His Highness has been on the Gaddi for 33 years, 27 of which, since the termination of his minority, have been years of active rule. With impaired health and advancing years His Highness no longer feels physically equal to continue to discharge to his own satisfaction the onerous duties of his position.

His Majesty the King Emperor has been pleased to approve the retention by the Maharaja of the designation of His Highness and his salute of 11 guns as a personal distinction after his abdication.

VICEROY UNABLE TO ATTEND LONDON VICTORY PARADE

H.E. Field Marshal Lord Wavell received an invitation from His Majesty's Government to take part in the Victory Parade in London on June 8, but owing to the political situation in India, has had to decline, said a Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on May 24.

MEMORANDUM ON STATES' TREATIES AND PARAMOUNTCY

HERE is the full text of the Memorandum on States' Treaties and Paramountcy presented by the Cabinet Delegation to His Highness the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes.

Prior to the recent statement of the British Prime Minister in the House of Commons an assurance was given to the Princes that there was no intention on the part of the Crown to initiate any change in their relationship with the Crown or the rights guaranteed by their treaties and engagements without their consent. It was at the same time stated that the Princes' consent to any changes which might emerge as a result of negotiations would not unreasonably be withheld.

The Chamber of Princes has since confirmed that the Indian States fully share the general desire in the country for the immediate attainment by India of her full stature.

His Majesty's Government have now declared that if the Succession Government of Governments in British India desire independence, no obstacle would be placed in their way. The effect of these announcements is that all those concerned with the future of India wish her to attain a position of independence within or without the British Commonwealth. The Delegation have come here to assist in resolving the difficulties which stand in the way of India fulfilling this wish.

New Constitutional Structure

During the interim period, which must elapse before the coming into operation of a new constitutional structure under which British India will be independent or fully self-governing, paramountcy will remain in operation. But the British Government could not and will not in any circumstances transfer paramountcy to an Indian Government.

In the meanwhile, the Indian States are in a position to play an important part in the formulation of the new constitutional structure for India, and H.M.G. have been informed by the Indian States that they desire in their own interests and in the interests of India as a whole, both to make their contribution to the framing of the structure, and to take their due place in it when it is completed. In order to facilitate this they will doubtless strengthen their position by doing everything possible to ensure that their administrations conform to the highest standard. Where adequate standards cannot be

The following statement was issued from the Office of the Principal Information Officer, British Cabinet Delegation, on May 22:

The Cabinet Delegation desire to make it clear that the document issued to day entitled "Memorandum on States' Treaties and Paramountcy presented by the Cabinet Delegation to His Highness the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes" was drawn up before the Mission began its discussions with party leaders and represented the substance of what they communicated to the representatives of the States at their first interviews with the Mission. This is the explanation of the use of the words "Succession Government or Governments of British India," an expression which would not of course have been used after the issue of the Delegation's recent statement.

achieved within the existing resources of the State they will no doubt arrange in suitable cases to form or join administrative units large enough to enable them to be fitted into the constitutional structure.

It will also strengthen the position of States during this formative period if the various Governments which have not already done so take active steps to place themselves in close and constant touch with public opinion in their State by means of representative institutions.

During the interim period it will be necessary for the States to conduct negotiations with British India in regard to the future regulation of matters of common concern, especially in the economic and financial field. Such negotiations which will be necessary whether the States desire to participate in the new Indian constitutional structure or not, will occupy a considerable period of time, and since some of these negotiations may well be incomplete when the new structure comes into being, it will, in order to avoid administrative difficulties, be necessary to arrive at an understanding between the States and those likely to control the succession Government or Governments that for a period of time the then existing arrangements as to these matters of common concern should continue until the new agreements are completed. In this matter, the British Government and the Crown Representative will lend such assistance as they can should it be so desired.

(Continued on page 745)

THE RAILWAY SITUATION

DURING the past few days conversations have been proceeding between representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the Chief Labour Commissioner, and later the Railway Board, with a view to settling the points of difference between the Federation and the Railway Board thereby avoiding a railway strike.

The representatives of the Federation have now left Delhi without having come to an agreement with the Railway Board, although I hope that negotiations have not completely broken down. I therefore feel it necessary to put before the public, and in particular before the Railway employees of India, the position as it is to-day.

The Railway Board have explained the reasons why they were unable to refer to adjudication all the points placed before them by the Federation in December 1945 and these reasons

By Lt.-Col. Ralph B. Emerson, Chief Commissioner of Railways.

A broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on May 30.

still stand good. I would like, however, to take this opportunity of explaining once more one of the aspects of the dispute which I believe has not been correctly appreciated by the public. This relates to the surplus in Railway revenues which is generally believed to be very large.

• It is a fact that during the war years there were large surpluses but, after making the necessary appropriations to the Railway Depreciation Fund and the Railway Reserve Fund, the balance went to General Revenues in accordance with the revised Convention approved of by the Legislature in March 1943. These war surpluses are therefore, no longer available to the railways for disposal. They have been merged in the General Revenues, and must be regarded as past.

During the current financial year it is expected that the net surplus, after making contributions to the Depreciation and Reserve Funds, will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 12 crores. From this we propose to place approximately Rs. 3 crores towards a Betterment Fund for expenditure on facilities for third class passengers and lower paid staff. Approximately Rs. 3 1/2 crores of this surplus will be required to meet the arrears of dearness allowance recently sanctioned. Almost the whole of the balance of the

anticipated surplus will be required to meet the normal contribution to General Revenues and so ultimately to nation building services. There is, therefore, no anticipated surplus which can be expended on further increases in pay or similar improvements in the emoluments of railway staff without an increase of revenue.

We do not expect that surpluses in the years hereafter will be any greater than that anticipated for 1946-47. In fact, it is only logical to expect them to be smaller. It is sometimes said that the operation of the railways of India is not done on an economical basis. I can only say in answer to this that the statistics of the cost of operation of the railways of India bear comparison with those of railways in other parts of the world. If, therefore, the railway employees of India are to receive increases in pay to anything like the extent demanded, there can only be one answer, and that is that those who use the railways must pay more in rates and fares. This Government have been anxious to avoid in the present difficult times.

Government have, however, recognised that there must be a revision of the basic scales of pay for the post-war period, and this is one of the functions of the independent Pay Commission set up by Government to deal with the pay of all Government servants. We have resisted adjudication on a final revision of the basic scales of pay for railwaymen only because any such adjudication much prejudice the work of the Pay Commission.

Railways' Offer

From the early discussions between the Federation and the Chief Labour Commissioner, it appeared that the Federation were only prepared to call off the strike if the Railways would agree to making an immediate non-recurring grant of Rs. 10 crores, and a recurring increase in staff payments of about Rs. 20 crores per annum. This the Railways could not contemplate not only because the money was not available without increasing rates and fares, but also because this concession would have far-reaching consequences on all Government finances including those of the Provincial Governments.

In an endeavour to meet the Federation, the Railways offered the following revisions:

(a) A revision in the scales of pay of the lowest grades of inferior servants which would amount to the introduction throughout India of a minimum wage of Rs. 16 per month which with the later proposals would be raised to Rs. 24. This is estimated to affect about 350,000 men and cost about Rs. 1 crore a year.

(b) The amalgamation of the lowest grades of subordinate staff up to those with a maximum in the neighbourhood of Rs. 80 per month. This would affect about 100,000 men and cost about Rs. 50 lakhs a year.

(c) An ad interim increase in the basic pay of the lower paid employees equal to the cash dearness allowance now drawn but not exceeding 50 per cent of the basic pay, any dearness allowance drawn in excess of this increase to continue. To ensure that no member of the Provident Fund would, by this increase in basic pay, be worse off in actual pay drawn each month the Railways proposed to make a small adjustment where necessary to ensure that the employees would continue to draw the same amount of money as they have done hitherto.

Although this revision would not immediately put any more money in the pocket of the employees, it would result in an increased expenditure to the Railways of about Rs. 187 lakhs per year, Rs. 75 lakhs of which would be the Railways' contribution, to the Provident Fund and Rs. 75 lakhs of which would be required to make the "small adjustment" referred to. The balance would be required to be set aside for the payment of gratuities when employees retire. It would not embarrass the Pay Commission, whilst guaranteeing to the employee that for the time being his basic pay will not be less than this amount.

Adjudication

At their meeting with the Railway Board yesterday the representatives of the Federation expressed themselves as unable to accept these proposals. Government recognised that there was some force in the opinion expressed recently in the Press and by leaders of political parties that Government should not hesitate to place their case before an Adjudicator and as the Federation were not willing to consider the immediate offer made by Government, I accordingly suggested that instead of these proposals, we should agree to refer to an adjudicator the question whether any ad interim relief to the lower subordinate and inferior staff is necessary and practicable pending the report of the Pay Commission, having special regard to the general standard of emoluments in other Government Departments and private industries and to the future earning capacity of the railways.

The representatives asked for time to consider my alternative proposal and in the meantime left with me what they considered to be their minimum demands. I will not take up your time by mentioning these 12 demands now,

as they will appear in the papers tomorrow or the next day. Practically all these points will, if my offer is accepted, be covered either by adjudication or by the Pay Commission. Suffice it to say that the estimated cost of them was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 9 1/2 crores non-recurring and Rs. 33 crores recurring. In addition they included certain items which have already been referred to an Adjudicator.

Interim Settlement

In a letter received today, the General Secretary of the Federation has advised me that the representatives who met us yesterday are unable to recommend our proposals to the General Council of the Federation for acceptance, and they consider that the only bases for an ad interim settlement are the 12 points mentioned. I have replied to the General Secretary today asking him to state clearly whether the Federation mean that they have rejected both the revisions which I offered and the further offer of adjudication.

Unfortunately the members of the Federation have found it necessary to leave Delhi today, therefore it must be some days before we can expect any reply. In the meantime strike notices are due to be served on the Administrations on June 1 for a strike to commence on the night of June 27-28.

Meanwhile you have my assurance that the Railway Board have made every endeavour to come to an agreement with the Federation in order to prevent a strike taking place. The adjudication already arranged and my present offer of education to cover the interim period pending the report of the Pay Commission goes practically the whole way to meet the original demands of the railwaymen regarding their pay. It will, I am sure, be recognised by the public as a genuine attempt to reach a settlement and I appeal to the railwaymen to accept the offer in the spirit in which it is made.

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department on May 18 stated:

It has been decided by the Colonial Office, London, that holders of Hong Kong Government Dollar Loans should communicate direct with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong as regards future payments of interest and also as regards past payments, where due. Holders of such loans who have registered their claims in this respect with the Government of India, Department of Commonwealth Relations, and others concerned are, therefore, advised to take steps accordingly.

RAILWAYMEN'S DEMANDS

A PRESS Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on May 10 stated:

The All India Railwaymen's Federation having decided to continue their preparations for an all-railway strike, Government feel the public should be in possession of some of the facts. According to the Resolution recently passed by the General Council the main points of dispute are:—

- (a) No retrenchment,
- (b) Revision of scales of pay in three categories,
- (c) Adequate dearness allowance, and,
- (d) Three months' bonus.

As regards retrenchment, no Government and in fact no industrial undertaking, can accept the claim made that no person permanent or temporary should be discharged on becoming surplus to requirements. The Railway Board, however, fully appreciating the apprehension there was, informed the Federation last December that they would do all they could to avoid drastic reduction, and everything possible is being done to provide alternative employment. They promised to publish figures, and have done so. Cumulative figures from August 1945 to March 1946 show that out of a total of about 900,000 men, 34,000 have been rendered surplus but of these 19,000 have been absorbed and only 15,000 have been discharged. This figure includes many who were employed on purely war work of a non-railway character.

Revision of Pay Scales

The maximum endeavour is being made by Government to create employment and special arrangements exist to record particulars of those discharged with a view to their later re-employment. On this point therefore there is clearly no scope for adjudication.

The revision of scales of pay is to be dealt with by a Commission appointed by Government to consider the matter in respect of all Central Government servants. It is hoped that the terms of reference and the composition of the Commission will be announced at a very early date (since announced). The railway Board have had this complicated matter of revised scales of pay under consideration for a long-time and they will be able to present much data to lighten

and expedite the work of the Commission. The Board have further undertaken to discuss their evidence and the data on which it is prepared with the Federation before it is submitted to the Commission.

Meanwhile a definite assurance has been given that the relief in allowances and kind shall continue so long as there is no material reduction in the cost of living. The Federation ask for revised scales in addition to dearness allowance which in their Moghalsarai Resolution, they placed at a flat Rs. 45 per month for those drawing pay up to Rs. 250 per month. A rough estimate indicates that the revised basic scales alone would cost an additional Rs. 57 crores per year.

As to relief on account of cost of living, railway servants get a cash relief which varies from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 a month. In addition they are supplied with the necessities of life at cheap rates, approximately 30 per cent. below the market rates obtaining in February 1943. There are 760 grainshops and over 1½ million maunds a month are sold to 900,000 workers and their families, some 4 million persons in all.

Bonus Demand

The difference between the amount that the employee pays and what he would have to pay in the open market naturally varies, but the average figure is at present about Rs. 14½ per head. The average railway employee on the lower scales of pay, therefore, draws something from Rs. 26½ to Rs. 31½ per month in the nature of relief which compares favourably with the relief granted to any other similar Central or Provincial Government servant, and the comparison neglects other amenities afforded to railway servants such as passes, medical attention housing, etc. The cost of the dearness allowance is in the nature of Rs 16 crores a year and relief in kind Rs. 11 crores, Rs. 27 crores in all.

The last demand is for three months' bonus. It will be realised that any such recognition would have to be extended to all other Government servants who have worked equally loyally throughout the war. The cost of this for railway servants alone would be about Rs. 3 crores. As a matter of fact however, only recently it has been announced that the enhancement of cash relief made in January 1945 has been ante-dated six months for all Government servants and in addition Rs. 3 per month granted to railway servants in receipts of relief in kind over the same period. This is equivalent to over a month's bonus to the lowest paid staff, decreasing upwards to about half a month. In any case the grant of a bonus is not a matter for adjudication.

It is necessary to appreciate the cumulative financial effects of the demands made. The extra dearness allowance would involve Rs. 32 crores a year and if, though the demand did not make this point clear, relief in kind were to cease, a net increase of Rs. 21 crores.

The revised basic scales would involve an expenditure of about Rs. 57 crores over the present basic pay, or a total increase, with allowances, of Rs. 78 crores a year which is to be compared with about Rs. 65 crores, the existing total cost. The surplus for 1946-47 is estimated at Rs. 12.22 crores but this has to be reduced by 3.33 crores, the cost of the retrospective grant of allowances already mentioned.

Leave Rules

On present estimates, therefore, it will not be possible to meet the contribution to General Revenues of Rs. 7.36 crores and Rs. 3 crores to the Betterment Fund. To meet these additional demands, an increase of something like 40 per cent in rates and fares would be necessary less such reduction as might be effected by a stringent policy of retrenchment and economy.

Other points were agitating the minds of railway workers, such as rules under the Hours of Work Regulations, leave reserves and leave rules for inferior servants. The Railway Board had these matters under examination and had taken steps to liberalise some by which action they admitted the possibility of some amelioration so that they agreed to refer these matters to adjudication.

The above facts show that the Railway Board have endeavoured to deal fairly with the railwaymen, having regard to the far-reaching effects upon the country as a whole of the demands of the leaders of that section of the men represented by the Federation. Government consider the demands now put forward to be unreasonable and the threat of a strike in the present critical food situation and at this juncture of India's political and economic development to be irresponsible. Such a policy is likely to lead to disillusionment and bitterness among the railway workers; to great inconvenience, if not disaster, to the public as a whole and to serious embarrassment to the Government of the future. They consider that the implications of this situation call for further profound consideration by the leaders of the railway workers and should be appreciated by the public generally.

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

THE Standing Finance Committee for Railways met on May 17 and 18 under the Chairmanship of Mr. I. S. Puri, C.I.E., Financial Commissioner of Railways, and approved of the Railway Services Commission at Lahore being made permanent and Railway Services Commissions being set up as a temporary measure at Calcutta, Lucknow, Bombay and Madras, of the creation of certain permanent posts for Public Relations and Publicity Organisations on the Indian Government Railways and the Board's office and for personnel work on some of the Indian Government Railways and of the creation of leave reserve in the Traffic and Loco Departments of the O.T. Railway. The Committee also approved of the upgrading of certain posts on the M. and S.M. and E.I. Railways being made permanent.

The Committee were also informed of the latest position of gross earnings and working expenses. The total approximate ordinary working expenses, including suspense but excluding appropriation to and from the Depreciation Reserve Fund, of Budget Lines up to the end of February, 1946, were 104.45 crores i.e., 13.57 crores more than the corresponding period of last year and 19.00 crores less than the Revised Budget proportion.

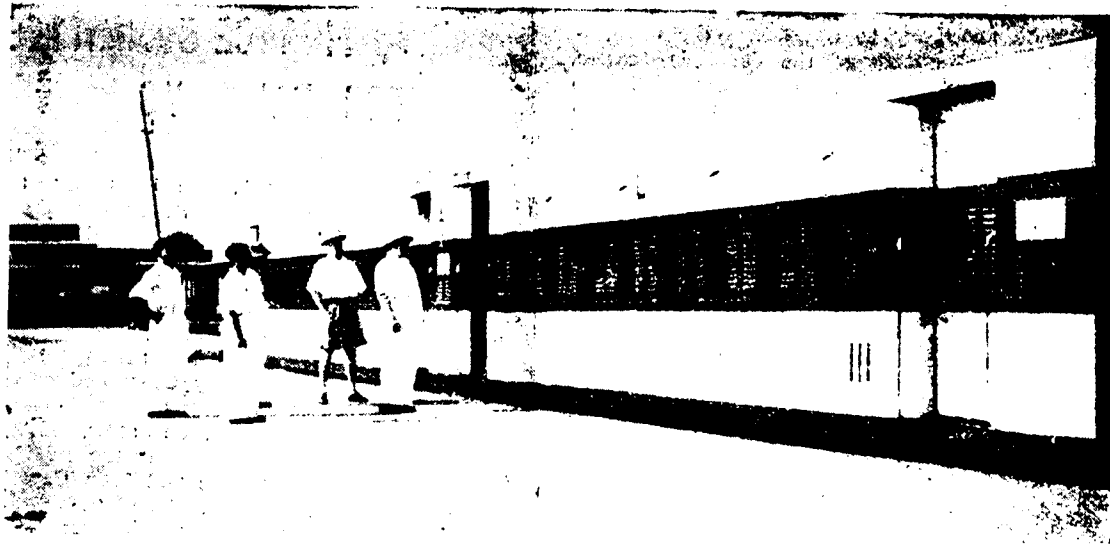
New 3rd Class Coach

The total approximate gross earnings of all Budget Lines from April 1, 1945, to March 31, 1946, amount to 221.01 crores which are 3.65 crores more than the actuals for the previous year and 3.38 crores less than the Revised Budget Estimate.

The Committee inspected the new 3rd class coach built by the Hindustan Aircraft Coy., which was stabled at New Delhi station. The Director, Mechanical Engineering, accompanied the party and explained to the members of that Committee the special features of the coach. After inspection the Committee made certain observations which are under the consideration of the Railway Board.

SIR THEODORE GREGORY

Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, has proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement. Sir Theodore came to India in January 1938 when he was appointed Economic Adviser.



The new experimental light-weight third class railway coach built by the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. The new coach is about 6 tons lighter than the present third class coach.



A feature of the new coach is that the doors are 2'-9" wide as against the present width of 2'-4". While the present doors open, in some cases, outwards, those of the new coach open only inwards thus avoiding risk of accidents. The hand rails are inside the doors, making footboard travel impossible.

NEW THIRD CLASS COACH

THE Railway Board's plans for providing increased amenities to passengers, particularly third class passengers, are now well advanced. An experimental third class coach of improved design built in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore is awaiting tests in the Shakurbasti yard, near Delhi.

A special test track about 3 miles in circumference, believed to be the first of its kind in the East, has been laid near this yard to test newly designed coaches, wagons and even locomotives. The experimental third class coach will be run continuously on this track until defects develop in order to enable engineers to watch effects on various parts and to make any modifications or improvements as may be found necessary.

The new coach is longer and wider than the present third class coach and provides 20 per cent more floor area. The increased space will mean wider berths, deeper seats, more overall moving space, lying-down accommodation for more passengers, more spacious latrine compartments, wider doorways, an aisle way along the length of the coach and a separate water alcove in addition to the lavatory. Arrangements for flushing latrines from outside is a new feature. The new coach thus embodies for the first time some of the improvements which the Railway Board has been contemplating as part of its post-war proposals.

The coach weighs about 7 tons less than the present third class coaches which weigh approximately 42 tons. This weight is subject to further substantial reductions as soon as the suitability of certain details of design have been proved in the forthcoming tests. Technique deve-



Continuous seating arrangements with aisle-ways on the side. Two-foot aisle-ways running either alongside or in the middle are a feature of the new coach.

loped in the construction of aircraft has been embodied in the new coach. The shell consists entirely of thin sections of steel suitably insulated against heat. If the new design proves suitable under the exhaustive tests to which it will be subjected the use of substantial quantities of good timber, which is scarce, will be obviated.

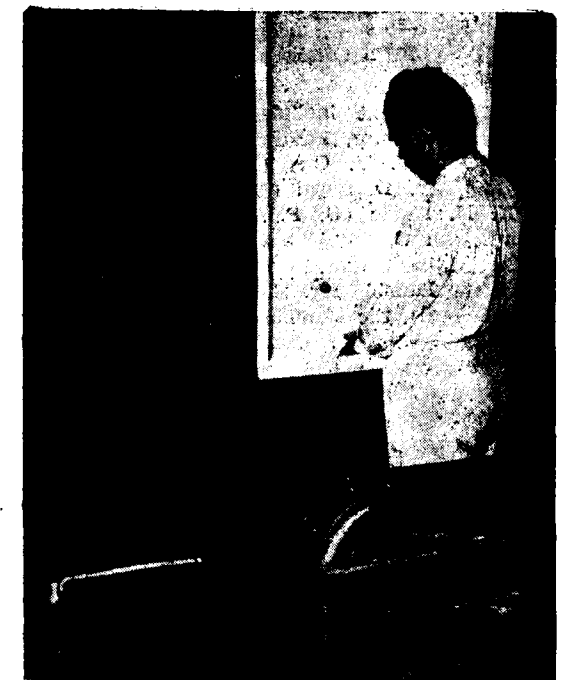
The statement below compares the amenities in the experimental coach to the present third class coach:

	Existing.	Proposed.
Width of sitting space per passenger	.. 19½ inches.	22 inches.
Depth of seats	.. 18 "	23 "
Over-all width of bays (distance between back of one seat and back of opposite seat)	.. 4 ft. 7½ ins.	5 ft. 4 ins.
Number of passengers able to lie down leaving sufficient sitting room for rest of carrying capacity	.. 30 out of 96	54 out of 94 (88 in exp. coach)
Floor area of latrine compartments	.. 12.5 sq. ft.	13.6 sq. ft.
Width of door	.. 2 ft. 4 ins.	2 ft. 9 ins.
Separate water alcove in compartment (in addition to lavatory)	.. Nil	One
Arrangements for flushing latrines from outside	.. Nil	Yes

The new design will permit of crush loading to the extent of 20 per cent above the marked carrying capacity without seriously inconveniencing passengers, since the six-foot berth, marked to seat 3, can easily seat 4 with fair comfort.



The compartment has four sleeping berths in addition to seating accommodation for six persons. The lower berth is suspended from the upper berth and a ventilator is provided to prevent the atmosphere getting stuffy in summer.



Enamelled water alcove and lavatory. The water alcove is in the compartment proper and can be used when the lavatory is closed.



Sir Akbar Hydari addressing the conference.

PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

"**W**HATEVER may be the political and administrative set-up indicated by the new constitution, arrangements will have to be made for the several units in India to plan together. I do not, therefore, think that we are doing anything wrong in going ahead with these plans in a co-ordinated basis," said the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, addressing the Provincial Development Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on May 20. All the Development Ministers, including the Premiers of Bengal, N.-W.F.P., Orissa and Assam attended the Conference.

Those present included the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member and the Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri (Madras), Mr. L. M. Patil and Mr. D. Desai (Bombay), the Hon'ble Dr. K. N. Katju (U. P.), the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh (Punjab), the Hon'ble Dr. Saiyid Mahmud (Bihar), the Hon'ble Pandit D.P. Misra (C.P.), the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Premier (Bengal), the Hon'ble Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi, Premier and the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mukerjee (Assam), the Hon'ble Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier and the Hon'ble Qazi Attaullah Khan

(N.W.F.P.), the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. A. Khuhro (Sind) and the Hon'ble Mr. H. K. Mahtab, Premier (Orissa), and representatives of the Planning and Development Department, the Finance Department and the Co-ordination Committee of Council.

Over an hour was spent on consideration of the basis on which the grants would be made to the provinces for the five-year plans. There was general agreement that the Centre should act as a co-ordinating agency and the provinces should give adequate information for the purpose.

The afternoon session was devoted mainly to the discussion of proposals for the administrative procedure to be followed in the handling of the provincial five-year plans and in making development grants. The Conference agreed upon a tentative administrative procedure to be adopted in handling five-year plans to ensure that they were approved in time for the budget provision to be made in 1947-48.

After completing the agenda, the Conference took up general discussion on matters relating to the training of Indian technicians abroad and the availability of experts for planning.



The Conference at work.

FOOD MEMBER EXPLAINS POSITION ABOUT SIAMESE RICE

Statement at Press Conference

ADDRESSING a Press conference in New Delhi on May 24, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, cleared certain misapprehensions prevalent in respect of some aspects of the Government of India's food policy.

Dealing with the Government of India's efforts to obtain rice from Siam, Sir J.P. Srivastava explained that the Government of India was not and had at no stage since the termination of hostilities, been free to buy rice from Siam either directly or through the trade or to make any unilateral arrangement with the Siamese Government to obtain rice from that country. The procurement and disposal of the exportable surplus of rice from Siam had been the subject of negotiations among the Governments of Siam, U.S.A. and U.K., and whatever rice had become available for export pending these negotiations had been held at the disposal of the Combined Food Board in Washington for allocation. No allocation of rice from Siam to India was made for the first quarter of 1946 and for the second quarter India's allocation from that source was 106,000 tons. During the negotiations the Government of India had advocated the export of rice from Siam on payment and had consistently expressed their willingness to pay for all rice allocated to India.

Under the joint Anglo-American-Siamese Agreement reached recently, the response for procuring rice for export rests with the Siamese Government and it will be exported on payment in accordance with recommendations of the Combined Food Board.

India's Help to Siam

The Government of India have on their part taken other steps to assist the Siamese Government in stimulating rice production and expediting exports of rice. They have loaned the services of one of their senior officers to serve on the Anglo-American Commission which will have authority over all shipments made in accordance with the Combined Food Board allocations.

In addition, the Government of India are releasing textiles, locomotives, and railway wagons for Siam which should greatly speed up rice procurement. India has also supplied 800,000 ccs. of anti-rinderpest serum and 1,000 hypodermic syringes to Siam to combat rinderpest among buffaloes because it is estimated that every buffalo killed by rinderpest means a loss of 5 acres of rice.

The Food Member next characterised as "incorrect", statements to the effect that the Government of India's Basic Plan of food distribution had ceased to exist under present emergent conditions. He explained that in a year of poor production, the internal surpluses declared by surplus provinces were bound to be less than in a normal year, but even so were considerable.

Under the *Kharif* Plan provinces were scheduled to supply 1.2 million tons of foodgrains and under the *Rabi* Plan 3,40,000 tons. Conditions this year were abnormal and figures of imports were known only on a month to month basis. Under such circumstances, it was impossible to plan distribution for the whole year and Government therefore now kept a month to month budget. The stock position is closely watched from week to week and allocations are made accordingly.

Surplus Provinces

There has been no change in the Government of India's policy since the Gregory Committee's Report which lays down the formula for estimating the surpluses in surplus areas. As in previous years, surplus provinces have been informed of what their likely surpluses should be, but this year's surpluses are not so large as usual.

In view of the difficult food situation, however, and the need for "scraping the barrel" to tide over the next few months, the Government of India have informed surplus areas to make available substantial stock of foodgrains to the Centre immediately, irrespective of their statistical position. The response which the Government has received in this direction from surplus areas is encouraging, and Government can rely on their timely assistance.

The Food Member revealed that the Government of India had been advised that loadings of wheat and wheat substitutes for the months of May and June would total 314,700 and 182,200 tons respectively.

As regards rice, Burma was likely to increase her exports, and the shipments of rice from Burma and Siam during May and June might total 85,000 tons.

The position regarding prospects of securing imports from other "Indian-Ocean" areas indicated by Mr. Hoover, is briefly as follows:—

Indonesia Reports received from a senior official of the Food Department who was deputed to meet Dr. Shariar confirm the offer of rice which Dr. Shariar made to Pandit Nehru. The Government of India are now working out the

(Continued on page 722)

LORD KILLEARN ON FOOD SITUATION IN S.-E. ASIA

REVIEWING the food situation in South East Asia, with particular reference to rice, Lord Killearn, Special Commissioner, South East Asia, emphasised in a press statement issued on May 23 at Singapore, the intricacy of the problem and the importance of getting a comprehensive picture.

He stated that the rice situation was now a little more promising but warned that there should be no relaxation of efforts to economise and grow more food. Availabilities of rice were still below anticipation and the outlook continued to be serious as was evidenced by the cuts made by the Combined Food Board in the rice allocations. The position was best appreciated by comparing figures which formed the basis of work for the current quarter with those which might be fulfilled for the quarter beginning July 1. It was hoped to obtain approximately 220,000 tons of rice during this quarter. This would still be short of the estimates made by the Combined Food Board by 65,000 tons.

The allocation to South East Asia was 112,000 tons for the current quarter, and for the July-September period they hoped to receive about 330,000 tons. This slight improvement was due to the signing of the Siamese Rice Agreement and the improvement of supplies from Burma and elsewhere. A great responsibility however rested on the Siamese Government and the Chinese traders in Siam.

Transport Difficulties

Great difficulties had still to be overcome of shipping, inland transport, port capacity and labour in all the three main exporting areas. Lord Killearn's staff was taking urgent measures for the provision of locomotives, barges, lighters and shipping priorities.

Emphasising that the entire food supplies were subject to allocations by the Combined Food Board, Lord Killearn stated that protests had been made against recent allocations, particularly to Malaya. It had been stated in China that five million tons of rice had been procured for the British Commonwealth from Siam. The total allocations from Siam by the Combined Food Board for the six months ended April 1 was only 143,000 tons and therefore the report was untrue.

Answering criticism made in the Chinese Press that Britain would get an unfair share of the 1½

million tons of rice obtained under the Siamese Rice Agreement, Lord Killearn stated that this quantity would be allocated by the Combined Food Board to areas where the need was the greatest. There were several million Chinese in South East Asia who would benefit from supplies allocated to that area.

In the last allocation the Malayan Government received 20 per cent. of the South East Asia allocation in addition to 12,000 tons to come from Australia. If availabilities were up to expectation in the next quarter, Malaya might get half as much as she received during the current quarter.

Referring to consumer goods, particularly textiles, Lord Killearn stated that the resources of India, the chief source of supplies, were greatly strained, but the Government of India were doing everything possible to expedite supplies. It was also hoped to get 100 million yards from Japan and a mission might be sent to that country with the approval of the U.S. Government. The bulk of such supplies would be sent to rice producing areas.

INDIAN ARMY HELPS TRANSPORT OF RICE

Lord Killearn has thanked H.E. the Viceroy for the loan of Indian Army troops in the important work of transporting rice stocks in Burma.

"I am most grateful that you have been able to help us with Indian Army units in Burma," says Lord Killearn. "I feel sure they will play a big and important part in the movement of rice which we all need so much. Thank you very much indeed."

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA'S STATEMENT

(Continued from page 721)

details of the transaction and Pandit Nehru is kept closely informed of the developments.

Egypt--The Government of India are actively pursuing the possibilities of importing cereals from Egypt.

Australia--The whole exportable wheat surplus of Australia is earmarked for India. The Government of India have suggested to the Australian Government to divert the wheat stocks intended for their flour mills to India, as an emergency measure to tide over the crisis during the next few months.

WHEAT AND SUGAR FOR BISCUIT MANUFACTURE

EXPLAINING Government's policy regarding the supply of wheat and sugar for the manufacture of biscuits during the present emergent food situation, an official spokesman referred to the promise given by the Government of India to support industries which had responded to the needs of the country during the war period when nearly the full capacity of the biscuit industry was devoted to production for the Army.

With the cessation of hostilities the demand from the Army has ceased, making the capture of the civil market necessary for the very existence of the industry. At the same time Government cannot find wheat and sugar to enable the factories to work round the clock as they were doing during the war.

Minimum Quantity

A minimum quantity of wheat and sugar to enable the factories to work one shift only has, therefore, been promised to the industry. Even this minimum could not be given to four out of the ten factories during the first three months of the year. The three factories in Bengal are receiving only 60 per cent of their requirements for working one shift.

It was explained that even with this assistance the biscuit factories would be hard put to capture a civil market which they lost during the war and which previously was held to a great extent, by foreign imports. The policy of assistance, stated the spokesman, was therefore, conditioned only by the necessity of finding remuneration for the labour and capital already involved, and of maintaining an industry which the war had extended and improved.

A Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on June 2 stated:

In order to safeguard the interests of producers, while maintaining price control in the interests of consumers, the Government of India announced in April 1944 their willingness to accept, should prices fall, all wheat of fair average quality offered for sale at centres which would be notified in the Punjab, United Provinces and Sind at a price of Rs. 7/8 per maund.

This guarantee was continued during the Rabi year 1945-46. Following the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee, the Government of India have decided that this guarantee shall be continued for a further period of 12 months from the date of this announcement.

FRUIT PRODUCTS CONTROL ORDER

The operation of the Fruit Products Control Order which was to come into force from June 1, 1946, has been postponed till July 1, 1946, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Agriculture on May 25.

It added: At a conference of manufacturers of fruit products held recently under the Chairmanship of Sir P. M. Kharegat Secretary Department of Agriculture Government of India the various aspects of the Order were discussed. It was considered desirable to postpone its enforcement with a view to enabling the manufacturers to make necessary preparations and to allow further time to those who have not yet applied for a licence.

All manufacturers of fruit products such as jams, jellies, marmalades, fruit juices, squashes, cordials, tomato juice and ketchup, *achars*, *chutneys*, *morabbas* etc., should apply immediately for a licence to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, The Mall, Delhi, so that they have the requisite licence before July 1, 1946, after which date they will not be able to manufacture without a licence.

This rule, however, does not apply to small manufacturers in rural areas manufacturing not more than 200 lbs. of *achars*, *morabbas* etc., in a season.

EXPORT OF PEPPER

The Government of India will continue to purchase and export pepper on behalf of foreign countries, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department on May 27. It added: For this purpose the Government of India will entertain offers from the trade for the supply of garbled and ungarbled whole black Malabar pepper, fair average quality, Tellichery or Alleppey variety, which reach them every Monday morning.

The maximum refraction allowed for ungarbled pepper will be 3 per cent. Certificates of the Indian Merchants Chamber at Bombay and the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, Cochin, as regards quality and weight will be accepted. Terms of delivery will be either f.o.b. Cochin and/or Bombay.

Offers may be made to the Chief Director of Purchase, Department of Food, New Delhi.



Indian troops in Sumatra recently decided to donate 50 tons of rice and atta—representing one month's ration to help meet the food crisis in India. Every sepoy in the 26th Indian Division agreed and the first consignment was despatched in April. Picture shows supplies from units being stacked in the Central Store for despatch.

CUT IN SERVICES' RATION TO COMBAT FOOD CRISIS

A PRESS Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q., (I), on May 22 stated:

In view of the fact that, in India, the most critical period of the food situation is now approaching, particularly with regard to wheat products and cereals, an additional temporary reduction is being made in the ration scales of the Fighting Services.

This cut will take effect from June 1, 1946, and will be at the rate of one ounce of flour per day per man for British troops and either one ounce of *atta* or one ounce of rice in the case of Indian ranks, airmen and ratings. Corresponding reductions are being made in the rations of officers and those entitled to draw Service rations.

The crisis, it is anticipated, will probably last at least until the next crops have been harvested.

Substantial reductions, it will be recalled, were made in the ration scales of the Defence

Services last November. These reductions resulted in the saving of nearly 1,300 tons of flour a year, about 14,000 tons of *atta* and rice, more than 3,000 tons of sugar and nearly 11,000 tons of *dal* a year.

The new temporary and additional reduction of the ration scale will effect further savings at the rate of approximately 1,300 tons of flour and 7,000 tons of *atta* or rice per annum.

Gen. Sir Richard N.O. Connor, G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, accompanied by Lady O'Connor left Rawalpindi on May 28 by air to take up his new appointment as Adjutant General to the Forces in the United Kingdom.

Present at Chaklala aerodrome to bid him farewell were many Army officers, including Lt.-Gen. Douglas Gracey who will officiate as G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command.

STATE SHOULD CONTROL COIR INDUSTRY

Rege Committee's Recommendation

THERE are too many factories, too much plant and too much labour in the coir industry. A considerable waste in effort and money results from the preparation of superfluous samples and patterns. Owing to internal competition and price cutting amongst the manufacturers, the industry is not reaping the advantages it has from its well high monopolistic position. These are the conclusions of the Rege Committee in their Report on Labour Conditions in the Coir Mats and Matting Industry in India.

[The Labour Investigation Committee consisting of Mr. D. V. Rege, Chairman, and Mr. S. R. Deshpande, Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar and Prof. B. P. Adarkar, members, was appointed by the Government of India in February, 1944, to collect factual data on labour conditions in various Indian industries. The Committee has prepared 35 reports on working conditions in 38 industries.]

Largest Industry in Malabar

The Report says that it is essential to rationalise the coir matting industry by evolving machinery for centralised control for production and export of coir products. If this cannot be done the only alternative are the State control or the State itself taking over the entire industry. Other improvements are also called for, such as the use of better machinery. Some measure of co-operation between Travancore and Cochin is necessary in the field of labour administration.

The coir industry is the largest industry on the Malabar coast which abounds in coconut plantations. In Travancore State 30,000 families are employed in the extraction of fibre and about 30,000 workers in the manufacturing processes while in Cochin State about 40,000 workers are employed. There are about 360 factories in Travancore—46 in Alleppey and the rest in villages. Cochin has 15 rope-making establishments and only 3 matting factories. Cochin specialises only in the manufacture and export of coir yarn and ropes. For its mats and matting industry it has to depend upon the superior yarn from Anjengo in Travancore.

With the outbreak of war there was a sudden rise in the export of coir products to Europe. But with the overrunning of Europe by the Axis powers and with the entry of Japan into the war, the coir industry came almost to a standstill. In the meanwhile the Governments of Cochin and

Travancore secured orders from the Government of India for several new coir products such as cordage for tents. On account of the scarcity of other fibres the demand for coir rose and the Government had to impose control of prices in 1945. At present there is an acute shortage of labour in the industry.

There are more piece-rate workers than time-rate workers in this industry in Travancore. Contract labour, particularly of women and children, forms about 22 per cent of the total labour force. Eighty per cent of the workers are men. Women and children are employed in such work as sorting, beaming and splicing both in the regulated and the unregulated factories. There is no recognition of permanency, apprenticeship, graded or time-scale promotion or Standing Orders.

Working conditions are far from satisfactory even in regulated factories. Factories are usually built of coconut thatch and are lacking in ventilation and protection against fire. Congestion, is common and dangerous machinery is not protected. Sanitation is deficient and washing facilities in the dyeing and stencilling sections are inadequate. All the factories work only one

Coir being sorted out in a Travancore factory.



shift. The working hours are 9 for men, 8 for women and 5 for children. Unregulated factories work even on Sundays and keep no regular hours.

As there is a large variety of types of work and innumerable patterns and designs, wage-rates vary widely and from factory to factory. The majority of men earn a daily wage of As. 12 to As. 14, women As. 6 to As. 8 and children less than As. 4.

Workers' Wages

There is a great need for standardising wage-rates. Wages for time workers have been increased by the efforts of the Industrial Relations Committee which was set up in 1943 to prevent competition amongst local manufacturers in executing the orders of the Supply Department, Government of India, for tent components. The wages of women have been increased from As. 7 to As. 9 per day, and of men from As. 10 to Re. 1/- per day. Dearness allowance amounting to As. 12 in a rupee or 75 per cent. of the basic wage-rates of 1939 is now being paid, but it is not commensurate with the increased cost of living. The average minimum and maximum earnings are Rs. 12 and Rs. 52 per month—showing an increase of Rs. 8/- to Rs. 12/- as compared with 1938. There are no overtime earnings and no bonus, gratuity or pension.

The only medical aid in the regulated factories is a first-aid box. There is no provision for periodical medical examination. A large percentage of workers are suffering from malnutrition and diseases like filariasis. Canteens are provided in three large units at Alleppey. Five factories run grain shops selling all rationed articles at less than the market price or at controlled rates. The employers have not provided housing to their workers who live in their own private huts. Ground rent is paid by them in cash in the municipal area and in the shape of manual service in villages.

Well Organised Trade Union

The Committee found that although 52 per cent. of the workers in Cochin and 65 per cent. in Travancore were indebted, the average per capita debt was small, namely, about Rs. 42 and Rs. 69 respectively. A large proportion of this debt was borrowed for domestic needs.

There is a well organised Trade Union with a membership of about 17,000 workers in Alleppey, Travancore. Ever since the general strike of 1938, the Union has set up in each factory a Committee consisting of representatives from each section of the factory. This Committee directly discusses and negotiates with the management



Making oolr bags—this worker is stitching braids to the edges of a bag and fixing "ears" by which the bag is handled. (Below) Oolr matting being stretched at great pressure to test its strength.



Finished oolr bags.

on day-to-day difficulties. Problems of general policy are referred to the Industrial Relations Committee. This organisation has been responsible for the disappearance of the abuses of the contract system and has done much to promote industrial peace. One of its duties at present is the fixing of rates of wages for all new types of work in the manufacture of mats and matting.

Of the 46 factories in Alleppey and its suburbs only 10 have been brought under the Travancore Factories' Act. It is desirable that all the factories are brought under control and that the inspecting staff should be increased and their status enhanced. The Payment of Wages Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act are well observed. In Cochin, no claim under the Maternity Benefit Act has been paid.

Engineering and traffic surveys are to be carried out by the agency of the North Western Railway Administration for restoring the railway line on the Narrow (2'-6") Gauge from Nagrota to Jogindernagar, a distance of about 35 miles. The survey will be known as Nagrota-Jogindernagar (Kangra Valley) Railway Survey.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN GOLD MINES 'ADMIRABLE'

GOLD mines in India are among the best in respect of working conditions. Wages are standardised and the future of the worker is safeguarded. "Reasonable" welfare amenities such as well laid-out housing and adequate medical facilities are provided to the miners and their families. Cordial relations exist between the employers and the employees. These are some of the conclusions of the Report of the Rege Committee on Conditions of Labour in the Gold-mining Industry in India.

Gold-mining in India is practically confined to the Kolar Gold Fields in Mysore State, which started with 9 ozs. of gold in 1882, and now produce nearly 2 per cent. of the world output valued at over £50 million. Four European companies work the mines, two of which are as deep as the deepest mine in the world, over 9,000 feet vertically down. They yield to the Mysore State an annual revenue of over 2 crores of rupees.

Gold Town of India

Oorgaum, the gold town of India, in the Kolar District, has sprung up as a result of gold-mining. A colony of workers, mostly depressed class labourers from the bordering Tamil districts, has lived there for more than 50 years. About 14,000 are employed direct by the companies and 6,000 by contractors. Contract labour employed underground is paid by the companies themselves.

There is comparatively little employment of either women or children. Nearly 71 per cent. of the workers have put in five or more years of service. Workers are divided into six categories and there are standing orders for all classes. There is no system of apprenticeship but the sons of employees are admitted for training in the mines' workshops.

Describing the working conditions as 'admirable,' the Report says that neither thought nor resource has been spared in making the worker as comfortable and as safe as possible. Air-conditioning plants supply cool air at all working places. The mines are lit throughout with electricity. Excellent sanitary arrangements exist even underground. Shower baths have been provided near the shafts. The miner is supplied with a hat to protect him from rock falls, and with free carbide for his lamp.

Both underground and on surface, workers have three shifts of eight hours each and there

is a weekly change-over of shifts. Sunday is a holiday for all except those on essential service.

Occupations and wage rates are standardised and the basic wage level compares favourable with that prevailing in other localities. There is no system of time-scale promotion but the worker gets an increment after putting in a certain period of approved service. Nearly one half of the workers get a basic wage ranging from As. 8 to As. 12 per day and their daily net earnings amount to about Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4-0. A cash dearness allowance is being paid from 1942. It is not linked with the cost of living but has been agreed to by the employers and workers. It varies from Rs. 8 to Rs. 23 per month and compares favourably with the scale in other centres in Mysore State.

Bonus for Regular Attendance

No profit bonus is paid but a bonus of Rs. 2 to Rs. 4-8-0 per month is granted for regular attendance. About 90 per cent. of the company labour and 60 to 70 per cent. of the contract labour receive this bonus. A number of special bonuses are paid for good work done. Although the companies have been extremely prosperous until recently and have made by way of dividends many times their initial capital, the wages paid are not such as to leave a margin for savings to the workers even for meeting their ordinary social obligations.

The companies have followed a 'progressive' policy in regard to leave for their employees. The workers here get privilege leave for three weeks with pay in a year and at the discretion of the management, sick leave with pay and travelling expenses to their village homes. The future of the miner is safeguarded by the grant of a gratuity. But there is much room for improvement in the scales and conditions attached to its payment. It would be better to institute a compulsory system of provident fund on a liberal basis.

Well Laid-Out Colonies

Well laid-out colonies have been built by the companies for housing their workers at Oorgaum; 12,348 huts are provided but 10,404 of these are made of bamboo thattis. The rent for a single hut is As. 8 and for a double hut Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4 per month. Separate bathrooms are provided in the double huts. Though there are no electric lights in the tenements, the streets are lit by electricity and water is laid on at convenient places. Sanitation is adequate and ventilation satisfactory. Efforts are being made to plant trees in the colonies.

There is a post office and a market within easy distance of the quarters. Seventy-six per cent of

the workers are thus housed but the rest are put to a great difficulty in obtaining suitable housing. They generally live in small huts outside the mining area, where conditions are unsatisfactory and the rent varies from Rs. 2 to 5 per month.

The health of the worker and his family has been well looked after by the companies which maintain a hospital with 250 beds and five maternity homes. There is a Lady Health Visitor for each mine and anti-natal clinics are also run. Under-nourished mothers and babies are supplied free milk and shark-liver oil.

A Central Welfare Committee, consisting of the Superintendent from each mine, the Chief Medical Officer, the Secretary of the Mining Board and the Welfare Officer, co-ordinates all welfare work and allocates funds.

Two special features in the colony are the cattle sheds for the use of the workers and the *Dhobikhannas* where they can do their own washing. Primary education is entirely free and in addition to Government schools the Welfare Committee runs schools at each mine. Night schools have been opened for the operatives. A number of sports clubs are run by the members, providing indoor and outdoor games. All sports goods are supplied to the clubs by the Welfare Committee at half the cost. Each club has a library and a reading room. There are five halls for staging dramas and an open-air cinema giving free shows. Temples and churches have been built with liberal donations by the companies. In the year ending March, 1944, a sum of Rs. 83,837 has been spent on welfare work.

Labour Associations

Gold miners are liable to be affected by silicosis, a disease which resembles tuberculosis. In recent years the number of silicosis cases have been on the increase. Silicosis was brought under the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act in 1940 and in 1942-43 Rs. 3,92,590 have been paid as compensation in 778 cases. The Report recommends periodical mass radiography as one of the steps to be taken for the prevention and early detection of the disease.

More than half the workers are in debt. An important reason of this is that most of the miners are addicted to toddy and spend nearly one-third of their income on it. The principal money-lenders are the Marwaris, petty shopkeepers and toddy vendors. Some of the Labour Associations in Oorgaum have started credit societies and if the employers help them with advances, workers will have no need to borrow from money-lenders.

Relations between employers and employees have been cordial and between 1930 and 1940
(Continued on page 731)



The use of cement has become increasingly important in building and town planning, and the industry has expanded considerably in India in recent years. Picture shows two automatic cement packing machines in a cement works in Western India. These machines can handle 225 tons each per day.

"CEMENT INDUSTRY HAS DONE WELL BY ITS LABOUR"

JUDGED by the prevailing standards in the country, the cement industry has done well by its labour, so far as working conditions, housing, welfare work and provision for the future are concerned. But the wage level continues to be low in spite of the sheltered position of the industry, and the scale of dearness allowance is much lower than in other organised industries. This is the verdict of the Labour Investigation Committee in its Report on Conditions in the Cement Industry in India.

The cement industry has a great natural advantage in this country in that excellent limestone is abundant in many parts, close to railways. The first cement factory was probably established in 1904 in Madras. During World War I, several big factories sprang up and the industry made rapid progress. The production of cement, which was only 945 tons in 1914, increased in 10 years to about 250,000 tons a year.

The fear of internal and external competition was inquired into by the Tariff Board which recommended subsidies for the industry in 1925. The following year the Government imposed a duty on imported cement. Internal competition was eliminated by the consolidation of independent companies into combines and by agreements on production and sales. Since the last war, great progress has been recorded and cement production rose from 1,500,000 tons in 1939 to about 2,500,000 tons at present.

Location and Employment

A striking feature of the industry is that it manufactures its own plant. Because of this and because of the Central and Provincial Governments' plans to construct roads, bridges and buildings, the future of the industry seems assured.

In 1939, there were 13 cement factories in British India and six in Indian States, employing

in all over 10,000 persons. In 1943, there were in all India, 57 factories (including lime factories and potteries) giving work to about 25,000 persons. Fourteen of these, employing 14,828 workers, are owned by a single combine and five employing 2,382 persons, by another combine. Seven of these factories are in Indian States. There is no factory in Bombay or Bengal. The size of the factories varies greatly, the smallest engaging about 124 persons and the largest about 3,000.

There is little employment of women and children in the industry as a whole, although in a factory in Bundi State about 450 children are employed. Labour required in the quarries and the packing department is recruited through contractors, except in one unit.

Factories have little control over the work and wages of contract labour, but owing to the scarcity of unskilled labour during the war, contractors were not in a position to exploit labour. On the whole, conditions of quarry labour are worse than factory labour. Factory labour is generally recruited by the management. In two units, recruitment is made through a board or a tribunal.

Satisfactory Conditions

Working conditions are on the whole satisfactory, factories being well-lighted and ventilated and generally free from dust and noise. Water-supply and sanitation are adequate. Some of the factories supply ice-water to the workers during the summer. Three shifts of 8 hours each and a general shift of 8 to 9 hours are worked. In two factories there is a 7½-hour shift with half an hour's interval. Workers in the factories are not subject to any occupational disease.

There is no standardisation either in regard to occupations or in regard to wages even in factories owned by a single combine. Basic wages of semi-skilled workers have been increased from 5 to 25 per cent. in the case of most of the factories, on account of the general shortage of such labour. Sixty-eight per cent. of workers in the biggest combine receive a basic wage lower than As. 12 per day and about 24 per cent. between As. 12 and Rs. 1|8|0 per day. The figures in respect of workers in the other combine are 57 per cent. and 35 per cent.

In Bundi State and in Coimbatore the wages of nearly 60 per cent of the workers do not exceed As. 8 per day. The basic daily rates for men and women in these two centres are As. 7 and As. 4 respectively. Sind has the highest wage level and 50 per cent. of the workers are in the wage group of As. 12 to As. 14 per day. Fifty-four per cent of the workers in Bundi State and 52 per cent in Coimbatore



Rotary kilns which are capable of burning 400 tons of cement clinkers a day.

earn under As. 12 per day whereas no worker in Sind receives anything under As. 12 per day and nearly 72 per cent earn between Rs. 1 to Rs. 1-8-0.

There is no uniformity in the payment of dearness allowance. It is linked up with the official cost of living index number in Coimbatore and in Guntur. Some factories compile their own cost of living index number. In one factory dearness allowance is paid in kind. In the case of daily-rated workers in most factories the allowance amounts to As. 5 to As. 8 per day per rupee of the basic wages.

Quarry labour get no separate allowance but their wages have been revised to allow for the increased cost of living. As a whole in the industry 61.4 per cent of the workers earn less than Rs. 1 per day and about 33 1|3 per cent earn As. 8 to As. 12 per day. Most of the companies pay a profit bonus.

The cement industry has a natural advantage over other industries in building quarters for its workers. The employers have shown a great deal of imagination in the construction of

quarters, to ensure the comfort and convenience of employees. Their housing schemes are among the best in the country. The Punjab has two outstanding examples. Even an ordinary unskilled worker is provided here with a quarter consisting of two spacious living rooms and a courtyard, with separate arrangements for water and sanitation.

Many of these factories, it is understood, intend to extend their building activities. At present nearly 31.5 per cent of the total labour force is housed by the employers. Housing is generally free except in the factories of one combine where the workers are given house rent and charged rent.

Welfare Activities

The industry is in advance of others in respect of welfare activities. Most of the factories have well-equipped hospitals giving free medical treatment to the workers and their families. Some have canteens and many have clubs, providing indoor and outdoor games. Cheap grain shops are run by most. In most places there are educational facilities for the children of workers while some have even provided swimming pools. Labour Officers have been appointed at many centres.

Schemes for provident fund and service gratuity exist in most factories. As the provident fund schemes are restricted to the higher wage level, the majority of the employees do not benefit. These however, are covered by gratuity schemes. The biggest combine has also started a Benefit Fund for relieving distress among its operatives each factory is given an initial amount and an annual subsidy. Workers are given advances from this Fund and in the case of the sick ex-gratia payment is also made. Compensations paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act are supplemented from this Fund when inadequate.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN GOLD MINES

(Continued from page 728)

there has been no major strike. Since the outbreak of the war there have been three strikes arising mainly out of questions of dearness allowance, gratuity, etc.

There are four Labour Associations with a membership of about 8,000. A Labour Officer, common to all the mines, assists the management in the investigation of complaints from the workers. The labourers have no direct access to him to secure redress of their grievances.

CONTROL OF CONSUMER GOODS DISTRIBUTION

According to a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated May 25, 1946, certain amendments have been made to the Consumer goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945.

Under these, the Central Government will hereafter confine its powers to making bulk allocations of scheduled articles to Provinces and major States and instructions regarding further internal distributions of the Provinces or State's quota will be issued direct to the importers by the officers of the Provincial or State Government authorised in this behalf by the Central Government. Instructions so issued by Provinces and States are not intended to interfere with normal trade channels but only to see that goods are despatched to cities and towns where they are most needed and in such quantities as are required there.

The above arrangement does not apply to the distribution of silk and artificial silk yarn and thread which will continue to be distributed under the existing arrangements.

The following is the list of consumer goods which are affected by the present amendments to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945:—

Copying and coloured lead pencils, pure and artificial silk fabrics, hand knitting wool, woollen fabrics, woollen and worsted weaving and machine knitting yarns, umbrellas and parts of umbrellas, kerosene hurricane lanterns, cycles and cycle parts and accessories.

REDUCED CEMENT PRICES

Retail prices of Portland cement other than that manufactured by the Assam Bengal Cement Company Limited, have been fixed for various centres on the basis of the reduced ceiling price of Rs. 60 per ton fixed by the Government of India for full wagon loads f.o.r. destinations. The prices vary between Rs. 64-14-0 to Rs. 78-12-0 per ton and between Rs. 3-3-11 and Rs. 3-15-0 per bag. Sales tax, where levied, will have to be added to the prices fixed.

Authorised stockists of all cement companies are required to exhibit at their shops and godowns a list of the current retail prices. Complaints in regard to cement prices will be received by the main selling agents, the branch offices of the respective cement companies or in the last resort by the Department of Industries and Supplies, New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION

MY Indian Friends, it has been suggested that I should tell you something of the mission which brings me to Delhi since it represents a small aspect of a great new movement whereby the scientists of the British Commonwealth and of the world are striving to work together for the advancement of knowledge and its application for the common good of all men.

I am here in India for a short time in the course of a journey which has taken me to Canada, New Zealand and Australia and the chief purpose of this mission has been to discuss with the scientists of these countries, the ideals and objectives of the great Commonwealth Scientific Conference which will take place in London in June and July of this year and to talk about the machinery of collaboration which is necessary between our nations, if full utilisation of knowledge, experience and resources is to be made.

I think it should be realised by every one that of all the activities of man, science is the most international in spirit and content. No fanatical nationalism, no extreme brand of political

By Professor Alexander King.

A recorded broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on May 20 in the series, "Meet our Guest Talker."

philosophy has yet been able to pervert science to its own particular ends. It could hardly be otherwise, since it is apparent to scientific workers everywhere that the physical laws operate uniformly and universally; hence discoveries made in one place are immediately understood by scientists in all other places and capable of immediate application by them.

Science progresses in a peculiar way. A discovery is made in a laboratory, say in the United States of America. A scientist in England or perhaps Russia or France then sees how the new American finding fits in with an idea put forward by an Indian scientist to produce an utterly new concept of great importance--and so on. Scientific knowledge can thus never be the property of one school or of a single nation; it is a rich fabric woven from many threads originating in all the countries of the world, it is the property of all men without distinction as international as nature herself.

For its healthy advancement therefore, science demands free intercourse between scientists of different countries and it is true that up to the out-

break of the recent war there was little or no attempt made to keep secret within the confines of a nation or within a private group, discoveries of fundamental character; consequently scientists of all nations have been in continuous and intimate contact. This is, in Europe, a heritage of the great international tradition of learning which came to us, I understand from the East and which operated freely even in the darkest days of the Middle Ages. A more recent example of this was the invitation received by the famous English chemist, Sir Humphrey Davy, to lecture to the French Academy in Paris during the course of the Napoleonic Wars, a journey which both the warring governments supported.

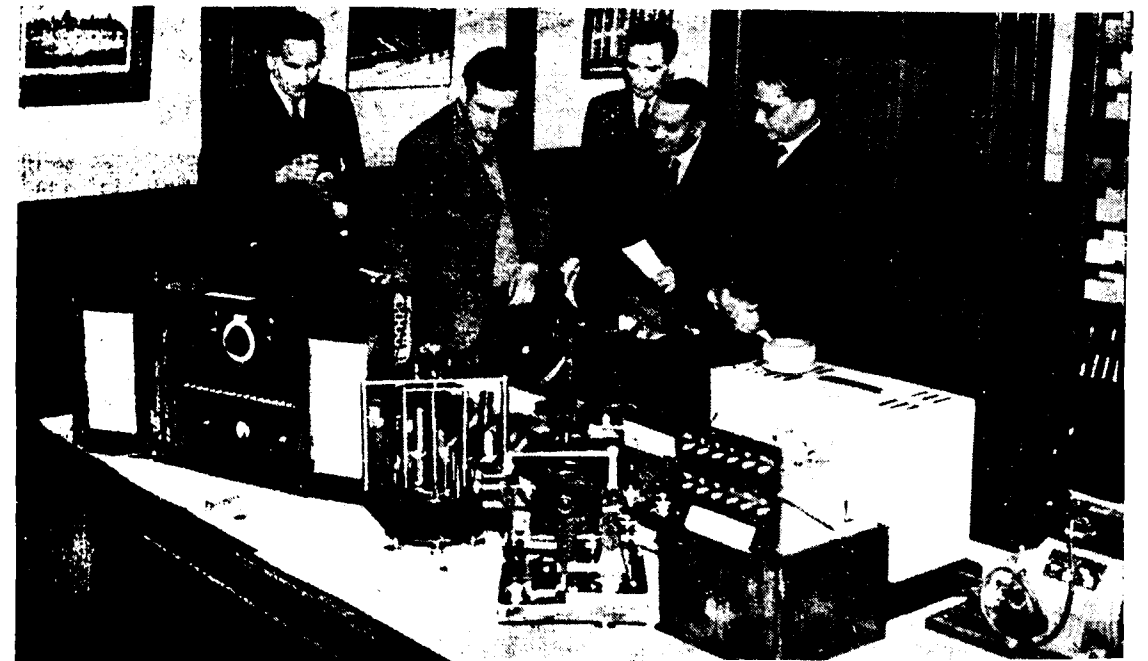
Free Exchange of Ideals

In the applications of science the situation is different free exchange of ideals being obstructed by questions of national security or commercial expediency. Nevertheless even there the technical secrets of war are shared with allies or captured by enemies and are soon widely known, while in the industrial field, practical techniques of manufacture are the monopoly of individuals only during the short life of a patent before reverting to the great common pool of technical knowledge.

The situation has changed considerably during the past decades owing to the speed with which fundamental scientific ideas can be developed for practical use. The horrible implications of the atomic bomb have made all governments aware of the destructive potentialities of science while in many other fields including industry agriculture, medicine, aviation, building research, etc., governments have increased their interest in science to a degree which would not have been believed before the war, naturally enough, scientists throughout the world are expressing alarm lest this official and at times proprietary interest in science should threaten the freedom believed necessary for its healthy cultivation. Moreover and more importantly scientists are determined that science should be used for the good of mankind as a whole and not for its destruction.

This international outlook among scientists has a considerable influence on the outcome of the recent war, for neither in Germany nor in Japan did the government fully trust its scientists because of their known world outlook. This will be an increasingly important feature in international affairs for scientists everywhere know that it is necessary to have one world.

The problem as the scientists see it is essentially this: "Shall we work within petty



The Indian Scientific Mission, who toured the U.K. last year, visited the Building Research Station at Watford. Here, a member of the Engineering staff demonstrates testing and measuring instruments developed at the Research Station to Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Leader of the Mission, and Sir J.C. Ghosh.

national patterns, restricting all the good results of our work exclusively to our own communities and labour feverishly in a horrible arms race which will end in the destruction of civilisation as we know it or shall we combine together in harmony to make the fruits of the earth available to all men for their comfort and progress." These are of course the same alternatives as face the politicians, but in science, the long tradition of international working together make the destruction between them stand out with stark reality.

During the recent war, tremendous progress was made in the matter of technical collaboration between the Allied countries. Scientific missions from each of the British Dominions as well as the U.S.A. were establishing in London while in America, Great Britain and the Dominions maintain scientific offices which later federated to form a British Commonwealth Scientific Office of which I am at present Senior Officer.

This is an interesting development of which you might care to hear a little more. Within the British Commonwealth Scientific Office each of the participating nations has complete autonomy and freedom of action but in the great majority of cases the scientists chose to work for the good of all participants on their own particular specialised line. Thus if a question comes from

England or India on the control of mosquitoes to reduce malaria, the American information required is provided by an Australian Entomologist if New Zealand wants an answer to a question on fuel utilisation or metallurgy, a British scientist obtains an answer.

The area covered by this combined team is therefore enormous and certainly far greater than would ever be the case of each country worked separately. We have, as yet no Indian group working with us in Washington but we are endeavouring to keep India's interests before us by providing through the post a great deal of technical data to your Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. I would like to say, however that we very much hope that a few Indian scientists will shortly be sent out to join us. They will be heartily welcomed by their colleagues of the other countries.

Visit of Indian Mission Recalled

Another most important step towards continuing collaboration between scientists was the visit a little more than a year ago of an important mission from India led by Sir Shanti Bhatnagar to Great Britain and the United States. In both these countries the Indian scientists were tremendously welcomed and friendly connections were made which have great influence for many years to come. I feel that government

scientific missions of this sort will play an increasingly important role in international relations.

We look forward with pleasure to the arrival of the Indian Delegation in London this year to participate in the Commonwealth Conference. They will discuss many matters of international collaboration with their colleagues from the various British countries and among other questions will arise the future and possible extension of their scientific liaison offices which I have described. I hope very much that the system will become permanent and that eventually we shall have Commonwealth Scientific groups in many regions of the world including India. Through these scientific offices would flow information of all kinds and on all scientific subjects for utilisation overseas so as to ensure early and easy application in the raising of standards of nutrition, health, prosperity and happiness everywhere.

But I think that the scientific centres in different countries would have another, possibly greater, influence. They would be an outward sign to the world of that unity of science which already exists transcending all differences of nationality, race or religion. They would strengthen immeasurably the existing ties between the scientists and technicians of the different nations, providing a greater community of interest over a greater area.

In this world of chaos and poverty, of fear and want we can achieve unity and progress only by working together for this common aim. The surest way to begin, it seems to me is to start building on soil which is already common to all of us and I feel that science offers one of the best indeed one of the only, starting points. I would go so far as to express my own strong personal convictions that the possibility of the world's scientists working together for the common good is the most promising single feature of the international situation to-day.

At the conference in the summer we hope to get down to discussion of practical measures of collaboration. Problems on which we can work together in the field, better methods of communicating our results to one another, provisions of facilities for more frequent visits to one another country.

In these deliberations India will have a place equal to that of the other countries and the Councils of her scientists will be given all consideration, for we have already grown to know and respect many of the men whom she will send. For the success of such an undertaking and for the utilisation of results which may accrue we scientists need the support of governments and of the people. We sincerely hope that we shall have your well wishes.

Scientific Research

RECTIFIED SPIRIT AS MOTOR FUEL

DENATURED spirit has come into use as a fuel for motor vehicles at least in some parts of India, particularly in the United Provinces. Its use, however, has led to certain operational troubles, which are capable of being remedied. They have been critically examined by a series of test trials carried out by the Physical Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

It has been shown that straight 96 per cent. (by volume) spirit gives about 80-88 per cent. of the mileage given by petrol. The tests have revealed that by suitably adjusting the carburettor jet, any desired power, up to slightly more than normal petrol power, can be obtained by using spirit. The tests carried out and the results obtained have been described in an article in a recent issue of the *"Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research."*

Improved Plastic Containers

A new technique for container manufacture has been successfully developed in the Council Laboratories. The process which is now available for commercial exploitation, contains the principal features of (a) compression moulding for plastic moulding powders, (b) manufacture of resin-impregnated laminated sheets and boards, and (c) metal sheet drawing and pressing. Resin-impregnated laminated boards from the starting material. Blanks of pre-determined size and shape are punched out, pre-heated to impart the desired plasticity fed with specially designed moulds and then pressed into the final shape.

The success of the process depends upon the design of the mould. The technique enables the production of several types of deep, shallow and intricate articles in attractive patterns. The details are published as a non-technical note in the Journal.

Further categories of goods falling under the Import Trade Control Schedule have been decontrolled and brought under the Open General Licence No. VII.

The principal articles which can thereby be imported from British Empire countries in the sterling area without licence are cotton thread other than sewing or darning thread, fents, manufacturers of wool including felt, arms and ammunition, and aeroplanes and parts thereof and all manufactured articles used in aircraft construction.



Sir Archibald Rowlands

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS LEAVES FOR U. K.

SIR Archibald Rowlands, who has described himself frequently as the last "British Finance Member" of the Government of India, handed over charge of his office on June 2 and left for England.

Opening his Budget speech in the Central Assembly in February, Sir Archibald stated, "I imagine I am the first Finance Member to deliver his first Budget speech in the knowledge that it will almost certainly be his last."

Fifty-four years of age, Sir Archibald first came to India in 1937 after a distinguished career as a British Civil Servant. A Welshman, he was educated at the University College of Wales and at Oxford and served in World War No. I in Mesopotamia where he was Staff Intelligence Officer, Baghdad. After the War, he held a succession of important posts in the British War Office, among them being Principal Private Secretary to three Secretaries of State for War, Viscounts Hallam, Halifax and Mr. Duff Cooper.

In 1937 he came out to India as financial Adviser (Military Finance), Government of India, but was recalled in 1939 by the British Government to assume office, first as 2nd Deputy Under-Secretary and, in 1940, as Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Aircraft Production. The following year, when Hitler's and

Soviet armies were inter-locked in gigantic battles, Sir Archibald went to Moscow as a member of the Beaverbrook Mission which negotiated details of British aid to Russia.

Sir Archibald returned to India in 1943 as Adviser to the Viceroy on War Administration, a post in which he continued till 1945 when he succeeded Sir Jeremy Raisman as Finance Member. During the latter part of 1944 and early months of 1945, just before he took up the post of Finance Member, he was asked to preside over a special committee appointed to inquire into the working of the administrative machinery in Bengal. The Report of the Bengal Inquiry Committee was issued in March 1945. The recommendations which were made, a number of which have already been implemented not only by Bengal but also by other Provincial Governments, have been recognised as setting up a new standard of administration in India. Sir Archibald, who is an expert in what is technically known as the science of "organisation and methods," looks upon this Report as one of his most valuable contributions to India.

Sir Archibald's short tenure of office as Finance Member is notable for a number of important developments. Soon after he took charge, there was a reorientation of the Centre's attitude towards Provincial planning. A policy of liberal grants to Provinces to enable them to start at once on anti-slump measures as part of policy directed against the possible onset of deflation was introduced. Sir Archibald undertook an all-India tour in November 1945 to discuss the financing of Provincial post-war plans with Provincial Governments.

First Post-War Budget

Presenting India's first post-war budget in the Central Assembly in February, a new feature in which was the introduction of a capital budget, Sir Archibald proposed to set up two important inquiry bodies. One was a Pay Commission (already set up) to study pay scales of Central Government servants and to investigate the introduction of machinery on lines of Whitley Councils in the U. K. to settle disputes between Government and its employees. The other was a Taxation Inquiry Committee to enquire into the taxation system in India. The budget itself was a novel one in many ways. The main pattern was directed towards rehabilitating India, both economically and industrially, as early as possible, and towards laying the foundations on which her post-war development could be built.

Towards these ends, the Excess Profits Tax was abolished with the object of relieving

industry of a tax which was admittedly rough and ready and, in certain circumstances, regressive. The immediate abolition of this tax, as distinct from a reduction in rate, was directed towards relieving the Exchequer of a possible loss if industry sustained losses during the transition period.

At the same time, encouragement was given to building activities, which are expected to play a large part in countering any slump tendencies which might develop in the economy of the country. Special rates of depreciation for income-tax purposes were allowed for new buildings erected within a specified period.

Relief to Poor Men

To the middle class person further tax relief was afforded by an increase in the percentage of income allowed as earned income; while income-tax and super-tax rates in the higher slabs were steepened.

For the poor man, direct relief was afforded by the reduction in the duty on kerosene oil and betelnuts; and the introduction of a half-anna box of matches and half-anna postcard. But the real "inwardness" of the Budget, in so far as it affects the poor man, was not in the direct tax relief given, but in the large sums provided for developmental and social services which benefit him directly. Education, health, better working conditions, large-scale hydro-electric and irrigation schemes, agricultural research and development, these were some of the major schemes for which over Rs. 100 crores were provided by the Centre, let alone the Provinces.

Two Important Measures

Other features of his financial stewardship were the removal of import duties on materials required for manufacture of machinery etc. with a view to helping Indian industry; the introduction of the Estate duties Bill and the New Banking Companies Bill. the proposal to decimalise the coinage system, the Bill for which has been sent for circulation and the demonetisation of high denomination Notes. The last measure was taken with a view to check black market transactions and evasions of income tax and for the purpose notes of Rs. 500 and above were demonetised.

Two other important measures came in Sir Archibald's last fortnight in office. On May 22 was announced the introduction, for the first time in the history of Indian coinage, of pure nickel half and quarter rupee coins, with the object of economising in the use of silver. The

(Continued on Page 744)

HALF AND QUARTER RUPEE COINS TO BE MINTED IN NICKEL

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* of May 22, the Central Government has authorised the minting and issue of half and quarter rupee coins in pure nickel.

In the present conditions of inadequate supplies of silver in the open market and the prevailing high prices in India, the Government consider it wasteful to use silver for the half and quarter rupee coins. They have, therefore, decided to discontinue the minting of the quaternary half and quarter rupee coins, which contain 50 per cent. silver, and to mint these coins in pure nickel. This will ensure the availability of currency sufficient for the economic needs of the country without undue expenditure of foreign exchange resources upon the constituent material. Moreover the step now being taken will make it easier for the Government of India to discharge the obligation resting on them to return in kind within five years of the end of the war the 226 million ounces of silver borrowed from the United States Government between 1943 and 1945.

Pure nickel has been widely adopted for the higher denomination subsidiary coins in several countries on account of the fact that its physical characteristics render it eminently suitable for coinage purposes. It is too hard a metal to be worked without heavy specialised plant and manufacture of pure nickel coins is, therefore, impracticable outside the Mints. It is the only common coinage metal which is magnetic and counterfeits made with other alloys can be easily detected with the help of a small magnet. It wears well and lasts long. Pure nickel coins, which are silver-white in colour do not tarnish easily and retain their bright appearance almost indefinitely.

The new coins will be of the same size and weight as the quaternary coins, but will have a different design and plain milling instead of the security edge; the difficulty of counterfeiting the coin making the security edge unnecessary. The new design, in which the marginal beads both on the obverse and reverse have been omitted, bears on the obverse the King's effigy with the words GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR and on the reverse a tiger, the word INDIA, the year of issue and the denomination in English, Urdu and Devnagri scripts.

The new coins do not ring but their genuineness can be tested by a magnet.

The existing quaternary half and quarter rupee coins will continue to be legal tender.

INDO-U. S. AGREEMENT ON LEND-LEASE

HERE is the full text of the statement issued by the representatives of the Government of India and the U.S.A., who signed on May 16, 1946 an agreement representing an over-all settlement of Lend-Lease, Reciprocal Aid and surplus property questions between the two countries. (The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of India by the Hon'ble Mr. A. A. Waugh, Member for Industries and Supplies, and on behalf of the U.S.A. by Mr. Dean Acheson, acting Secretary of State).

"The agreement with India is a comprehensive and a final settlement for Lend-Lease, reciprocal Aid and surplus war property located in India and for financial claims of each Government against the other arising as a result of World War II. India served as a supply base for the South East Asia Command during the war and while a great volume of Lend-Lease supplies were shipped to India, the larger parts were for the use of the British Government in India and in South East Asia.

Equal Benefits

"India supplied reciprocal aid liberally to the U. S. A. both in the form of supplies and services to the U.S.A. Armed Forces in India and in raw material shipped to U.S.A. for war production. In view of approximate equal benefits received by the U. S. A. and India from this interchange of mutual aid which aggregated over a billion dollars in value, it was agreed that no dollar payments would be required in settlement between the two Governments, and all obligations arising out of Lend-Lease and Reverse Lend-Lease were balanced against each other and cancelled, except for the pre-existing agreement under which India will return to the U.S.A. the silver received during the war.

"It is implied in the agreement that the U. S.A. has received full title to all articles received from India during the war under reverse lend-lease and the remaining in inventory. India has agreed to cancel the outstanding obligation of the U.S.A. to pay about 45 million dollars in cash for supplies delivered to the U.S.A. Armed Forces in India after V-J Day. The agreement on that provides that India receives full title to all articles in civilian lend-lease inventory as on V-J Day and to a relatively small quantity of articles which were in lend-lease pipe line for delivery after V-J Day. Articles in Indian military lend-lease inventory, which were acquired by the

Indian forces when serving with the British Army, are retained by India, subject to a right of recapture by the U.S.A.

"The U.S.A., however, has stated that it does not intend to exercise generally such right of re-capture with regard to these articles or to other articles of gold delivered to the Indian Army by the British Forces in India.

"The agreement replaces previous papers relating to the disposal of the U.S.A. Army and Navy surpluses in India. Title to all unsold U.S.A. surpluses passes to India and India agrees to dispose of them on an equal basis with war surpluses of Indian and United Kingdom origin.

First Formal Agreement

"As a part of the over-all settlement, the U. S.A. will receive one-half of all proceeds in excess of 50 million dollars realised from such disposals. The United States share of such proceeds will be available for acquisition of any real estate and buildings for U.S.A. Government agencies in India and for cultural and educational purposes of mutual benefit to the U.S.A. and India. In the disposal of U.S.A. surpluses by the Government of India, U.S.A. veterans, Government agencies, businesses and the U.N.R.R.A. will be accorded priorities such as are accorded to other buyers in India, of like character.

"Bulk disposal of U.S.A. surpluses to India has greatly speeded the final evacuation of the United States troops from India. It will also result in an increase in substantial savings to the U.S.A. by the elimination of operating costs of the U.S. Army in India at least a year earlier than would have been the case if U.S.A. had itself handled actual sales.

"This settlement is especially significant because it is the first formal agreement between India and the U.S.A., and its harmonious completion is an auspicious opening for relations between the U.S.A. and India now on the verge of independence. Successful conclusion of these negotiations augurs well for the future of relations between the U.S.A. and India".

The Government of India have appointed Dr. Yusuf Hussain Khan, B.A., D.Litt. (Paris), Curator, Historical Section of Daftar-e-Diwani, Mal and Mulki, H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, the nominee of that Government on the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission for a period of five years with effect from February 21, 1946, in place of Mr. M. Nasirud Din Khan resigned.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR INDIA'S EXPORTS TO CANADA

Trade Commissioner's Report for 1945

THAT prospects for India's exports to Canada are brighter than ever, is the conclusion reached by Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Canada in his annual Report for 1945. Mr. Ahuja reports that the demand in the Dominion is backed by the accumulated purchasing power of the Canadian people through six years of wartime savings, now estimated close to 10 billion dollars (approximately 3,300 crores of rupees).

Reviewing Indo-Canadian trade in 1945, Mr. Ahuja emphasises the following salient features:

1. The total Indo-Canadian trade for 1945 was valued at about Rs. 101.4 crores, the highest figure ever recorded.
2. Although Canada's total imports during 1945 declined considerably in value, those from British India substantially increased despite export controls that still operated in India.
3. British India ranked third in Canada's total external trade during 1945 as well as in total imports and exports. India's position as the third most important source of supply to Canada and also as the third best customer of Canadian goods, attained in 1944, was maintained throughout last year, both imports and exports exceeding in value those registered during the previous year.
4. The wartime rise in prices in India has undoubtedly had its effect on the value of Indian goods imported into Canada but not all the gain in Indian exports to Canada in recent years is attributable to rising prices; in many cases the volume of goods imported also substantially increased.

Keen Demand for Indian Goods

Discussing the prospects of larger imports from India into Canada during the ensuing years, which he describes as very bright, Mr. Ahuja records that the demand for Indian goods in Canada during 1945 was very keen and great interest was shown in various lines of imports.

"The steady and gradual removal of export controls in India and the lifting of price ceilings in Canada, which has since already come into effect, should certainly tend to expand purchases in India. When account is taken of the shipping situation which during the war years in no

small measure further restricted imports, as well as of the accumulated purchasing power of the Canadian people through six years of wartime saving, now estimated close to 10 billion dollars, prospects of India's exports to Canada appear brighter than ever. With the currently strong demand for Indian goods in Canada, all indications point to larger and more diversified imports from India during 1946."

Continuing, the Trade Commissioner urges that all possible efforts should be made in India to develop export trade in manufactured and semi-manufactured goods in preference to raw materials. Special stress should be placed on the organisation and development of small and cottage industry products for exports, thus providing employment to as large a portion of people as possible.

"At present most of the cottage industries lack organisation, direction, technical advice and knowledge of overseas requirements. Their products are consequently not uniform in quality, nor is there any continuity of supplies. Lack of organisation and of regular outlets of disposal further lead to increased overhead expenses resulting in high prices."

Imports from Canada

Regarding India's imports from Canada, Mr. Ahuja remarks that a very large portion of imported goods in 1945 was made up of war materials which would have ceased with the end of hostilities. Nevertheless he considers that the post-war Canadian exports to India would be much higher than before the war and in all likelihood grow steadily with time. For example, Canadian shipments of wheat, processed milk, fish and other items are bound to occupy an important place in the exports of Canada for some time to come.

Exports of Canadian paper and particularly newsprint are also likely to increase substantially and the prospects of Canadian exports to India of electrical appliances, agricultural machinery and implements as well as capital goods and machinery have never been so bright. When these items are added to Canadian-made motor cars and the variety of the consumer goods which India needs, the over-all future prospects point to a steady increase in Canada's export trade to India.

Goods valued at Rs. 9.2 crores were imported from British India into Canada in 1945 as

compared with Rs. 8.4 crores in 1944. Tea and jute products were the leading items and together comprised 82 per cent of the total value of imports from India. Imports of nuts and manganese oxide recorded large decreases in 1945 while those of carpets and rugs and furs, hides and leathers substantially increased. The quantities of raw wool, coir products and lac imported during the year were also much greater than in the previous year.

Commenting on Canada's demand for India's jute products, the Trade Commissioner remarks that Canada's food export programme would continue unabated during 1946 and consequently the demand for India's jute products for packaging and wrapping purposes during the coming year would be heavy. There also exists in Canada a very fine potential market for articles of leather manufacture such as billfolds, purses, luggage, brief cases, cigarette cases, key container, etc.

As regards carpets and rugs, India assumed the position of the leading supplier of oriental carpets in 1945. Plain coloured carpets or those with minimum of decoration are reported to be best suited to Canadian trade, but a market also exists for a certain number of patterned carpets. The value of imports of woollen carpets and rugs from British India in 1945 totalled Rs. 26 lakhs as compared with Rs. 11 lakhs in 1944.

In the case of coir and coir products, the Trade Commissioner reports heavily increased imports from British India into Canada in 1945. Indian coir products, he observes, found an excellent market in Canada and at present are in strong demand. British India's exports of coir products to Canada more than trebled between 1944 and 1945, being valued at Rs. 4 lakhs in 1944 and Rs. 12 lakhs in 1945.

Value of Canadian Exports

The value of Canadian exports to British India in 1945 was over Rs. 92 crores as compared with just over Rs. 52 crores in 1944. Increasingly heavy shipments of war supplies to India in the early part of the year accounted for the large increase in the total exports to India, the flow of exports reaching its peak in the month of August. But with the end of war against Japan, there was a decline during the closing months of the year.

The Canadian products shipped to India during 1945 were largely the same as in the previous years, one new item being large exports of Canadian wheat to India. Exports of motor vehicles and parts, locomotives and ammunitions also showed large increases. Canadian exports

of iron and its products to British India totalled nearly Rs. 62 crores as compared with Rs. 31 crores for 1944.

The second largest item was wheat, 20 million bushels of which were exported to India valued at Rs. 9 crores in 1945 as compared with 620,000 bushels valued at Rs. 24 lakhs in 1944. The Canadian exports of textile products on the other hand decreased from Rs. 2½ crores in 1944 to about Rs. 1.9 crores in 1945. Shipments of newsprint paper to India showed a slight decrease from 532,000 cwts. to 491,000 cwts.

Trade Enquiries

Interest in developing Indo-Canadian trade was illustrated, the Report points out, by the large number of trade inquiries received from India and Canada. Many Canadian ex-service-men who had served in India and had brought back with them samples of Indian goods were eager to explore possibilities of importing goods from India. Likewise interest among established Canadian firms for Indian goods was also strong.

The Trade Commissioner, however, complains that his office was greatly handicapped in dealing with inquiries from India by the meagreness of the information supplied by the inquiring firm. Inquiries from India, he emphasises, should be specific in their requests, give detailed information regarding their requirements and wherever possible support them with liberal supplies of samples.

IMPORT TRADE CONTROL

In a recent Press Note were described the steps being taken by way of simplification, decentralisation and additions to staff to meet the heavy increase in import control work following on the termination of the war. In continuation of these, advantage is being taken of the presence in India of Mr. P. C. Chaudhuri, O.B.E., I.C.S., Director of the India Supply Commission, London, who has been placed on special duty in the office of the Chief Controller of Imports to make investigations into the administration of import trade control both at certain of the ports and at headquarters.

Mr. Chaudhuri, prior to his appointment in London, had served as Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, first at headquarters and then at Bombay, and later as Joint Chief Controller of imports New Delhi. Mr. Chaudhuri has already left on a tour of inspection at Bombay.

PROSPECTS FOR INDO-IRANIAN TRADE

Major M. Hassan's Statement

INDIAN businessmen can hope to build up a permanent and influential place in the trade of Iran by perseverance and methodical effort according to Major M. Hassan, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Tcheran. Major Hassan, who is at present in India for consultations with the Government of India, will be returning shortly to his post.

The commercial situation in Iran, Major Hassan stated in an interview, is hesitant owing to the internal and international situation. Iran was suffering from a shortage of consumer goods, particularly tea, cotton piecegoods, jute products and sugar.

Long-Term Prospects

Discussing long-term prospects, Major Hassan stated that Iran was for long a good market for Japanese and German goods. With the disappearance of these rivals, India had every opportunity to develop her export trade. This could only be done if Indian exporters maintained a high standard in their goods and if India interested herself in Iranian goods other than mineral oil.

India, from her position of fifth in Iranian trade before the war, has now considerably improved its position, being first in the list in 1944-45 according to Iranian commercial statistics.

For some time in the transition period, while supplies remained short and difficult to obtain, there would, no doubt, continue to be a good demand for goods from anywhere but as trade became free and controls were relaxed, Iran would probably turn for its main supplies of imported goods to those countries that were prepared to buy large supplies of its products other than mineral oil. In considering Iran as a market for Indian goods, Major Hassan stressed the importance of this factor.

A Press Communique issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on May 31 stated:

The attention of the Government has been drawn to the reports in the Press that the Petrol Rationing Order is to be withdrawn from August 1, 1946. The Central Government have no information whatever of any decision to withdraw petrol rationing.

Export of Stores from India by Firms Returning to Burma

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department on May 21 stated:

The Government of India in consultation with the Government of Burma have decided that the following procedure should be adopted in regard to export of stores from India by firms returning to Burma (Requests from such firms will be divided into three categories (1) personal baggage and household effects; (2) *bona fide* office equipment sufficient for three months and (3) motor vehicles).

For stores under category (1) firms should approach the Export Trade Controller concerned. For the export of *bona fide* office equipment required for three months, returning firms and individuals should apply to the office of the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi, through the Government of Burma representative in Calcutta, producing as evidence the letter from the Government of Burma permitting them to enter Burma.

Firms and individuals in Burma who require motor vehicles to be imported from India should submit a consolidated list to the Commerce and Supply Department, Burma, Rangoon. The list should show the number of vehicles already in their possession in India and the number which they propose to purchase from surplus stores in India. Details regarding makes and description should be given, and in respect of motor vehicles already in their possession they should indicate when and the source from which these were obtained.

MORE KEROSENE FOR RURAL AREAS

An increased quota of imported kerosene has been obtained by the Government of India in order to improve the supply of kerosene to rural areas, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Supplies Department on May 17.

It added: The distribution will, as usual, be done by the Provincial and State Governments, who have been requested by the Government of India to utilise the increased supply, as far as possible, for the benefit of the rural population. It is expected that the supply will be available by June 1, 1946.

As regards urban areas, however, control and restriction of distribution has still to continue, as unlimited supplies are not yet available. The larger quota obtained now is at the expense of the consumers in the U.K. and through an appreciable dollar sacrifice by His Majesty's Government.

GEN. AUCHINLECK PROMOTED FIELD MARSHAL

THE King has approved the promotion of Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, to the rank of Field Marshal. This announcement appears in the *London Gazette*, dated May 31.

"A military figure of the first order." Such was the verdict of Prime Minister Winston Churchill on the C-in-C. of the Middle East Force, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, in the ominous days of El Alamein, when the massed army of Rommel was tensed for the final blow to eliminate the weaker Empire forces already pushed back to the very gates of Alexandria.

Born in 1884, Claude Eyre John Auchinleck was educated at Wellington and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned in 1903 and came to India on attachment to the 62 Punjabs (to-day the 1-1st Punjabs).

During the First World War, Field Marshal Auchinleck served in Egypt, Aden, and Mesopotamia where, between 1916 and 1919, he was awarded the D.S.O., the O.B.E., and the French *Croix de Guerre* and was also made a brevet lieutenant-colonel.

After passing through the Imperial Defence College in 1927 he returned to his old regiment and was placed in command of the 1st Battalion. Three years later he was appointed an instructor at the Staff College, Quetta, and in 1933 took over command of the Peshawar Brigade. In the campaign of 1935 against the Mohmand tribesmen Field Marshal Auchinleck proved his value as a skilled tactician. Pursuing a plan that has come to be regarded as a classic example of out-maneuvring, he broke all opposition and won the bloodless victory of the Nahakki Pass.

Appointed C-in-C. in 1941

Made Deputy Chief of the General Staff in India in 1936, Field Marshal Auchinleck represented the Indian Army on the Chatfield Commission. Returning from leave to India on the outbreak of war in 1939, he took over command of the Meerut district, but was sent for to raise and command the 4th Army Corps in the South of England, early in 1940.

A vigorous exponent of the gospel of attack, he went to Northern Norway in May of the same year to command the Allied Land Forces which captured Narvik before being withdrawn as a result of the collapse in France.

Field-Marshal Auchinleck then returned to India, early in 1941, as Commander-in-Chief but five months later he was appointed C-in-C. in the Middle East. In the historic duels with Rommel which followed, the C-in-C. maintained the fighting policy of his predecessor, Field Marshal Lord



Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck.

Wavell, despite an inferiority in men and material and the immense length of his lines of communication round the Cape of Good Hope. With the purpose of "driving the enemy out of Cyrenaica", Field Marshal Auchinleck formed the Eighth Army in September 1941 and attacked. The Eighth Army fanning out over the desert after a series of bitter engagements managed to push Rommel out of Cyrenaica as far as El Aghoila.

North African Victory

But it was by Field Marshal Auchinleck's historic defence at Alamein at the height of Rommel's onslaught against Egypt that the British military leader won one of his greatest titles to the free world's gratitude and recognition. Falling back after a succession of setbacks which had greatly weakened his forces, he assumed personal command of the Eighth Army and chose his own "last ditch"; and by one more display of his characteristic offensive spirit turned it into the springboard for the overwhelming North African victory which was to follow.

Before he left the Middle East, Field Marshal Auchinleck had planned for a counter-offensive

which was to be launched as soon as he had the necessary reinforcements in troops and equipment. There was no great difference between these plans and those finally adopted by the new commanders for the offensive.

In 1943, Field Marshal Auchinleck once more returned to India. His task was the gigantic one of maintaining and training a force of 2½ million men; added to it was the equally heavy responsibility of organising the great base in India built up for the war against the Japanese.

Forty-three years of service with the Indian Army have given tall, rugged Auchinleck a knowledge of the country and an unrivalled understanding of its fighting men and their customs.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

"I wish to convey on behalf of the Army in India and overseas, their warm and heartfelt congratulations on your promotion to the rank of Field Marshal, says Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith Chief of the General Staff, India Command, in a message to Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck Commander-in-Chief in India.

"The accordance of this high honour delights all ranks, in whose hearts there abides affection, regard and respect such as has seldom been evoked by any leader. This universal faith in and affection for yourself is recognised by accordance to you of the highest rank that can be bestowed on any officer.

"The Army knows that you will regard this honour as being shared by every one of its members from highest to lowest and all trust you will realise that this day on which you have been honoured is to them one of the happiest in their careers.

"The Army's thoughts and good wishes will be with you as you lead its representatives in the Victory Parade which is itself a commemoration of the triumphs in which your own share has been so great."

C-IN-C's. REPLY

A great tribute to the troops under his command was paid by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck in reply to the message of congratulation conveyed to him by Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, Chief of the General Staff, India Command, on behalf of all ranks of the Army in India.

"I am deeply moved and greatly honoured by your kind message conveying to me the congratulations of the Army in India on my promotion to the rank of Field Marshal," says the C-in-C.

"As you say in your message I look on my elevation to the highest rank a soldier can hold as an honour bestowed on the whole Army in India, in recognition of its wonderful record in the late war.

"Anything which I may have been able to do to help in bringing about the final and complete victory of our arms has been made possible solely by the loyalty, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice of all ranks, and I wish to record my profound appreciation of their unfailing response at all times and in all circumstances to the calls I have made upon them."

"I thank you and all of them, of every rank and of every corps and unit most sincerely."

C-IN-C. ENTERTAINS REPATRIATED WAR PRISONERS

"I am proud that men like you exist to enhance the already great reputation of the Indian Army", said Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, addressing more than 200 ex-prisoners of war from Malaya, Hong Kong, and Burma who recently attended a garden party given in their honour by the C-in-C, at his home.

Representing practically every branch of the Indian Army, the men travelled from many parts of India to attend the function, writes an Army Observer. Directors of Services and Senior staff officers were also present, as well as Gen. Sir Mosley Mayne, Military Secretary to the India Office, and Lt.-Gen. Sir Frank Messervy, G.O.C., Malaya Command.

Several of the ex-P.O.Ws. wore decorations which were awarded for fortitude under severe conditions in prison camps. They included two officers of the 3rd Cavalry, Risardar Major (Hon. Lt.) Ismail Khan, I.O.M., and Capt. H. C. Badhwar, M.B.E., who had been imprisoned for 88 days in a cage without food or water.

DEPUTY C-IN-C.

A Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I.), on May 31 stated:

The King has approved the appointment of Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, as Deputy Commander-in-Chief during the absence of the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, who is going to London for attending Victory Celebrations. Sir Geoffrey will assume charge on June 2, 1946.

INDIAN INFORMATION JUNE 15, 1946



M a p-reading class under Jem. Bhagwan Singh.

INDIAN ARMY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN MALAYA

With the great number of Indian soldiers in Malaya, it was not long before an Indian Wing Army School of Education was started in Singapore. The school is now running courses ranging from map reading to basic English.



A group photograph of the school staff.

Services Not Destroying Stores of use to Civilians

A PRESS Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate G.H.Q. (I.), on May 17 stated:

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's allegation that vast quantities of military stores and equipment which are in great demand in civilian life are being wantonly destroyed in various parts of India is flatly contradicted at G.H.Q.

"The story of 2,000 bicycles being steam-rollered into the ground near Allahabad is complete nonsense," said an officer of the branch concerned, "and I would challenge Pandit Nehru to produce first-hand evidence of a single serviceable or repairable truck, bicycle, radio set or watch being scrapped.

"Aircraft and aircraft engines, being material of war, have, like ammunition, to be destroyed or demilitarised if they are no longer required but Pandit Nehru is very much mistaken if he supposes that any civilian use could be made of part-worn aircraft or of Rolls Royce aircraft engines taken out of them. He can be assured that those which he saw in process of being scrapped would cost more to recondition than they would be worth.

"This is not to say that they are valueless as scrap. On the contrary, Rs. 77 lakhs were realised last month alone from the sale of miscellaneous scrap and credited to Indian revenues.

"It will be recalled that precisely the same charges of valuable material being scrapped and of food being burnt were made in England by Mr. J. B. Priestley on similar hearsay evidence and were proved, on investigation, to be entirely unfounded."

So far as the Americans are concerned, Maj.-Gen. Terry, India-Burma Theatre Commander, issued a statement in the American service paper *Round-Up* last November in reply to the charge made by an American columnist that the U.S. Forces in Assam were destroying valuable medicines like atabrine.

"The fact is," he said, "that certain medicines deteriorate with age and when medical opinion declares them unsafe for use they are destroyed. Such medicines would be equally dangerous to Indian lives as to American. Our policy with regard to equipment recognises that much material which we Americans regard as unserviceable may be useful here in India so that we propose turning over to the Foreign Liquidation Commission much material which we would otherwise cast aside or destroy."

Maj.-Gen. Terry admitted that some equipment was damaged or destroyed unnecessarily before this policy was understood and it would appear that the rumours which Pandit Nehru has heard arise from isolated incidents long ago in Assam.

SUPPRESSION OF LAWLESSNESS SOLE PURPOSE OF G.H.Q. PLANS

A Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (I) on May 24 stated:—

Statements have appeared in sections of the Press that General Headquarters have evolved elaborate plans to suppress anti-Government demonstrations which may lead to open insurrection. These statements are founded on serious misapprehensions.

It is the duty of military forces in any civilised state to be prepared to give effective assistance to the civil authorities in the event of a serious menace to the tranquility of the country endangering the lives and property of law-abiding citizens. The maintenance of plans for action with this object is a normal duty of every military staff: they are naturally revised occasionally to meet changing conditions and their existence in revised form is an indication that the military forces are alive to their responsibility.

Elementary Obligations

It is evident that, on the conclusion of a great war, there is a special necessity to revise such plans with a view to taking advantage of the experience gained in the conduct of campaigns, and in accordance with up-to-date views upon the tactical handling of troops resulting from improvements in their armament and equipment.

An army would be failing in one of its elementary obligations were it not prepared at all times to stand behind the constituted authority in preserving internal peace.

Plans now in existence have as their sole purpose the suppression of lawlessness. They are not and never will be directed against the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of India.

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS

(Continued from page 736)

other measure was one of the biggest financial operations undertaken by Government and was in continuation and extension of the cheap money policy. This was the decision to redeem, taking advantage of the three-month option clause, of all 3½ per cent non-terminable loans amounting to a sum of Rs. 273 crores. These loans had been issued during the last 100 years, starting from 1842. The result will be a considerable saving in the cost of India's national debt.

REDUCTION IN G. H. Q. STAFF 28 Per Cent Cut in Officer Strength

SINCE V.-E. day (May 8, 1945) the number of officers employed at G. H. Q. has fallen from 2,741 to 1,965, says a Press Note.

In General Staff 436 are now employed as against 786. The strength of the Public Relations Directorate has been reduced by half, from 134 to 67. The Adjutant-General's Branch still has 413 officers as against 511 a year ago, but this branch has to deal with the whole of demobilisation, casualties, returned P.O.Ws., pay and pensions, future manpower planning etc., which are still very live issues.

The number of officers in the Quartermaster-General's Branch is 258 as against 311. This branch includes the Movements Directorate which is responsible for all moves of Indian troops back to India and of British troops to the U. K. for release and repatriation. It has also to deal with all hired and requisitioned lands and buildings, the Indian Army's "Grow More Food Campaign" and the feeding of an Army which is still eight times larger than before the war.

Welfare-General's Branch

Welfare-General's Branch only came into existence in April 1945. It is responsible for the welfare and education of both Indian and British troops in India Command, for the supply of amenities to Indian troops overseas, for pre-release training of Indian troops and, in conjunction with the civil authorities, for their resettlement in civil life. This is the only branch which shows an increase, inevitable in the circumstances, from 128 to 174.

The strength of Master General of the Ordnance Branch has fallen from 373 to 289, though this branch is still dealing with a vast mass of military equipment now becoming surplus on the disbandment of many units. The Engineer-in-Chief's Branch shows a large reduction, from 319 to 149.

Naval Headquarters

The Military Secretary's Branch has 39 officers as against 45, the Medical Directorate 72 as against 89 and the Chief Administrative Officer's Office, which is in charge of the general administration of all G.H.Q. personnel, has 38 officers as against 45.

Naval Headquarters has also reduced its officer strength. On V.-E. day 184 officers were employed in N. H. Q.; to-day there are 137.

Owing to the recent complete reorganisation of the Air Forces in India and the unification of India Command and Base Air Forces, South East Asia, figures for Air Headquarters for 1945 and 1946 are not comparable.

The reduction of officer strength in G.H.Q. compares favourably with the general reduction in the strength of the Indian Army as a whole. While the officer strength at G.H.Q. is 28 per cent less than on V.-E. day, the strength of the Indian Army as a whole has been reduced by a little over 17 per cent.

MEMORANDUM ON STATES' TREATIES AND PARAMOUNTCY

(Continued from page 713)

When a new fully self-governing or independent Government or Governments come into being in British India, H.M.G.'s influence with these Governments will not be such as to enable them to carry out the obligations of paramountcy.

Moreover, they cannot contemplate that British troops would be retained in India for this purpose. Thus, as a logical sequence and in view of the desires expressed to them on behalf of the Indian States, His Majesty's Government will cease to exercise the powers of paramountcy. This means that the rights of the States which flow from their relationship to the Crown will no longer exist and that all the rights surrendered by the States to the paramount power will return to the States. Political arrangements between the States on the one side and the British Crown and British India on the other will thus be brought to an end. The void will have to be filled either by the States entering into a federal relationship with the successor Government or Governments in British India, or failing this, entering into particular political arrangements with it or them.

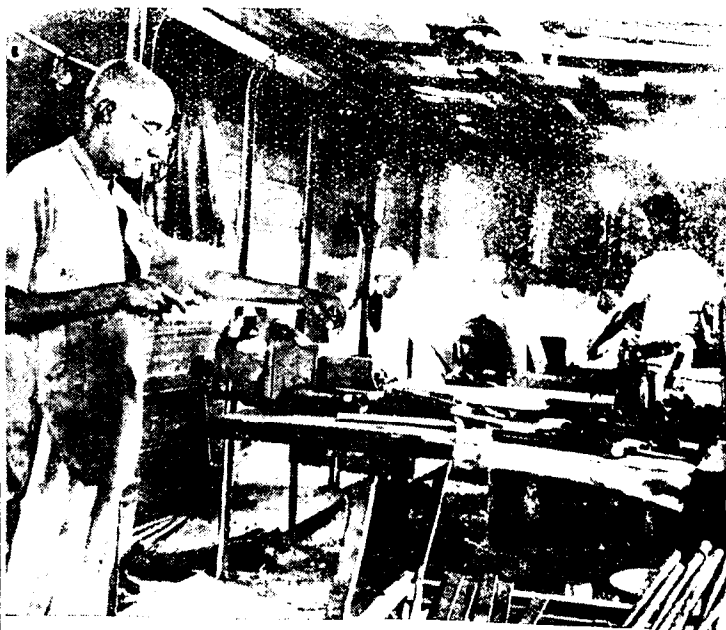
A Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate G.H.Q. (I) on May 30 said:

Revised qualifications for emergency commissions in the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers have already been announced in a recent official statement from General Headquarters.

All candidates, it is pointed out, must be between 21 and 35 years of age, and not between 21 and 25 years as announced. The age limit may be waived in special cases.



Loading scrap.



Blacksmith shop at the M. T. Breakdown Depot. (Right) Trainees learn the mechanism of motor vehicles.

SALVAGE DEPOT COMBINES WORKSHOP AND SCHOOL

The Salvage Sub-Depot at Lahore, besides doing its normal work, is training 'Jawans' in pre-release work. The depot is already running blacksmith, tinsmith and carpentry classes and hopes to start others soon. It has done valuable work for the Government by making considerable profits out of salvage-converted goods, and relieving Ordnance of much pressure. In 1945, a net profit of Rs. 12 lakhs was made by the depot. On an average 1,500 tons of material a month passes through the depot.



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CONTENTS OF JUNE ISSUE

A Day in the Life of a District Collector
The World's Highest Country
How Much Do You Know About Food?
How Much Should a Wedding Cost?
Farming in the Desert.
India's Greatest Emperor Lies Here.
Britain's Great New Air Liners.
Fuel or Food? The Army Sets an Example
A Home on wheels.
India Supplies Mica to the World.
Adrianople was Turkey's First Capital
Portraits from the New Films.

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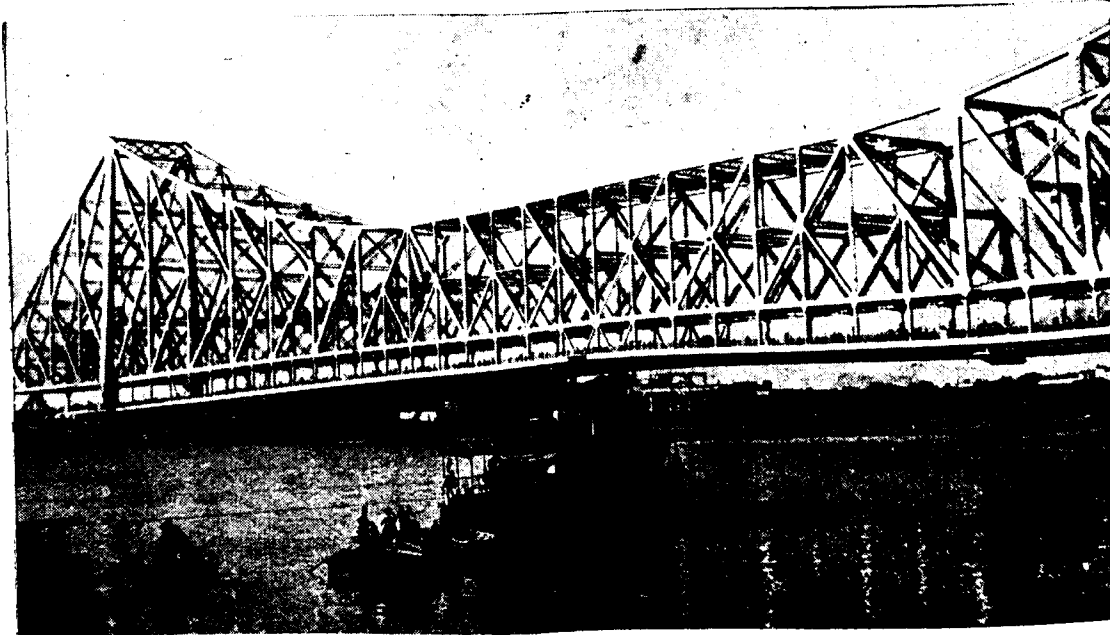


BRIG. CHAUDHRY VISITS W.A.C. (I) CONTINGENT

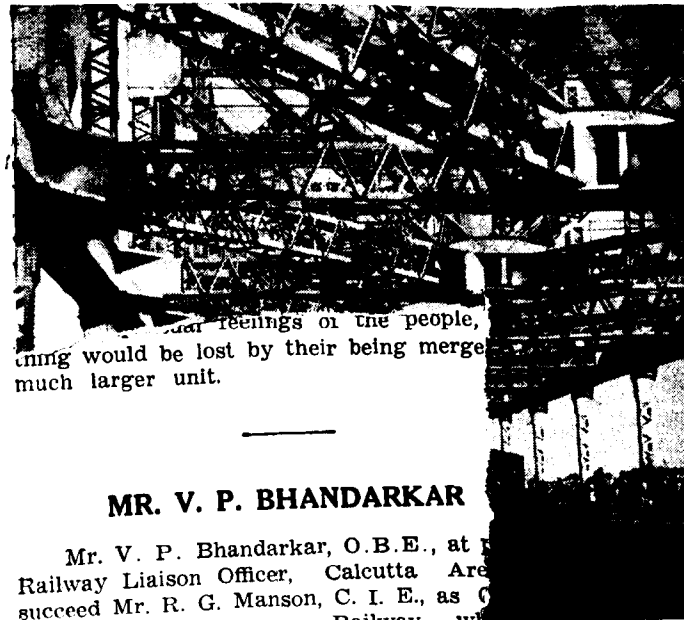
Shortly before leaving for England Brig J. N. Chaudhry, Commanding the Indian Army Contingent for the Victory Parade in London, visited the W.A.C. (I) Contingent in New Delhi. He inspected the contingent and spoke to the members about the coming journey and parade.

(Left) Brig. Chaudhry talks to the girls after the inspection. (Below) Brig. Chaudhry shaking hands with Cpl. Dass of





THE NEW HOWRAH BRIDGE



...feelings of the people,
...would be lost by their being merge
...much larger unit.

MR. V. P. BHANDARKAR

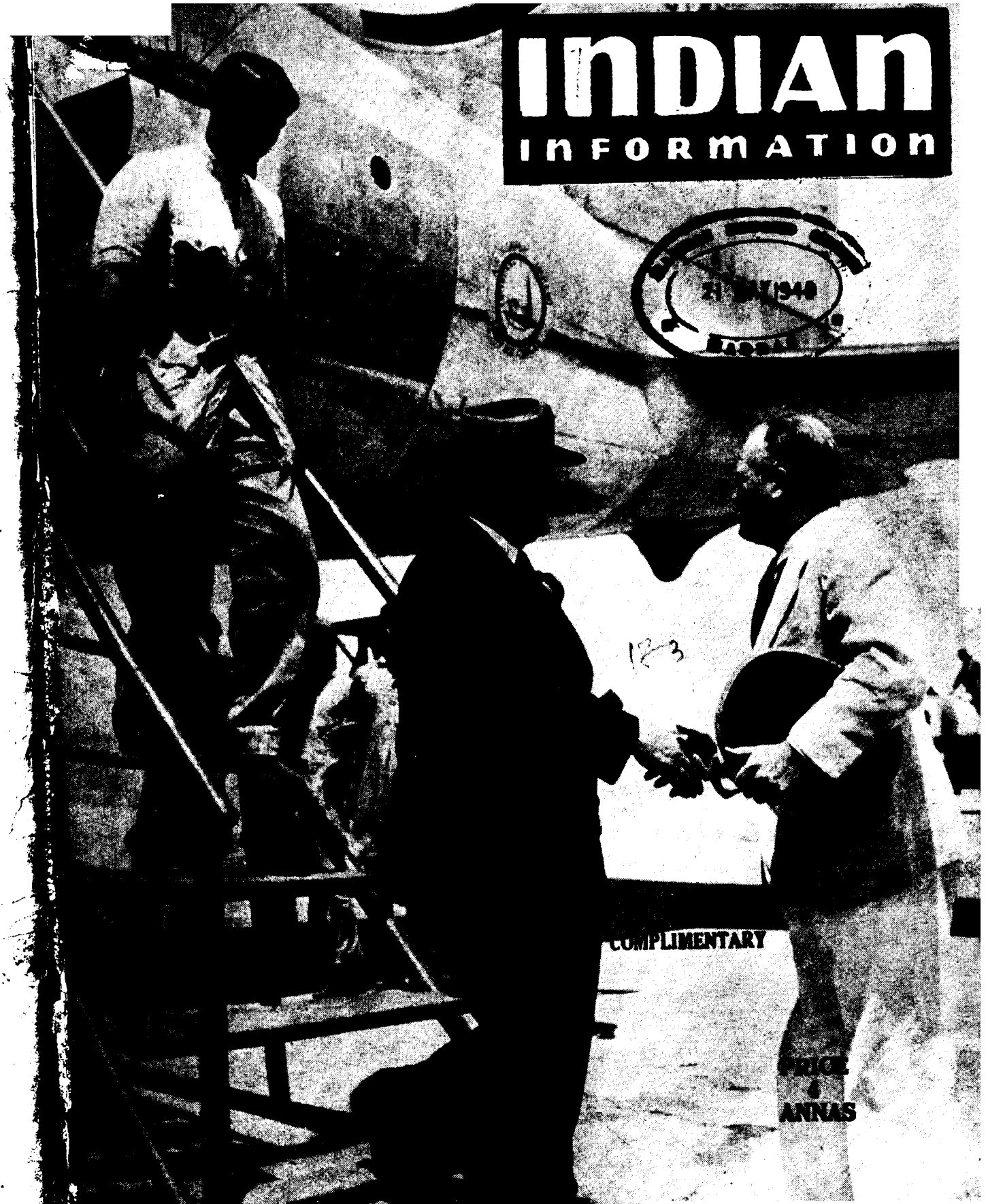
Mr. V. P. Bhandarkar, O.B.E., at
Railway Liaison Officer, Calcutta. Are
succeed Mr. R. G. Manson, C. I. E., as
Manager, Bengal Assam Railway, wh
latter proceeds on leave preparatory
tirement early in May.

The world's third largest cantilever span bridge, the New Howrah Bridge across the Hooghly River at Calcutta—span 1,500 feet—took just over six years to complete and was opened to traffic in February 1943. As the bridge was nearing completion Japan entered the war and in December 1942 Calcutta had its first air raid. Little known to people outside the city, the construction work went on. Even when the bridge was opened to traffic, it remained a wartime secret. Twenty-six thousand tons of steel—nearly all of it manufactured in India—have gone into its construction. Its main foundations—the large monolith type of foundations in the British Empire—are 181.5 feet long and about 81 feet wide, and its overall height above ground level is some 300 feet. All through the period of construction 1,500 to 2,000 men were employed on the work. The bridge cost over Rs. 3,00,00,000 (£2,444,400).

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